**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**S.B. 01**

Changes to Student Government Statutes and Formation of Student Elections Commission

**Fall 2022**

September 01, 2022 Introduced by President Pilar Agudelo

September 11, 2022 Submitted to the Speaker of the House

September 12, 2022 Messaged to the Senate

September 13, 2022 Bill x by the Senate

**BILL**

*Be it Enacted by the Senate of the Wake Forest University Student Government here assembled,*

SECTION 1. Article II, Section 3(6) of the Constitution of the Wake Forest Student Government is removed.

SECTION 2. Article II, Section 8(B) of the Constitution of the Wake Forest Student Government is removed.

SECTION 3. A new article of the Constitution of the Wake Forest Student Government shall be created, which shall be entitled “Elections,” and shall read:

 “Section 1. Any undergraduate student at the University may run for and hold no more than one office within Student Government. No student shall seek office with the knowledge that they will not be enrolled as a student at the University or will be studying abroad during all or part of their tenure. However, Students may run in campaigns or apply for appointment whilst abroad or upon their return from abroad so long as they will be enrolled as a student at the Reynolda Campus for the duration of their term.”

 “Section 2. All Student Government elections established under this Constitution shall be carried out in the manner prescribed by the statutes and organized by the Student Elections Commission.”

 “Section 3. The authority and composition of the Student Elections Commission shall be established, modified, or repealed by the statutes with a two-thirds majority approval of the Senate.”

SECTION 4. The Student Government Statutes is amended to read:

**THE STATUTES OF THE WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**Title 1—Elections**

**Statute I—Student Elections Commission**

Section 1. Student Elections Commission

1. Establishment:
	1. The Student Elections Commission is established as an independent agency[[1]](#footnote-1) of the Wake Forest University Student Government, the former of which shall be the primary administrator and arbitrator of Student Body elections.
2. Composition:
	1. The Commission shall be composed of a Chair, and at least six, but not exceeding eight Commissioners and an advisor. There must be an odd number of members on the Commission.
		1. No later than thirty days after the commencement of their term, the commission shall elect a Vice-Chair.
		2. There shall be at least one Commissioner seat, excluding First-Year students, from each graduating class for the Fall election.
		3. There shall be at least one Commissioner seat reserved in the Spring election for First-Year student(s).
		4. There shall be one Commission seat reserved for the Student Trustee to serve a proxy[[2]](#footnote-2).
		5. There shall be an advisor to the Commission who is not a voting member nor included as a commissioner.
			1. The advisor shall be a staff and/or faculty member of Wake Forest University.
			2. They shall assist in decision making, planning, and other responsibilities of the elections commission by providing insight and advice.
	2. No Commissioner or Chair may be concurrently serving in Student Government, including the Student Budget Advisory Committee, nor be seeking election or appointment for a position for the year in which they were appointed to serve on the Commission.
	3. No Commissioner may have a public interest in the outcome of an election.
		1. Public interests include, but are not limited to, public statements prior to election regarding candidates or offices sought and collective gains by a campus organization affiliated with the member of the Commission.
		2. If such public interest is found during the tenure of a Commissioner, they must recuse themselves from the Commission.
	4. No Commissioner may be on social or academic probation, nor be found responsible for any academic or Honor Code violation during their term at the University.
3. Selection, Vacancies, Removal
	1. The President of Student Government shall appoint a Chair to the Commission, which shall be subject to a two-thirds confirmation of the Senate.
		1. The Executive officers and Advisors of Student Government shall review the appointment and reserve the right to interview and/or reject the appointee.
		2. The President shall appoint the Chair not earlier than one day after the conclusion of the Spring election and not later than the last dayof classes as defined by the University calendar.
		3. Upon confirmation, the Chair shall serve the following academic year for its entirety, starting on the first day of classes of the Fall semester and concluding on the last day of classes of the Spring semester as defined by the University calendar.
	2. Commissioners shall be appointed via an application process.
		1. The application process will be publicized to the student body by the Student Government Public Relations Committee. Applications shall be accepted for no less than one calendar week, and no more than three calendar weeks. Upon the conclusion of the application period, the incoming chair, the current chair, and current vice-chair shall serve as an application committee to interview and appoint candidates to the commission. The President of Student Government shall serve as a non-voting member of the application committee.
			1. Should the current chair or vice-chair not be available for the application committee, the President of Student Government and Chief of Staff will assist in appointing commissioners.
		2. The application period shall begin no earlier than one week after the confirmation of the Chair by the Senate and end no later than July 1st. These commissioners shall serve the following academic year for its entirety, starting on the first day of classes of the Fall semester and concluding on the last day of classes of the Spring semester as defined by the University calendar.
	3. The process described in Section 1(C)(b)(i) shall also occur not earlier than two weeks and not later than three weeks after the conclusion of the Fall election to fill the seat(s) reserved for First-Year students. These Commissioners shall serve for the remainder of the academic year in its entirety and conclude on the last day of classes of the Spring semester as defined by the University calendar.
	4. Any vacancy amongst the Commissioners shall be filled via the process described in Section 1(C)(b)(i).
		1. If the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair shall act as an interim Chair until the process described in Section 1(C)(a) is completed.
	5. The Senate reserves the right to remove any member of the Commission, including the Chair, should they be found in violation of these statutes with a two-thirds majority.
4. Qualifications for appointment to the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Elections Commissioner:
	1. Chair
		1. Is a senior graduating in the spring semester of the year they serve on the commission.
		2. Is not on social or academic probation.
		3. Maintains an overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
	2. Vice-Chair
		1. Is a junior or senior (to be graduating in the spring semester) for the year in which they serve on the commission.
		2. Is not on social or academic probation.
		3. Maintains an overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
	3. Commissioner
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation.
		2. Maintains an overall academic GPA of at least 2.0.
5. Authority
	1. The Student Elections Commission shall be authorized to act as an independent agency of Student Government. The elections commission shall have original jurisdiction to pursue matters related to elections as described in these statues.
	2. The Commission shall:
		1. Administer and conduct the organization, coordination and operation of all Student Government elections, run-off elections, and referendums.
		2. Gather and certify petitions for candidacy as defined in these statues, and recognize any qualified number of the Student Body who meets these requirements as a candidate.
		3. Certify and Publish the results as described in the Statutes.
		4. Enforce and investigate violations of regulations, procedures and rules governing elections and referendums as described in these statues.
		5. Review and publish for public view the rules, regulations, and procedures governing campaigns and elections as described in these statues. Changes to these statues must be approved by a majority vote of the Commission. The senate reserves the right to repeal any of these changes.
	3. Two-thirds shall constitute quorum to conduct official business of the Commission.

