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48-R-38

A Resolution to Implement an Initiative Process in the General Assembly

Joseph Warnimont (for himself, Kurt Shaffer, and Sami Mubarak) introduced the following resolution to the Oversight Committee where it passed 5-1-0.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the General Assembly is elected to represent the undergraduate student body, and

Whereas non-elected students have expressed the desire to increase participation in the legislative process, and

Whereas topics that can be or should be addressed by the General Assembly occasionally go undiscussed, whether for political or personal reasons, and

Whereas an initiative process would compel the General Assembly to discuss topics that the undergraduate student body desires be discussed;

Therefore Let it Be Resolved that the General Assembly shall adopt an initiated resolution system, and

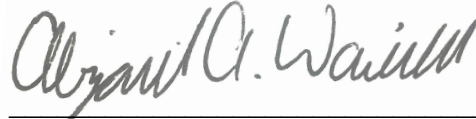
Let it Further Be Resolved that the Organizational Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government and the Standing Rules of the General Assembly shall be amended as described by the attached document, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the changes in this resolution shall not expire at the end of the 48th General Assembly.

Floor Vote: PASSED WITH 1 ABSTENTION



Abby Grossman
President



Abby Waidelich
Vice President

Date Adopted: March 3, 2016

Date Terminated: _____

Proposed Amendments to the Organizational Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government

Article I: The General Assembly

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C. Standing Assembly Committees

1. Steering Committee

- a. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of...
 - i. Elections for the Steering Committee shall...
- b. The Steering Committee shall serve...
- c. The Steering Committee shall set the agenda for each General Assembly meeting by majority vote of members present
 - i. The Steering Committee shall invite to its meetings the primary sponsor of any legislation or primary circulator of the petition of any initiated legislation being considered at the meeting.
 - ii. The Steering Committee may not make any non-editorial changes to any legislation over which it does not have original jurisdiction without the consent of the sponsor.
 - iii. The Steering Committee may send back to the originating committee, by majority vote, any legislation which warrants further review or is in conflict with the Constitution, these Bylaws, or the Standing Rules of the General Assembly.
 1. The Steering Committee may refer non-initiated legislation to a non-originating committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present.
 - iv. Non-initiated legislation not originating in an issue committee must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
 - v. The Steering Committee may make editorial changes to legislation
 1. Should editorial change(s) be made...
- d. In the event...
- e. The Steering Committee...
- f. Any legislation that goes to the Steering Committee...
- g. The Steering Committee may call additional meetings of the General Assembly by a majority vote of the committee, with a twenty-four (24) hour notice given to members of the General Assembly

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I. Legislation

1. Any legislation that deals with the allocation of funds shall be labeled a bill.
2. Any other **non-initiated** legislation shall be labeled a resolution.
3. Any legislation submitted via initiative shall be labeled an initiated resolution.
 - a. The procedure for initiating a resolution shall be delineated in the Standing Rules of the General Assembly.
 - b. Any undergraduate student who is not a member of the Undergraduate Student Government may submit an initiated resolution.
 - c. Initiated resolutions may not allocate funds, nor introduce articles of impeachment or censure, nor alter the structure of the Undergraduate Student Government.
4. All **non-initiated** legislation shall be referred to an Undergraduate Student Government committee unless the General Assembly votes to bring it directly to the General Assembly as new business by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present.
 - a. **Non-initiated** legislation brought to the Steering Committee without originating in an issue committee must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Steering in order to be brought to the floor.

Proposed Amendments to the Standing Rules of the General Assembly

Article IV. Rules of Order

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C. Speech and Debate

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5. Only members shall retain full speaking rights on the floor of the General Assembly.
 - a. The presiding officer shall have the discretion to permit other members of the Undergraduate Student Government or the public (herein, “non-members”) to speak outside of the Executive Report or Open Forum for the Public.
 - b. Time in debate may only be yielded to members who retain full speaking rights.
 - c. The primary circulator of any initiated resolution on the agenda for that session shall be considered a member with full speaking rights while their initiated resolution is being debated.

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Article X. Submission of Legislation

- A. Legislation may be submitted or introduced by a member of the General Assembly in the following manners:

...

- B. Legislation may be submitted via initiative in the following manner:
 - a. Any undergraduate student who is not a member of the Undergraduate Student Government may initiate a resolution.
 - i. Resolutions shall be formatted following the template provided on the USG website.
 - b. A petition must be submitted to the Chief Justice of the Judicial Panel signed by at least 100 enrolled undergraduate students.
 - i. A petition must contain on each page the name of the circulator, the signature of the circulator, and the name of the resolution, accompanied by the full text of the resolution.
 - ii. A signature should be accompanied by the printed name and dot number of the student, as well as the date.
 - iii. Valid signatures are subject to the same restrictions as outlined in the “Off Limit Areas” in the Election Bylaws.
 - c. The members of the Judicial Panel shall verify the petition and notify the circulator if the required number of valid signatures was or was not met.
 - i. The members of the Judicial Panel shall have one (1) academic week to validate the signatures.

- d. Following approval, the Chief Justices of the Judicial Panel shall refer the initiated resolution to the Steering Committee.
 - i. Initiated resolutions may not subsequently be referred to an issue committee or any other committee.
 - ii. The Steering Committee shall have one (1) academic week to vote on the initiated resolution.
- e. The primary circulator of the petition shall be treated in the Steering Committee and in the General Assembly as the primary sponsor of the initiated resolution; e.g., they may accept friendly amendments to the resolution.
- f. The three General Assembly officers and members of the Judicial Panel shall be charged with providing assistance to prospective petitioners: putting resources online, responding to questions from petitioners, etc.