Short Title: The Senate By Laws Revision Act

Primary Sponsor: Samrawit Yohanis, Freshman at-Large Senator

Secondary Sponsor(s):

Passage:

Whereas, The By-Laws of the Student Senate are the building block to the function, structure and organization of the Student Body Senate

Whereas, The By-Laws of the Student Senate are currently unclear and require clarification

Whereas, The By-Laws of the Student Senate need to be revised in order to maintain consistency

Whereas, The By-Laws of the Student Senate need to be updated to keep up with current procedural activities

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Body Senate at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte:

Chapter III, Article 1, Sections 1-16 of the Senate By-Laws is to read:

SECTION 1. Definitions and Conventions

§3-1.1. Definitions.

Within these By-Laws, the following definitions and conventions shall apply:

(a) For the purposes of these By-Laws, "Student Senate" or "Senate" shall refer to the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
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(b) A "Legislative Assembly" of the Student Senate shall be all of the meetings of the Senate that may occur during an individual year. "General Assembly" shall be defined as a regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Senate in a particular Legislative Assembly, during which the business of the Senate is conducted.

(c) A "Legislative Assembly" of the Student Senate shall be all of the meetings of the Senate that may occur during an individual year. "General Assembly" shall be defined as a regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Senate in a particular Legislative Assembly, during which the business of the Senate is conducted.

(d) A “Special Assembly” of the Student Senate shall be defined as a meeting not regularly scheduled which, having been called by a Petition signed by at least three-fourths of all Senators, shall be held for the sole purpose of considering the removal of a Senator from the Senate for disciplinary reasons.

(de) The "First Session" of a Legislative Assembly shall be all of the meetings of the Senate that may occur following the seating of new Senators after a Spring General Election and lasting until the seating of new Senators after a Fall General Election.

(ej) The "Second Session" of a Legislative Assembly shall be all of the meetings of the Senate that may occur following the seating of new Senators after a Fall General Election and lasting until the seating of new Senators after a Spring General Election.

(fg) A meeting of the Senate in "Committee" shall refer to the meeting of the Senators in their various Committees.

(gh) A "class day" is a day in the academic year on which classes are scheduled to meet. This definition shall also apply whenever a particular day of the week is preceded in these By-Laws by the term "class" (i.e., "class Monday").

(hi) In accordance with the Constitution of the Student Body, the Vice President of the Student Body shall serve as the "President of the Senate". At no time may the President be permitted to serve as a voting member of any Committee of the Senate, standing or otherwise.

(ij) The "Presiding Officer" shall be any Officer of the Senate who may chair a General Assembly in accordance with these By-Laws.

(ik) The "Advisors to the Student Senate" shall be the faculty or staff advisors to the Student Senate.

(kl) A "designee" or "Senator-designate" shall be any member of the Student Body who, having been duly nominated for a particular Student Body Office, has been brought before the Senate for confirmation pursuant to these By-Laws.
"Old business" shall be any business having been brought before the Senate in a previous General Assembly. This may include, but shall not be limited to legislation coming before the Senate for a second reading or legislation tabled in previous General Assemblies.

"New business" shall be any business brought before the Senate for the first time.

"Secret ballot" refers to a method of voting used by the Senate, and shall be a written ballot bearing the signature of the voting Senator.

For the purposes of these By-Laws, "ex-officio" shall be used to describe any member of the Senate who is not a Senator. Ex-officio members of the Senate may address the Senate when recognized by the President, and shall not be allowed to vote. Ex-officio members of the Senate shall include the Student Body Treasurer, the Student Government Association Administrative Assistant and the Advisor to the Student Senate.

The term "Accuser" refers to the author of a Petition calling a Special Assembly.

The term "Accused" refers to a Senator who is being brought before a Special Assembly for consideration of removal from the Senate.

Names of Offices hereinafter refer to those within the Student Senate unless otherwise noted.

§3-1.2. Title.

This document shall be known as the By-Laws of the Student Senate, which is organized for the purpose stated in Article II Section 3 of the Constitution of the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

§3-1.3. Authority.

(a) These By-Laws shall govern all positions it is granted authority over in Article III of the Constitution of the Student Body.

(b) Where these By-Laws are not specific, the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the operations of the Senate.

(c) When conflicts arise between these By-Laws and the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, the By-Laws shall take precedence.

SECTION 2. Meetings of the Senate

§3-1.4. Weekly Meetings.
The Student Senate shall meet in Committee every class Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., and in General Assembly every class Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

§3-1.5. Meetings at the Call of the President.

In addition to those meetings outlined in SGS §3-1.4, the President shall retain the right to call meetings as he or she deems appropriate, given proper notice to the Senators.

§3-1.6. Meetings by Petition of Senators.

A Senator may, at any time, circulate a petition to call a meeting, prescribing the date and time of the meeting. Such a petition must be signed by at least one-half of all qualified Senators and must be submitted to the President. Upon receipt of a valid petition, the President shall provide notice of the additional meeting to all Senators, provided that the petition is submitted at least one week prior to the date and time of the meeting called for in the petition.

§3-1.7. Order of Business in a Special Assembly.

(a) A Special Assembly shall be a meeting of the Senate which, having been called by a Petition signed by at least three-fourths of all Senators, shall be held for the sole purpose of considering the removal of a Senator from the Senate for disciplinary reasons.