**Statute II—Candidacy**

Section 1. Qualifications

1. Candidate Petition:
	1. To qualify to run for office, a candidate must submit a petition to the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission. Petitions shall only contain names that belong to the constituency of that office. The number of signatures required shall be as follows:
		1. For those satisfying all basic requirements for candidacy, including prior experience as defined in Statute II § 1(B), **100 signatures** each for the positions of President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer;
		2. For those petitioning to override a deficiency in the prior experience requirement for candidacy that is defined in Statute II § 1(B), **250 signatures** each for the positions of President, Speaker of the House, Treasurer, and Secretary;
		3. **30 signatures** each for the position of Senator.
	2. The Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission shall affirm the validity of the petition no later than five (5) days prior to the election. Any candidate without a valid petition will be unable to appear on the ballot and must be informed of this no later than five (5) days prior to the election. No student shall run for or hold two or more offices concurrently except for any of the offices of Senator, committee chair, and Student Budget Advisory Committee member, which may be concurrently run for or held.
	3. To be eligible to run, candidates for executive positions shall be required to meet with the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission no later than one month before polls open. They may also disclose their intent to run to the Student Body President but this is not a requirement. ~~The Chair, in consultation with the Student Government~~ Elections Commission advisor~~, may allow a meeting with the respective outgoing executive member to instead satisfy this requirement as long as the outgoing member is (1) a graduating senior or (2) guarantees in advance of any meetings that they will not be running for re-election to that position. This guarantee shall disqualify a standing officer from re-election to their position.~~
	4. The most recently approved versions of the Spring and Fall Elections Packets will be posted on the Student Government website and remain there until replaced in the following election cycle.
2. Executive Officers:

The requirements outlined below shall constitute the basic threshold for candidacy. In the absence of full satisfaction of these requirements, the presumption shall be against approval for candidacy. Contestation of the presumption against candidacy shall require the satisfaction of additional criteria, outlined in Statute II § 1(C), if an undergraduate student is to be considered a viable candidate. The burden of proving qualification in the absence of fulfillment of the basic requirements for candidacy rests with the potential candidate, not the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission.

