Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Student Senate

The Student Senate
27th Session
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Introduced by: Conner Allen, Speaker of the Student Senate
Co-Sponsored by: Kirk Jorgensen, Freshman Senator
Co-Sponsored by: June Scheick, College of Liberal Arts Senator

Action Taken: PASSED

Certified By: Conner Allen
Speaker of the Student Senate

Senate Session and Legislation Procedures Act
"An act formalizing the process of introducing legislation to the Student Senate"

WHEREAS (1):

The Student Senate currently has no formal process or standards stated in the Constitution or Bylaws for introducing legislation to the Senate, nor does it keep track of sessions. This act serves as both a bill to implement new policies and an example of future expectations; so,

WHEREAS (2):

Using sessions rather than years would specifically indicate which group of senators a piece of legislation was passed by, and would establish the 2017-2018 academic year as the 27th session; and,

WHEREAS (3):

Adding that the documents must be certified on all pages ensures the legitimacy of all legislation, and would make Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Student Senate bills and resolutions similar to that of other Student Governments; and,

WHEREAS (4):

Defining certification is necessary for the Speaker of the Senate to know what criteria they will use to certify; and,
WHEREAS(5):

Defining Presidential approval within the bylaws is necessary to know what bills and resolutions need Presidential approval. Currently, the text reads “signed” rather than “approved” in the Constitution, which should be changed for clarity; and,

WHEREAS (6):

Establishing that the President may either approve or veto legislation is necessary, as well as establishing that signing legislation is the same as approving it; and,

WHEREAS(7):

Formalizing the process with which senators introduce legislation and making the documents more professional will improve the image of the Student Senate; so,

WHEREAS(8):

Including information with each bill that indicates the session, type of legislation, and certification is necessary to formalize the processes with which the Student Senate introduces legislation.
Therefore
Let it be
Enacted (1):

That Chapter 4.16 of the Student Government Association Bylaws be added to the existing text, which shall read:

4.16

All legislation introduced to the Senate shall be drafted with the following procedure:

i. All bills and resolutions shall be appropriately labeled as such.

ii. All bills and resolutions shall include the appropriate bill or resolution number, which shall be included on each page following “S.B.” or “S.R.” along with the current session.

iii. All bills and resolutions shall have numbered pages.

iv. All bills and resolutions shall include a title.

v. All bills and resolutions shall include a short description directly under the title.

vi. All bills and resolutions shall include a sponsor who is a member of the Student Senate.

vii. All bills and resolutions shall include the individual who is introducing the legislation.

viii. All bills and resolutions shall have a space for the Speaker of the Senate to certify on each page.

ix. All bills and resolutions subject to presidential approval, as defined in article 3 section 3 of the Constitution, as well as section 4, must include a space for Presidential approval on the front page.
Therefore
Let it be
Further
Enacted (2):

That Chapter 4.17 of the Student Government Association Bylaws be added to the existing text, which shall read:

4.17

All legislation shall be introduced with the following procedure:

i. All introducers of legislation must first contact the Speaker of the Senate to receive the appropriate bill or resolution number.

ii. The Speaker of the Senate must be provided with a physical copy of all legislation before it is read in the Senate.

iii. Legislation must be read in its entirety to the Senate before consideration unless by unanimous consent the Senate agrees to consider the bill as read.

iv. All bills and resolutions introduced to the Senate shall be certified by the Speaker on all pages, and all pages must contain a space for the Speaker to sign.

Therefore
Let it be
Further
Enacted (3):

That Chapter 4.18 of the Student Government Association Bylaws be added to the existing text, which shall read:

4.18

"Certify," for the purpose of the Speaker of the Senate signing legislation, shall be defined as officially recognizing legislation as meeting the standards set forth by the constitution and bylaws.
Therefore
Let it be
Further
Enacted (4):

That Article 4, Section 6 of the Student Government Association Constitution be added to the existing text, which shall read:

SECTION 6
The 1990-91 Student Senate shall be classified as the "First (1st) Session", the 1991-92 Student Senate shall be classified as the "Second (2nd) Session", and all subsequent sessions shall be numbered accordingly in increasing order for all archiving and operational purposes. New sessions shall begin on Spring Commencement each year.

Therefore
Let it be
Further
Enacted (5):

That Article 3, Section 3, item xiv of the Student Government Association Constitution, which covers Presidential roles and responsibilities, be amended from the word “signing” to “approving,” which shall read:

xiv. Approving or vetoing any bill or resolution passed by the Student Senate(3.15). Should the President fail to act on a bill or resolution within ten working days of its passing by the Student Senate, the bill or resolution shall take effect without their signature.
Therefore
Let it be
Further
Enacted (6):

That all legislation passed in the 2017-2018 academic year prior to this act be included in the current bill or resolution number count, specifically the "Triple Stream Waste Bins for the University Center" resolution and the untitled Bylaws amendment which changed absentee voting procedure.