West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Resolution: AB-2020-02

Title: An Assembly Bill to Create Proportional Representation for College Senator Positions

Short Title: Proportional College Representation
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Sponsors: Noah Collie, Senator
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Sarah Zanabli, Senator
Noor Dahshan, Senator
First Reading Date: 03-04-2020

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association 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 regard to the West Virginia University Student Government Association; and
Whereas, it can be statistically proven using University enrollment data that colleges with higher enrollment numbers at the University have higher rates of diversity among the students in those colleges¹; and

Whereas, it can be statistically proven using University enrollment data that colleges with higher enrollment numbers at the University have a wider variety of majors in those colleges¹; and

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

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

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

Whereas, any changes to the annual amount of College Senator positions must be regulated by the Elections Chair;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University that:

The West Virginia University Student Government Association Constitution and Elections Code shall adhere to the amendments presented in the following sections, as well as in the attached appendices of the relevant articles of the Constitution and Elections Code.

Section 1: The number of College Senator positions shall be directly related to the enrollment data for the respective colleges. Each college will have one College Senator and will receive an additional College Senator for every 1,000 students enrolled in the college, based on the following data specifications (Ex.: A college with 500 students receives one College Senator, a college with 1,500 students receives two College Senators). This data shall be based on the fall
enrollment of the prior calendar year for the spring election (Ex.: Spring 2020 Election will use Fall 2019 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 Senator position shall be changed to “Heath 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 2: The number of “at-large” Senators shall be changed to 12 positions.

Section 3: The Elections Chair shall hold the responsibility of determining the number of College Representatives for the spring election, as specified above, before the candidate’s filing packet becomes available.

Section 4: Upon passage and approval by the Student Assembly, the amendments shall be voted on by the student body in the 2020 spring election, according to the West Virginia University Student Government Association Governing Policies.

Section 5: Upon passage and approval by the Student Assembly and the student body, the amendments shall be instituted following the expiration of this year’s (2019-2020) Student Assembly term. These changes will not affect those elected in the spring of 2020; these changes shall impact the election in the spring of 2021.

Section 6: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Sabrina Cave, Executive Director, Student Enrichment
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Daily Athenaeum
Kate Dye, Student Body President, Student Government Association
Allie Satterfield, Attorney General, Student Government Association
Appendix A: Constitution

Please note that, in addition to the amendments in this appendix, all references to the number of Assembly members, Senators, and/or College Senator shall be removed in all Articles of the SGA Constitution. These changes throughout the SGA Constitution are to be made to maintain consistency with the amendments that are being made in Articles IV and V according to the corresponding legislation.

4.2.5 ELECTIONS CHAIR.

The Elections Chair shall:

a. Adhere to the powers and functions as defined in the West Virginia University Elections Code;
b. Present election results to the SGA Judicial Court following any election;
c. Submit a monthly written or oral report to the SGA President and Vice-President;
d. Attend Student Government Association meetings on a bi-weekly basis, with the exception of weekly attendance two weeks prior to any election, during any election, and two weeks following any election;
e. Work closely with their appointed committee to plan and execute the Homecoming Court election, spring SGA election, and all other special elections as necessary;
f. Hold candidate information sessions and give out all information regarding elections and campaigning to all the candidates in accordance with the Student Government Association Election Code;
g. Work with the SGA communications team to promote voting during all elections and to make the student body aware of deadlines and procedures for filing to run for office prior to each election;
h. Show impartiality to all candidates during all elections;
i. Make all candidates aware of deadlines before, during, and after campaigns at least 72 hours (3 days) in advance;
j. The elections chair must be a full-time student who has completed at least one semester at West Virginia University and seen at least one election cycle (i.e. Homecoming Elections; Spring SGA Election);
k. Determine the number of College Senator positions for the spring election, as specified in Article V;
l. Perform all other related duties as shall be determined by the President and Vice President.
5.2 COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY.
The Student Assembly shall be composed of twelve (12) Senators and a number of College Senators to be determined based on a proportional representation model. These Assembly members are all elected during the West Virginia University Student Government Association campus-wide election held each year. The number of College Senator positions shall be directly related to the enrollment data for the respective colleges. Each college will have one College Senator and will receive an additional College Senator for every 1,000 students enrolled in the college, abiding by the following data specifications (Ex.: A college with 500 students receives one College Senator, a college with 1,500 students receives two College Senators). This data will come from the fall enrollment of the prior calendar year for the spring election (Ex.: Spring 2020 Election will use Fall 2019 Enrollment data). The data must also come from a verifiable source, including, but not limited to, an official University database. The Elections Chair shall determine the number of College Senators for the election, as specified above, before the last meeting of the fall semester. The “Health Sciences” College Senator position 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, as this collection of Schools shall imitate the role of Colleges in regards to the Student Assembly. The College Senators will represent the following academic colleges:

• Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
• College of Creative Arts
• College of Education and Human Services
• College of Law
• College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences
• Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design
• Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
• John Chambers College of Business and Economics
• Health Sciences
• Reed College of Media

The Student Assembly will be elected in the Spring Election.
Appendix B: Elections Code

ARTICLE II. POWERS AND DUTIES

A. THE CHAIR. The Elections Chair shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Create a committee to assist with the elections;
2. Shall be appointed no later than the first SGA meeting of the fall semester;
3. Conduct or oversee all official actions of the committee;
4. Solicit applicants for committee membership;
5. Conduct or oversee the selection of the committee;
6. Establish and select other members within the committee, delegating authority where necessary;
7. Have authority to remove any Committee members, other than ex-officio members, for any reason;
8. Disqualify self or resign if impartiality cannot be maintained;
9. Supervise or oversee each election or vote conducted by the Committee;
10. Rule, with the advice of the Attorney General, on the qualifications of all official candidates;
11. Cooperate with the Attorney General on matters concerning violation or enforcement of the Elections Code, the Constitution, or other Student Government Association documents;
12. Shall have discretion, with the advice of the Attorney General, in instances unspecified by the Elections Code, the Constitution, or other Student Government Association documents, subordinate to the opinion of the Judicial Court;
13. In cooperation with the Attorney General, be available to assist students in a timely manner with questions or requests involving the election process.
14. Arrange for all necessary reservations involving election events and campaigning. This includes, but is not limited to booths, banner spaces, and other campaign related materials for candidates. All reservation requests must be submitted to the Elections Chair five (5) academic days in advance of need;
15. **Determine the number of College Senator positions for the spring election, as specified in Article V of the Student Government Association Constitution**;
16. Assume other powers and duties as implied by this Elections Code.
References

1. https://institutionalresearch.wvu.edu/institutional-research/statistical-information/student-information/student-enrollment-fall