* 1. President:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation;
		2. Has served at least one academic year in the Student Government Senate.
	2. Speaker of the House:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation;
		2. Has served at least one academic year in the Student Government Senate.
	3. Treasurer:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation;
		2. One of the following:
			1. One academic year of experience serving on the Student Budget Advisory Committee; or
			2. One academic year of experience as a good-standing Treasurer —deemed by the current Student Government Treasurer and the Student Budget Advisory Committee Advisor — of a current chartered organization on campus with a budget through the Student Budget Advisory Committee.
	4. Secretary:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation;
		2. Has served at least one academic semester in the Student Government Senate.
1. In the Absence of Fulfillment of the Prior Experience Requirement for Executive Candidacy, the Following Conditions Must Be Met:
	1. For President:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation.
		2. An overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
		3. Prior leadership in at least one chartered campus organization and/or university-recognized initiative. In the absence of formal positional leadership, it is incumbent upon the prospective candidate to present a case for an experience they believe constitutes leadership, which will be considered by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission in accordance with Statute II § 1(E)(b).
		4. A clear record of leadership within the Wake Forest community for the academic year in which the election occurs. This requirement shall not be considered fulfilled if the prospective candidate has been removed or stepped down from an organizational leadership or campus employment role due to academic or conduct concerns.
		5. One reference from the staff/faculty advisor of one chartered campus organization and/or university-recognized initiative in which the prospective candidate has had leadership experience. This reference will verify that the prospective candidate has satisfactorily fulfilled the expectations of their leadership without incident or dismissal.
		6. One reference from a Wake Forest faculty member who has taught the prospective candidate for at least one academic semester. This reference will verify that the prospective candidate has the requisite academic skill set to manage the workload of the President without sacrificing academic success.
	2. For Speaker of the House:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation.
		2. An overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
		3. Prior leadership in at least one chartered campus organization and/or university-recognized initiative. In the absence of formal positional leadership, it is incumbent upon the prospective candidate to present a case for what constitutes leadership, which will be considered by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission in accordance with Statute II § 1(E)(b).
		4. Basic knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order, to be measured in a manner determined and made public by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission.
		5. Attendance of at least three Senate meetings in the academic year in which the election occurs.
	3. For Treasurer:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation.
		2. An overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
		3. Prior experience as Treasurer of a campus organization accompanied by a reference from *either* the student officer to which the prospective candidate reports (such as the organization President) or the faculty/staff advisor.
		4. Attendance of at least one training hosted by the current Student Government Treasurer and one Student Budget Advisory Committee meeting.
	4. For Secretary:
		1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation
		2. An overall academic GPA of at least 3.0.
		3. Prior experience as secretary of a campus organization accompanied by a reference from *either* the student officer to which the prospective candidate reports (such as the organization President) or the faculty/staff advisor.
2. Senators:
	1. Is an undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation.
3. Executive Exceptions:
4. If the candidate for President or Speaker of the House has not had one year’s experience in the Senate, they must ask that these requirements be waived by a two-thirds majority vote of the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission, who must address the petition prior to the next Senate (if one is scheduled before the candidate’s meeting) and prior to the candidate’s meeting. If that student is denied a waiver by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission, they may appeal to the Senate at the Senate’s next meeting (provided that meeting takes place prior to the candidate’s meeting), which may overturn the ~~Committee~~ Commission’s decision by a two-thirds majority vote.
5. A prospective candidate without the requisite prior experience must fulfill the additional requirements outlined in Statute II § 1(C) in order to be considered for candidacy by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission and/or to petition the Senate to overrule the ~~Committee~~ Commission.
6. A candidate cannot petition either the Senate or Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission for the right to run after the candidate’s meeting.

**Statute III - Interview and Nominations**

The guidelines covering the selection process for the Student Trustee are set by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Student Life Committee, not by the Student Government.

**Statute IV - Campaigning**

Section 1. Campaign Regulations

1. Campaigns shall be conducted in a competitive but fair and honest spirit under the honor system. The Student Government Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission may make additions or alterations which do not conflict with these statutes to the regulations by means of a majority vote within the ~~Committee~~ Commission. Any and all changes to campaign regulations must be presented to the Senate in the form of legislation for approval by a two-thirds majority. These changes must be submitted to the Senate for a vote before the Elections Packet is released to candidates. Candidates shall abide by the regulations provided by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission and the University posting policy.
2. The Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission shall give each candidate a set of campaign regulations upon receiving their petition. Public campaigning shall not begin earlier than one week before the election and will be treated as a campaign infraction when campaigning starts no matter how long prior to the campaign it is reported. Public campaigning shall be defined as the use of written, verbal, printed, or electronic/virtual communications to promote one’s candidacy in any forum that does not solely consist of approved campaign staff members and/or Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission members.

