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SGA Resolution of Governance: Presiding Officer

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A Resolution of Governance Creating the Internally Elected Position of Speaker of the Senate in Order to Separate the Responsibilities of the Presiding Officer of the Senate from the Position of the Executive Vice President.

RG-FA-11-110

Whereas: The Senate currently selects its presiding officer by electing the Executive Vice President, who “has the power and responsibility to chair the Senate.” **AND**

Whereas: The Executive Vice President has the “power and responsibility to assume the Presidency in the event the President is unable to perform the duties of that office;” therefore they should be familiar with all sections of the Association; **AND**

Whereas: The responsibility of being the presiding officer of the Senate is inconsistent with the rest of the responsibilities of the Executive Vice President; **AND**

Whereas: Roberts Rules defines chairing a small group committee and a large group general assembly as two separate entities, and being good at one does not automatically assume the other; **AND**

Whereas: Having the Executive Vice President given the responsibility of being the presiding officer of the Senate limits the number of qualified candidates to assume the Presidency (as defined by the powers granted to the Executive Vice President) to those who also excel at chairing large meetings; **AND**

Whereas: Having the Executive Vice President be given the responsibility of being the presiding officer of the Senate limits the number of qualified candidates to chair the meetings to those who also excel at the managerial aspects of the position; **AND**

Whereas: By removing the power and responsibility to chair the Senate meetings from any one particular position, it ensures the power to select the presiding officer will remain that of the Senate’s, no matter how the Association expands direct elections in the future; **AND**

Whereas: Up until 2010, the Vice President for Student Affairs was automatically the Vice Chair of Senate. The rationale for relieving that position of that duty and instead charge the power to appoint a Vice Chair of the Senate to the Executive Board was that it was inconsistent with its other responsibilities and would make the position of Vice President more appealing to those that wanted to have that position but not have the cumbersome duty of automatically being the Vice Chair; **AND**



Whereas: By creating the position of the Speaker of the Senate and opening it to all Association members, it opens up both the roles of the presiding officer and the Executive Vice President to a wider array of students, which in turn promotes wider engagement and retention in the Association, along with ensuring that each responsibility is accurately distributed to the individual best filled to carry it out. Additionally, the role of Presiding Officer would be inclusive, as any individual or officer, directly elected or not, could be selected as the presiding officer of the Senate. This ensures the power to select the chair will remain that of the Senate, regardless of any effort to expand direct elections.

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article VI Section D Subsection 2 of the Constitution be inserted to say:

2. Speaker of the Senate

The Speaker of the Senate serves as the presiding officer of the Senate. This officer has the power and responsibility to chair Senate meetings.

AND FURTHER THAT

Article IV Section A subsection 2f be inserted into the Bylaws to say:

f. Candidates for Speaker of the Senate must be current full time undergraduates and must have Senatorial status for twenty weeks. Candidates must be a Cabinet Member. The Speaker of the Senate will serve a term that is concurrent with the Executive Cabinet. Members of the Association's Judicial branch are ineligible for this position.

AND FURTHER THAT

Article VI Section 2 Subsection A of Constitution be amended to say:

A. The Executive Vice President serves as an ex-officio member of the Senate.

AND FURTHER THAT

Article I Section C of the Bylaws be changed to say:

A. The Speaker of the Senate is a member of the Senate with limited voting rights, voting only in the case of a tie. Senate meetings are open to the public and members of the public may work with any committee, Senator, or officer.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate,

Anthony Golia IV
Comptroller

Nicholas S. Naraghi
Senator
College of Computer and Information Sciences

Michael W. Sabo
President

ATTEST:

William D. Pett
Executive Vice President

Date: _____

YAY: _____

NAY: _____

ABSTAIN: _____