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A University Wide Bill to Update the Role and Responsibilities of the Speaker Pro Tempore Position and the Vacancy Committee

Introduced by: Greg Wright

Sponsor(s): President Patterson, Jessica Siemer, Terry Fye and Christin Smith

Submittal Date: 10/17/2018 **Sent to:** President Patterson

First Reading: 10/17/2018 Bylaw Review Committee

Date Voted On: 11/01/2018

WHEREAS, an update of the bylaws is required to reflect additional responsibilities of the Atlanta campus Speaker Pro Tempore,

WHEREAS, the number of students transitioning from Perimeter College to one of the colleges or schools on the Atlanta campus should have resources similar to those of transfer students,

WHEREAS, the function of the vacancy committee needs to be clarified,

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 an update of the role and responsibilities for the position of the Speaker Pro Tempore as well as the Vacancy Committee.

Section 2: Title I, Article 4, Section 2 D. shall be updated to, "For the Atlanta Campus Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore is responsible for the coordination and activities of the Freshman, Transfer, **Transition** Liaison Programs.

- a. Liaison applications shall be available for at least two weeks at the beginning of the fall semester.
- b. Liaisons will be appointed and approved each academic year.
- c. Liaisons shall serve for only one academic year.

Section 3: Title 1, Article 4, Section 2 F. shall be added to state, "Additional working hours and requirements for the Atlanta Campus Speaker Pro Tempore are defined below:

- a. Four hours in the office including regularly scheduled advisor meetings and all official meetings and events.
- b. Absence from mandatory office hours for two or more consecutive weeks shall constitute a Leave of Absence.
 - i. The Speaker Pro Tempore is subject to all attendance policies, and shall not be eligible for compensation for the duration of the Leave of Absence.
- c. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall receive compensation for the position's duties during the term of office. The SGA shall not initiate any increase or decrease in the Speaker Pro Tempore's stipend during the current Speaker Pro Tempore's term of office. Any and all compensation provided in accordance with provisions of this section shall be subject to reduction due to lack of performance, which is at the discretion of the Atlanta Speaker of the Senate.

Section 4: Article 6. Section 1. will be revised to specify that 3 of the 6 transfer liaison positions will henceforth be "Transition" Liaisons, to better serve the growing population of students transitioning from Perimeter College to a college or school on the Atlanta campus. It will be amended to state,

"Article 6 – Freshmen, Transfer, and **Transition** Liaisons

The freshmen, transfer, and transition liaisons are active volunteers within the Atlanta Campus SGA that serve the student body by participating in SGA activities and initiatives.

Section 1 – Selection

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- 1 A. Applications for Freshman and Transfer Liaisons will be available by the first day of classes each fall semester.
- 2 B. The Speaker Pro Tempore is responsible for reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews with the
- 3 top candidates based on their applications.
- 4 C. The Speaker Pro Tempore and at least two other senators will conduct interviews and nominate six
- 5 students for Freshman Liaison positions, **three for Transfer Liaison positions and three for Transition**
- 6 **Liaison position** at the next scheduled session of the Senate.
- 7 D. The Senate must confirm the liaisons with a simple majority vote; confirmations can be made as a block vote.

8 Section 2 – Authority and Responsibility

- 9 A. Serve as representatives of the freshmen, transfer and **transition** communities respectively.
- 10 B. Seek student feedback and recommend solutions to student issues.
- 11 C. Provide a voice for freshmen, transfer students, **transition students** and the collective student body.
- 12 D. Advocate for student rights.
- 13 E. Attend regular Senate meetings.
- 14 F. Serve on a minimum of one standing committee.
- 15 G. Write legislation with a student senator as a sponsor.

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17 **Section 3:** A new Article 3 “Vacancies in the Senate” shall be added to Title I, after Article II and
18 all subsequent Articles being renumbered. Article 3 shall state:

19 Article 3 – Vacancies in the Campus Senate

20 Section 1 – Nomination Process

- 21 A. Vacancies in the SGA must be advertised and applications for positions made available for at least seven
- 22 days before nominations are made.
- 23 B. Applications must be submitted in Panther Involvement Network (pin.gsu.edu).
- 24 C. The Speaker Pro Tempore and at least one other Senator chosen by the Speaker Pro Tempore shall form a
- 25 Senate confirmation committee to interview the most qualified candidates prior to forwarding a prioritized
- 26 list of candidates to the Speaker of the Senate.
- 27 D. The Speaker of the Senate has sole discretion on which candidate they submit to the Senate for a
- 28 confirmation vote.
- 29 E. The nomination requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Senate members present and takes effect
- 30 immediately upon approval.
- 31 F. The Speaker of the Senate has seven days after the application for a vacant position has closed to
- 32 recommend a nomination to the Senate. If the Speaker of the Senate fails to meet the nomination time
- 33 requirement, the Campus Executive Committee will nominate a candidate.
- 34 G. Rejection of a Speaker of the Senator’s nominee, within the given time period, shall reset the time allocated
- 35 in this clause.
- 36 H. If a Campus Senate vacancy shall remain open beyond two consecutive regular meetings of the Senate, and
- 37 the Speaker of the Senate fails to nominate an eligible candidate for the vacant position, the Speaker Pro-
- 38 Tempore shall have the power to nominate an eligible candidate for the vacant position.

39 Section 2 – Speaker of the Senate

- 40 A. If the Speaker of the Senate position is vacated, the Speaker Pro Tempore automatically becomes the Speaker of
- 41 the Senate until the end of their term and a new Speaker Pro Tempore is elected from within the Campus Senate.

42 Section 3 – Speaker Pro Tempore

- 43 A. In the event that the Speaker Pro Tempore position becomes vacant Senators can nominate another
- 44 Senator or themselves to fill the position.
- 45 B. The Campus Senate should vote on the nominations by the first Senate meeting following the day the
- 46 position is vacated, or one week, whichever is longer.
- 47 C. The Senator who receives the most votes will become the Speaker Pro Tempore.

48 Section 4 - University Senate Vacancy

- 49 A. The President appoints candidates to fill vacancies in University Senate Committees.
- 50 B. The President has seven days after the publicity of a vacant position has expired to make the appointment.
- 51 C. If the appointment time requirement is not met by the President, the Executive Committee will appoint a
- 52 candidate.
- 53

1 **Section 5 – Senate Committee Chair Vacancies (Atlanta Campus Only)**

- 2 A. In the event that a Senate Committee Chair position becomes vacant Senators can nominate another
3 Senator or themselves to fill the position.
4 B. The Atlanta Senate should vote on the nominations by the first Senate meeting following the day the
5 position is vacated, or one weeks whichever is longer.
6 C. The Senator who receives the most votes will become the Committee Chair.

7 **Section 6 - Senate Clerk Vacancy (Atlanta Campus Only)**

- 8 A. The Speaker of the Senate appoints an individual outside of the Senate to serve as the Senate Clerk.
9 B. The Senate Clerk serves at the pleasure of the Speaker of the Senate.

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11 **Section 4:** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student
12 Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

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14 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE: VOTE for _____ against _____ abstentions _____

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17 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

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19 Signature _____ Date _____

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