Section 2. Campaign Finances

1. No candidate shall spend more than the following amounts on their campaign: President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer, $125 each; Senators, $40 each. In a run-off campaign, no candidates shall spend more than the following on their campaign (plus any remaining unspent amount from the original election campaign): President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer, $30 each; Senators, $10 each. Donations shall be recognized as expenditures when spent. The Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission shall approve itemized lists of expenditures before any officer is installed. Requests for need-based funding assistance up to the appropriate expenditure limit can be made to the Treasurer of the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission or to the Student Government Advisor(s) up to 72 hours prior to the start of election day. Expenditure reports shall be submitted in the format approved by the Treasurer of the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission, shall account for all purchases and donations, and shall include:
	1. Description of the good or service rendered, including purchase location and date.
	2. Quantity purchased.
	3. Dollar amount spent.

Section 3. Negative Campaigning

1. Negative campaigning will not be tolerated by the Election ~~Committee~~ Commission, and any negative campaigning will result in immediate and appropriate sanctions. Negative campaigning is defined as any personal attack (in electronic format, speech, or writing) on a candidate—i.e., ad hominem attacks. A personal attack is defined as any libelous, slanderous, or otherwise defamatory claim made against a candidate’s character or person. Campaigning against a candidate’s platform or a given policy is NOT negative campaigning and is acceptable behavior.

**Statute V - Violations**

Section 1. Enforcement

1. The Elections Commission has ultimate authority in all matters concerning the election’s procedures, violations, and sanctions

Section 2. Reporting and Investigating

1. Violations may be reported to the Elections Commission by any member of the Wake Forest community. The Person who witnesses the infraction must report it to the Elections Commission within twenty-four hours of witnessing the incident.
2. The following shall be used to determine if a complaint has merit:
	1. All complaints should be submitted to the Elections Commission within twenty-four hours of the offense; if the infraction is reported on Election Day it must be reported before midnight and must provide proof of clear and convincing evidence
	2. The person(s) that witness(es) the offense must be the only person(s) submitting the report of the campaign infraction
	3. Before the elections commission makes a final ruling on a campaign infraction, it will hear from the accused candidate and the person(s) submitting the complaint
		1. The elections commission will reach out to the accused candidate via email. If the accused candidate does not respond within twelve hours and after multiple attempts of contact, the elections commission can move forward with sanctioning. On election day, the elections commission may move forward with sanctioning if the accused candidate does not respond within four hours of being contacted.
	4. If someone on the elections commission witnesses a campaign infraction they must report it but abstain from voting on that particular infraction
		1. In the case that there is a tie in voting the student trustee can break the tie.
3. The Elections Commission will investigate all complaints. Any candidate accused of violating the election regulations will be contracted by the Elections Commission and given the opportunity to explain or refute the charges prior to a decision of sanctions. The chairperson will have the power to impose sanctions independent of the committee except for the removal from the ballot and disqualification. If necessary, the Elections Commission will hold an emergency meeting regarding violations. Meetings will not be public.

Section 3. Sanctions

1. The first offense shall be subject to a fine of $25 to be subtracted from the candidate’s budget. The offense could result in disqualification from the election pending approval by the advisor, depending upon the severity of the infraction.
	1. If a candidate’s budget has been spent, the candidate will suspend all campaigning for a period of twelve hours beginning at the time they receive a message from the Elections Commission.
2. After the second offense, the candidate will be required to suspend all campaigning for twenty-four hours beginning at the time they receive a message from the Elections Commission.
3. The third offense will lead to the candidate being subject to disqualification from the election pending two-thirds (five of seven members) approval by the elections commission.
4. Any candidate who fails to pay fines will be prohibited from taking office or running for a subsequent Student Government office.

**Statute VI - Election Dates and Hours**

Section 1. Spring Semester

The Executive Officers and upperclassmen members of the Senate shall be elected in the spring. Spring elections shall be held immediately following Spring Break, with Election Week starting on the first Tuesday after Spring Break and Election Day occurring on the second Tuesday after Spring Break. Polls shall be open for 24 hours from 12 PM (noon) until 11:59 AM the following day.

