

Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate Legislation

Student Government Association

October 01, 2010

SGA Resolution of Governance: Direct Election of Executive Vice President II

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A Resolution of Governance to directly elect the Executive Vice President, thereby returning the responsibility to elect the chair of the Senate to the Undergraduate Student Body.

RG-FA-10-114

Whereas:

In a memo to the Senate Nominations and Elections Committee, then-President Bill Durkin wrote "We must continue to improve on our tradition of serving the student body. Doing so requires us to be better known to the average student and play a larger role in the Northeastern community. It is my judgment that the next step in achieving this goal is by codifying a method by which the student body directly elects the leadership of the organization," and further charged the Committee "to develop a method to elect the Executive Board;" **AND**

Whereas:

Article VI.C.2 of the Constitution reads "The Executive Vice President serves to assist the President in long-term planning, special projects and initiatives. In addition, the Executive Vice President oversees the Association's communications, events, archives, fundraising, and alumni connections. The Executive Vice President has the powers and responsibilities to:

- a. Be the presiding officer of the Senate;
- b. Assume the Presidency in the event the President is unable to perform the duties of that office;
- c. Nominate an Executive Director of Communications; and
- d. Develop the Association's budget proposal for the next fiscal year, subject to Executive Board approval, and submit it to the Senate;" **AND**

Whereas:

The positions of President and Executive Vice President would be dually enhanced by both campaigns running on a shared vision, allowing both officers to work seamlessly together on long-term planning, special projects and initiatives; **AND**

Whereas:

The communications of the Association hinge on a strong connection with the Undergraduate Student Body; a direct election campaign would allow for the Executive Vice President to cater a platform externally to the Student Body, rather than internally to the Senate, and to connect with thousands of students throughout the campaign; **AND**

Whereas:

The majority of the events held by the Association are for the enjoyment and betterment of the overall Student Body; further, internally focused events are designed to promote an open atmosphere between members and the free-flow of ideas to ultimately benefit Northeastern as a whole; **AND**

Whereas:

The archives of the Association exist to make information available internally and externally, to provide context to the work of the Association, and to document the business of the Association for years to come; **AND**

Whereas:

From the years of 2007 through 2010, the Undergraduate Student Body elected the individual serving as the president officer of the Senate; several attempts at directly electing the President in the past also gave the Student Body this right, albeit temporary; **AND**

Whereas:

Article V.A of the Constitution reads "The Senate is the deliberative body from which all authority vested in the Association originates. [...] The Senate has the powers and responsibilities to:

1. Represent the voice of the student body;" AND

Whereas:

Article VI.B.1 of the Constitution reads "If the President resigns, is removed from, or abandons office, the Executive Vice President will assume the position of the President and retain the position of Executive Vice President in an acting capacity until the Full Body can convene for an election for Executive Vice President;" **AND**

Whereas:

The Executive Vice President would be more equipped to step-in for and represent the President and the Association as a whole when elected by the Undergraduate Student Body; **AND**

Whereas:

The election of the Executive Vice President by the Student Body, rather than the Senate, reduces the potential of special deals and otherwise harmful individual agreements that would undermine the nature of the democracy in effect within the Association; **AND**

Whereas:

Additional candidates running in the direct elections allows for greater campaign outreach, thereby increasing awareness and voter turnout in the election overall; **AND**

Whereas:

Article IV.A.2 of the Bylaws reads "Annual elections for the President for the following academic year will be held in the spring semester according to procedures in the Direct Elections Manual. Annual elections for all other elected officers for the following academic year will be held in the spring semester and will be conducted by the Full Body." **THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article IV.A.2 of the Bylaws be modified to read "Annual elections for the President and Executive Vice President for the following academic year will be held in the spring semester according to procedures in the Direct Elections Manual. Annual elections for all other elected officers for the following academic year will be held in the spring semester and will be conducted by the Full Body." **AND FURTHER THAT**

In Section 7 of the Direct Elections Manual, all instances of the phrase "presidential candidate" be modified to read "presidential/executive vice presidential campaign." **AND FURTHER THAT**

In the Direct Elections Manual, all instances of the word "candidate" be changed to "campaign." **AND FURTHER THAT**

The Direct Elections Manual be modified to add article 12 as follows:

12. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

12.1 Nomination

A presidential candidate will nominate any executive vice presidential candidate.

12.2 Confirmation

The Senate, following standard blocking procedure, will confirm the candidates for directly elected office. A presidential candidate and executive vice presidential candidate do not constitute a campaign until the Senate confirms both. If an executive vice presidential candidate is not confirmed, the presidential candidate is obligated to nominate another candidate for Executive Vice President. In this case, the requirement of the "Intent to Run" form will be waived.

12.3 Withdrawal

Should an executive vice presidential candidate withdraw from the campaign during the campaign period, the presidential candidate running on that ticket must nominate a new executive vice presidential candidate within twenty-four hours. The same process of confirmation by the Senate will be followed, but the requirement of the "Intent to Run" form will be waived.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate,		
Terrence MacCormack Senator, College of Social Sciences and Humanities		Sean P. Maloney Executive Vice President
Ryan J. Fox President	ATTEST:	William Pett Vice-Chair, Senate Vice President for Student Services

Date:	
YAY:	
NAY:	
ABSTAIN:	