Title: An Assembly Bill Amending the Constitution of the West Virginia University Student Government Association

Short Title: Constitutional Amendments – Legislative Branch Focus

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Sponsor(s):
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- Caroline Evans, College Senator (Education)
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- Noah Collie, Senator
- Lily McKnight, College Senator (Reed)
- Kevin Donnelly, Senator
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- Naomi Clutter, College Senator (Davis)
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- Marley Nash, College Senator (Eberly)
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- Ally Simon, College Senator (Statler)
- Tucker Nadeau, Athletic Senator
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First Reading Date: 12-11-2019
Second Reading Date: 01-15-2019

Relevant to Section 1:

Whereas, Altering the name of the “College Senator” position to “College Representative” accurately describes the scope of the position, and would create a clear understanding that all Assembly members have distinct responsibilities; and

Whereas, these positions represent distinct portions of the student body, such as the “body” at large or individual colleges; and
Whereas, the term “senator” has been traditionally used to describe one that represents a more general body of individuals and the term “representative” has been used to describe smaller more specific bodies of individuals; and

Relevant to Section 2:

Whereas, College Representatives shall be equally represented in SGA leadership positions. Representatives have unique responsibilities and can have different platforms than “at-large” Senators. The Legislative Branch holds significant importance in SGA and having only one leadership position could limit the abilities of the Assembly; and

Whereas, it is imperative that the Assembly leadership both chair and control their meetings, furthering the idea of a separation between the branches within SGA; and

Relevant to Section 3:

Whereas, the creation of a College Representative leadership position allows for the redelegation of responsibilities to allow more freedom to the President of the Assembly to pursue campaign platform initiatives; and

Relevant to Section 4:

Whereas, electing a President Pro-Tempore at the SGA mini-retreat is not transparent to the student body, student-led media, or the Assembly; and

Relevant to Section 5:

Whereas, SGA strives to create an equal, diverse, inclusive, and productive Assembly to represent the student body; and

Whereas, the various colleges of the University have diverse students, majors, minors, and needs in regards to SGA; and

Whereas, College Representatives hold additional responsibilities that “at-large” Senators do not have to meet; and

Whereas, having proportional representation for the College Representative allows those who hold the position to adequately represent and meet the needs of their peers who elected them. Limiting the amount Representatives for each college is not fair to the students of those colleges; and

Relevant to Section 6:

Whereas, in order to account for the increase in Assembly members as a result of proportional representation, the number of “at-large” Senators shall also be adjusted to avoid overwhelming changes to the Legislative structure; and

Relevant to Section 7:

Whereas, any changes to the amount of College Representative positions must be regulated by the Election Chair; and

Relevant to Section 8:

Whereas, all Assembly members shall have equal opportunities to chair committees.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University that:
The Student Government Association Constitution shall adhere to the amendments presented in the following sections, as well as in the attached appendix of the relevant articles of the Constitution.

Section 1: The name of “College Senator” shall be changed to “College Representative” within SGA to create a clear understanding that all Assembly members have distinct responsibilities.

Section 2: The College Representatives shall have a leadership position holding the title of “Speaker of the Assembly.” At the first meeting of the administration (the changing of the seats), a Speaker of the Assembly shall be elected by a majority vote from among the elected College Representatives. This shall take place in a public, open SGA meeting. The Speaker of the Assembly shall have the following responsibilities:

- Preside over meetings as the Chairperson of the Student Assembly;
- Call special meetings of the Assembly whenever the need arises;
- Ensure that all directives of the Student Assembly are carried out, delegating responsibility as deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the Assembly;
- Perform all other related duties as shall be determined by the President Pro-Tempore.

Responsibilities a through c above shall also be removed from the President of the Assembly in Section 3 of this bill, as outlined in Article 5, Section 3, Subsection 1 of the Constitution. Furthermore, the Speaker of the Assembly shall hold the same responsibilities as the President Pro-Tempore in Article 10, Section 1, Subsection c. The Speaker of the Assembly shall also hold similar responsibilities to the President Pro-Tempore in Article 10, Section 1, Subsection e, by assuming the office of Vice President in the scenario described in such subsection.

Section 3: The President of the Assembly shall have the following responsibilities:

- Ensure that parliamentary and secretarial responsibilities are fulfilled;
- Shall vote in the case of a tie.

All other responsibilities are to be reallocated, as stated in Section 2 of this bill.

Section 4: At the first meeting of the administration (the changing of the seats), a President Pro-Tempore shall be elected by a majority vote from among the elected “at-large” Senators. This shall take place in a public, open SGA meeting. This removes any elections during the SGA mini-retreat.

Section 5: The number of College Representative positions shall be directly related to the enrollment data for the respective colleges. Each college will have one College Representative and will receive an additional Representative for every 1,000 students enrolled based on the following data specifications (Ex.: A college with 500 students receives one Representative, a college with 1,500 students receives two Representatives). This data will come from the fall enrollment of the prior academic year for the spring election (Ex.: Spring 2020 Election will use Fall 2018 Enrollment data). The data must also come from a verifiable source, including, but not limited to, an official University database. The “School of Medicine” College Representative position shall be changed to “Health Sciences” and shall encompass the School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health for both candidacy and enrollment data purposes.

Section 6: The number of “at-large” Senators shall be changed to 12 positions.

Section 7: The Elections Chair shall hold the responsibility of determining the number of College Representatives for the spring election, as specified above, before the last meeting of the fall semester.

Section 8: All Assembly members are eligible to chair any committees within the Student Assembly.

Section 9: Upon their passage within the SGA Assembly, these amendments to the SGA Constitution shall be voted on by the student body through a special election on January 27th and 28th of the 2020 spring semester.

Mandates:
G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Daily Athenaeum
Kate Dye, Student Body President
Allie Satterfield, SGA Attorney General