Section 2. Fall Semester

Freshmen Senators shall be elected in the fall. Fall elections should occur between the third and fifth week after the first day of the Fall Semester. Polls shall be open for 24 hours from 12 PM (noon) until 11:59 AM the following day.

**Statute VII - Voting Procedures**

Section 1. Authority of Elections Commission

1. Voting for all elections shall take place online by a method approved by the Elections Commission. Student Government will adequately publicize the online location of this procedure.

Section 2. Online Voting

1. Each student will be permitted to vote only once. Should online voting fail due to technical errors, voting will be rescheduled by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission in consultation with Information Systems.
2. Names shall appear in randomized order on the ballot for each office. Write-in votes for all other positions will be accepted, provided that the student fulfills all qualifications specified in Section I other than presenting a petition. A write-in candidate must have a minimum of ten (10) votes in order to be elected.

Section 3. Run-off Elections

1. Run-off elections shall be promptly held for those offices with only one seat in contention if a majority of voters have not voted for one candidate.
	1. Abstentions will not be considered in the total vote count for the purposes of establishing a majority in the elections of executive officers.
	2. Write-in votes will only be counted for the purpose of calculating majorities if a write-in candidate has more than 5% of total votes cast.
	3. If two or more candidates have tied exactly in their vote totals for first place, they (and only they) will be placed on the runoff ballot. Otherwise, the first and second place candidates (and anyone tied exactly with the second place candidate) — and only these candidates — will be placed on a runoff ballot.
2. No runoff election will allow for the possibility of additional write-in candidates.
3. The run-off election shall begin no later than 48 hours after the polls close for the first election. If additional runoff elections are needed, they must each be held no more than two school days after the previous runoff.
4. In elections choosing more than one person, the top x candidates (with x equaling the number of offices being filled) will be chosen. If two or more persons in contention for the final seat(s) receive an identical number of votes, they (and no others) shall be subject to a runoff election for that number of seats.
5. The final results shall be tabulated electronically by the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission and posted outside the Student Government Office, or else publicly announced through virtual means, immediately upon verification. In the case of an appeal, which must be made within two (2) hours of tabulation, the results for that office shall be withheld until the completion of the appeals process.
6. In any election or runoff election only involving two (2) candidates, if they both tie exactly, the decision will be referred to the Senate of the Student Government who shall decide the winner based on a majority vote of the Senate membership. In the event the vote referred to the Senate results in a tie, the serving Speaker of the House will serve as the tie-breaking vote. In the event the serving Speaker is also an executive candidate, the decision will instead be referred to the Elections ~~Committee~~ Commission who will decide the winner based on a two-thirds (five of seven) majority vote and advisor(s) advice and consent.

**Statute VIII - Assumption of Office**

Section 1. Executive Branch

1. All officers-elect shall take office no later than the last day of classes of the Spring Semester. Before assuming office, the President-elect shall take the oath of office as administered by the President of the University. The Student Government President shall then administer the oath of office to their fellow officers and to those elected in the fall. The oath of office shall read as follows:
	1. “I, (name), promise to execute the duties and responsibilities of the office of (title of office), to pledge myself to the goals of furthering student welfare, the well-being of the undergraduate University community, and the spirit of the University. I will uphold the Constitution of the Student Government and diligently perform my responsibilities to fellow students.”

**Statute VIIII - Removal from Office**

Section 1. Executive Branch

The President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be subject to impeachment for failure to perform duties or for violations of the provisions of the Constitution. Impeachment may also be warranted if evidence of a disqualifying campaign infraction is found after a candidate has been sworn into office. Charges of impeachment may be brought by any member or members of Student Government in the form of a resolution at any given Senate. A majority vote of the full membership of the Senate is required to begin an investigation, which shall be carried out by the Cabinet. The report and recommendation of the Cabinet, subject to the advice and consent of the Student Government advisor(s), shall be presented before the Senate and a “vote for removal” by two-thirds of the total number of members of the Student Government Senate is required for removal from office.

Section 2. Legislative Branch

Any member of the Senate shall be removed from office for more than two unexcused absences from the Senate, its committees, or a combination of both per semester. Excuses for Senate absences must be submitted to the Secretary within two weeks of the absences, and they shall rule on the validity of the excuse. The removal can be appealed, and the Senator reinstated with a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate if that Senator has not yet been replaced. The Senator must be given notice of their expulsion and at least three subsequent school days to appeal before the replacement process is initiated.

