

Label: UWB87002

Date Introduced: March 9, 2017

Committee: Election Commission

Draft:

Date Voted On: March 9, 2017

Date Passed: March 9, 2017

A Bill to Update the 2017 Election Code for all Georgia State University Campuses

WHEREAS, an election is held each year for students planning to run as candidates for positions in the Student Government Association, and,

WHEREAS, elected members of the executive and legislative branches for each Perimeter campus are expected to actively serve during the summer semester, and,

WHEREAS, not all elected members of the executive and legislative branches for the Atlanta campus are expected to actively serve during the summer semester,

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT**

Section 1: This legislation shall be known as the “University-Wide Election Code Update Act of 2017.”

Section 2: Article 3 of the Election Code, regarding Candidates and Parties, in Section 1, sub-section A, item m. will be amended as follows: “The candidate must **intend** to serve two (2) academic semesters; **for Perimeter campus students, a minimum of summer and fall is required; for Atlanta campus students, a minimum of fall and spring is required.**”

And WHEREAS, the Election Commission is responsible for ensuring a fair and impartial election process, and,

WHEREAS, the Election Commission wants to minimize the potential for non-GSU entities and or organizations to unduly influence the elections, and,

WHEREAS, all candidates running for a position in the election must document and disclose all financial spending during their campaign, and,

WHEREAS, all donations made to a candidate’s campaign must be reported through the financial disclosure,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT

Section 3: This legislation will prevent the influence of politically affiliated non-Georgia State University organizations or entities through financial or in-kind contributions to any candidates or parties.

Section 4: Article 11 of the Election Code, regarding Campaign Finance, in Section 2, sub-section G. will be added to state: "Any non-Georgia State University organization or entity that is politically affiliated, is strictly prohibited from contributing financially or with in-kind services to any candidate's or party's campaign."

And WHEREAS, elected candidates are chosen by the student body as their representatives, and,

WHEREAS, various elected SGA representative positions may not be successfully filled during the annual election process or due to unforeseen circumstances, various elected representatives may choose to resign before the start of the first Senate meeting in the fall semester, and,

WHEREAS, the current process to fill those positions after the annual election can prove to be exhaustive and inefficient, and,

WHEREAS, to ensure a diligent method of filling any Student Government Association vacancies within Student Government that occur after the conclusion of the annual election process and up until the first Senate meeting in the fall semester,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT

Section 5: This legislation will also ensure a simple process for filling vacancies that occur between the end of the annual election process and the first Senate meeting in the fall semester.

Section 6: Article 10 of the Election Code, regarding Election Results, in Section C, sub-section d. will be amended to state: "In the occurrence of a vacancy between the end of the annual election process and the inauguration proceedings, the Election Commission Chair for each individual campus will contact the next person on the election ballot with the highest number of votes to determine if they are interested in filling the vacancy until all candidates have been exhausted; in which case, it would then default back to the regular vacancy appointment process."

Section 7: Article 10 of the Election Code, regarding Election Results, in Section C, sub-section e. will be included to state: "In the case of vacancies that occur after the inauguration proceedings but before the first Senate meeting in the Fall semester, the Speaker of the Senate for the respective campus with a vacancy has the authority to contact the next person on the election ballot with the highest number of votes to determine if they are interested in filling the vacancy until all candidates have been exhausted; in which case, it would then default back to the regular vacancy appointment process."

Section 8: Any candidate that fills a vacant position after the annual election process concludes and before inauguration proceedings take place, will be welcome to participate and be sworn in during inauguration along with those representatives elected through the annual election process.

Section 9: Any candidate that fills a vacant position after inauguration proceedings have taken place and before the first Senate meeting of the Fall semester will be sworn in at either the Student Government Association Summer Retreat or at the next available Senate meeting.

Section 10: This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

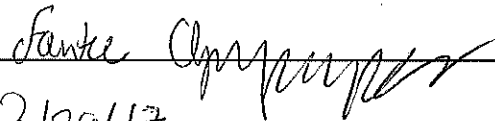
Respectively Submitted By:

Usra Mohamed
Chief Election Commissioner

ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

VOTE for _____ against _____ abstentions _____

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Signature 
Date 3/30/17

