



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

Senate Seat Reorganization

Date Proposed: March 24, 2013

Summary

This amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws would reorganize the current Senate Seats, eliminating all current seats and creating 8 seats per class, for 32 Senators, 2 senators representing the Resident Hall Association, one representing Panhellenic Council, and one representing Interfraternity Council.

Current Language

Constitution

Article III. The Legislative Body

Section 1. The General Assembly

- A. The standing members of the General Assembly shall consist of one Senator elected from each University recognized housing unit, one Senator representing the PanHellenic Council, one Senator representing the Interfraternity Council, and two Senators representing the Resident Hall Association.
- B. Additional Senator seats may become part of the General Assembly; this process shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Senator Vacancies

- A. In the event that there is a vacancy in a Senate seat, the respective organization shall submit a nomination to the President who shall then submit the name to the General Assembly for a vote of confirmation.
- B. A vote of confirmation requires a majority vote by the General Assembly.

Bylaws

Section 3. Additional Student Senate Seats

- A. Additional Senate seats may be added to the General Assembly using the following procedure and guidelines:
 1. A clear under-representation of constituency in the General Assembly must be proven.
 2. The proposed seat must represent a clear constituency who could systematically elect a representative to the proposed seat.
 3. A proposal for creating a new seat shall be submitted to the Internal Affairs Committee for review. Signatures of 50 students must be presented to the Internal Affairs Committee at the time a proposal is submitted. The Internal Affairs Committee shall then vote on the proposed seat and if passed by a majority, shall be sent to the floor of the Senate for inclusion in the Bylaws.
 4. If the proposed seat is passed by the Senate, the said group shall elect a Senator-designee who shall receive a voting seat at the first Senate meeting of a semester, following one full semester of perfect attendance.
- B. The Internal Affairs Committee shall review all seats that are outlined in the Bylaws annually for necessity of inclusiveness in the General Assembly and may make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the removal of a seat.
- C. Should a Senator in a seat that is provided in the Bylaws not meet the attendance policy requirements that are outlined in Article II, Section 2, that Senate seat shall simultaneously lose its right to vote,



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

and said group must elect a Senator-designee who must maintain perfect attendance for the rest of the semester and the subsequent semester before voting rights are reinstated. Should this requirement not be met, that seat shall be removed from the Bylaws.

- D. Student Senate seats that are not outlined in the Constitution shall be seats representing the Black Student Union, Spanish and Latino Student Association, Pride Alliance, International Society, South Asian Student Association, Sierra Student Coalition, five off-campus residence Senators, and three First-Year class senators.

Revised Language

Constitution

Article III. The Legislative Body

Section 1. The General Assembly

- A. The General Assembly shall consist of thirty-six elected Senators. Senators shall be elected at the beginning of each academic year.
- B. There shall be eight Senators per graduation class. Students will be eligible to run in their class based on their cohorts. If a student is at the university for longer than four years, then they shall be considered in the most senior graduation class.
- C. There shall be two Senators representing the Resident Hall Association, one Senator representing the Panhellenic Council, and one representing the Interfraternity Council.

Section 5. Senator Vacancies

- C. In the event that there is a vacancy in a Senate seat, the members of the respective class may submit their names to the Internal Affairs Committee who shall then make a recommendation to the General Assembly for a vote of confirmation.
- D. A vote of confirmation requires a majority vote by the General Assembly.
- E. If the vacancy occurs in the fall semester, the seat shall be up for election in a special election at the beginning of the spring semester.

Rational

There have been a number of issues raised with Senate over the last few years relating to Senate seats and this system is a response to mend some of these issues. Some issues include:

1. Some students not being able to run for Senate (i.e. RA's, FSL Leaders, etc).
2. Inconsistent elections or lack of elections between halls, houses, organizations, etc.
3. Inequality in size of electorate (i.e. Adams hall vs. Munsell Hall).
4. Lack of desire to serve on Hall Council as a deterrent to run for Senate.
5. Some RSOs and student organizations feel that it is unfair that some groups have seats and others don't.
6. Senators are elected/appointed at multiple points in the semester, making conveying consistent information challenging.
7. Clarity of Election Process for students & candidates.
8. Awareness of Student Senate of elections.

This system will hopefully address these problems and hopefully increase participation by the campus community in Senate. With this system all students will have the ability to vote for their representatives and Senate will be able to ensure that there is fairness and equality in Senate. Another benefit of this is to ensure that we have consistent representation from students at all four stages at IWU.



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