Section 3. The Cabinet

Removal of a Co-Chair from the cabinet is privy to the executive of Student Government. The President, Speaker of the House, Treasurer, Secretary, or Chief of Staff may present to the rest of the Executive, with clear outlined and justified reasoning, about the removal of a co-chair of a Student Government committee. Only by unanimous decision of the executive in consultations with advisors can a co-chair be removed from their position. Reasons for removal include but are not limited to: failure to complete duties, failure to attend required meetings (Senate, Committee Meetings, Cabinet, and Presidents’ Leadership Conference), and failure to abide by the constitution.

**Statute IX—Replacement**

Section 1. Permanent

1. In the case of a permanent vacancy in the Offices of the President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, or Treasurer, an undergraduate-wide election shall be held to fill the position. This will be subject to all normal procedures governing the general Spring elections, except those dealing with the date of the election.
	1. In the event of a permanent vacancy in the Office of the President, the ranking executive officer, determined first by position [Speaker of the House, Treasurer, Secretary], then by class year [senior, junior, etc.], shall serve as Acting President until an election is held.
		1. In the event the ranking officer determined in this manner desires to seek candidacy for the Office of President, the staff/faculty advisor(s) will assist in identifying the senior-most [first by position, then by class year] member of the Student Government to serve as Acting President until an election is held. No student desiring to seek candidacy for the vacancy in the Office of President will be eligible to serve as Acting President, and Acting President status will make a student ineligible to fill the vacancy. Members will have one week from the time the vacancy is announced to contemplate their desire to run in the special election, after which this rule will take effect.
	2. In the case of a permanent vacancy in the office of the Chief of Staff, the President shall appoint a new one with the advice and consent of the other Executive Officers.
	3. In the case of a permanent vacancy in the Senate, the Senatorial Appointment Committee shall accept and review applications from prospective Senators, interview prospective Senators if deemed necessary, brief them on the business of the Senate, and submit its suggested replacements to the President, who shall submit one to the Senate for approval for each open spot. Vacancies can be filled by an undergraduate student from any class. The new appointee shall not take office in the respective body until the two-thirds majority approval from the Senate has been granted.

Section 2. Temporary

In the case of a temporary vacancy in the office of the President, Secretary, or Treasurer during the academic year, or in some emergency situation, that officer shall appoint someone to take their place with the simple majority approval of the Senate.

**Title 2 – Amendment**

In order that the changing needs of the Student Government may be met, these statutes shall be subject to addition, amendment, or abolition by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

**Title 3 – Legislative Bylaws**

Section 1. Purpose

The Bylaws that follow these Statutes shall be established to regulate and order the specific functions of the Legislative Branch of Student Government.

Section 2. Amendment

In order that the changing needs of the Legislative Branch are met, these bylaws shall be subject to addition, amendment, or abolition by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

**Title 4 – Order of Interpretation**

Whenever there is a contradiction between any two or three Governing Documents that cannot be resolved by reasonably interpreting them in light of each other, the Constitution shall override the provisions of the Statutes and the Bylaws and the Statutes shall override the provisions of the Bylaws. This interpretative instruction may only be altered or amended by a simultaneous amendment of this provision in all three Governing Documents by a two-thirds roll call vote.

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SECTION 5. The amendments made by this legislation shall take effect on September 30th, 2022. Upon taking effect, the President shall have until November 1, 2022 to appoint a Chair of the Student Elections Commission. The Commission must be filled in accordance with these statutes by December 1, 2022 and shall include at least one first-year student. These Commissioners shall serve for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year in its entirety, concluding on the last day of class of the Spring semester as defined by the University calendar.

SECTION 6. The President and Chief of Staff of Student Government shall serve as “current Chair and Vice-Chair” for the purpose of selecting commissioners once the President has selected the new Elections Commission Chair. They will do so on the advice of the Elections Commission Advisor. The President and Chief of Staff shall also serve as additional advisors to the Elections Commission for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year in its entirety, concluding on the last day of class of the Spring semester as defined by the University calendar. This is to ensure a seamless transition into the elections commission. They will not be given voting privileges regardless of the need.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pilar Agudelo

*President*

1. Independent Agency: An agency that exist outside the legislative branch and the executive offices of Student Government (aside from the appointment of the chair of the elections commission) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Proxy: Does not have voting privileges unless there is an absence of a commissioner or in the event of a tie. Serves mainly to provide perspective and feedback. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)