(b) Order of Business in a Special Assembly: In a Special Assembly, the Senate shall proceed with its business in the following order:

i. Call to Order

ii. Roll Call

iii. Reading of the Petition which called the Special Assembly

iv. Opening Statement from the Accuser, not to exceed five minutes

v. Opening Statement from the Accused, not to exceed five minutes

vi. Period of Questions from the Senate, not to exceed 10 minutes

vii. Closing Statement from the Accused, not to exceed three minutes

viii. Closing Statement from the Accuser, not to exceed three minutes

ix. Roll Call Vote on the question of removing the Accused from the Senate
x. Adjournment

SECTION 3. Membership of the Senate

§3-1.8. Eligibility.

All duly registered students of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shall be eligible for membership in the Student Senate.

§3-1.9. Qualifications of Senators.

(a) In addition to meeting the General Qualifications for Student Government Officials outlined in SGS §1-1.3 and the Elections Act, a member of the Student Body shall be considered a qualified Senator-elect upon receipt by the President of certification of his or her election to the Senate from the Board of Elections, or a qualified Senator-designate upon approval by a two-thirds majority of Senators present upon his or her nomination by the President Pro Tempore.

(b) Senators whose Grade Point Average has fallen below the 2.5 minimum required by SGS §1-1.3, and have enrolled in the Grade Replacement Program made available by the Office of the Registrar, may remain a Senator provided they successfully complete the Program and provide documentation of their enrollment in the program to the Advisor to the Student Senate.

(c) A Senator who has been removed from the Senate for disciplinary reasons shall not be eligible to serve in the Senate for one academic year.

§3-1.10. Induction of Members.

Each Senator-elect or Senator-designate shall be inaugurated by the President Pro Tempore in accordance with SGS §1-1.10 upon meeting all the qualifications for such Office outlined in Chapter One of the Student Government Statutes and these By-Laws.

§3-1.11. Duration of a Term.

(a) Senators inaugurated in accordance with SGS §1-1.10 shall serve for a term of one academic year from the date of inauguration, or until his or her successor is inaugurated.

(b) A Senator who is appointed to the Student Senate shall follow the guidelines for the vacancy he or she was appointed to fill as enumerated by these By-Laws.

(c) A Senator who has changed the College of his or her major at any point in his or her term may remain in his or her current seat until the term to which he or she was elected or appointed is scheduled to expire. Upon the next election cycle, should the Senator choose to seek election again, the Senator must run by the guidelines outlined in these By-Laws and the Elections Act.
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§3-1.12. Attendance.

(a) A Senator may have one absence per First Session and two absences per Second Session. An absence in either General Assembly or Committee shall count toward a Senator's total number of absences.

(b) The Presiding Officer shall cause the roll to be called to establish the presence of a quorum (as defined in 3-1.21) and to confirm the attendance of Senators. Any Senator not present for such a roll call shall be assessed one-half of an absence. The Chair of each respective Committee shall be required to document the attendance of Senators for formal Committee meetings; any Senator not in attendance for a Committee meeting shall be assessed with one absence. All absences shall be submitted to the Student Government Association Administrative Assistant Parliamentarian.

(c) The Student Government Association Administrative Assistant Parliamentarian shall keep a record of the attendance of every Senator. Should action be warranted against a Senator for exceeding the allotted number of absences, the Administrative Assistant Parliamentarian shall inform the President, the President Pro Tempore and the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee. The Internal Affairs Committee shall be tasked with the execution of any action warranted against a Senator in accordance with these By-Laws.

§3-1.13. Proxy.

(a) A Senator may appoint a currently enrolled individual student to serve as a proxy for any meeting he or she is unable to attend. The proxy shall not be a current Student Government Official.

(b) The Senator must submit a Proxy Form as defined in Appendix D to the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee 24 hours before the meeting is to occur.

(c) The first proxy of each semester will not count as an absence; however, any additional uses of a proxy will be considered an absence.

§3-1.14. Vacancies.

(a) Declaration of a Vacancy: Should a vacancy exist after an election or upon announcement of a Senator's ineligibility, resignation, or revocation, the President shall declare the seat vacant.

(b) Filling a Vacancy: All students who are interested in filling the vacant seat will meet with the President Pro Tempore, who will inform the students of the following qualifications necessary to fill the vacant seat:

i. The student must meet all the requirements enumerated in Chapter 1 Section 3 of the Constitution of the Student Body and Student Government Statutes.
ii. The student must present a document signed by 50 constituents for the position they wish to fill.

iii. Should the student be a current Student Government Official, either elected or appointed, he or she must resign his or her current position prior to taking the Oath of Office to become a Senator, in compliance with SGS §1-1.3.

(c) **Process of Confirmation:**

i. The student must meet with the President and upon his or her consent will be sent to observe a General Assembly.

ii. After observing a General Assembly, the student will notify the President Pro Tempore of his or her continued interest in the Student Senate.

iii. The President Pro Tempore will then refer the student to the Internal Affairs Committee for a review of his or her qualifications. Upon a vote to favorably or unfavorably recommend confirmation by simple majority of the Internal Affairs Committee, the Senator-designate will be sent to General Assembly for consideration.

iv. Upon a two-thirds vote by Senators present, the Senator-designate will be confirmed, and will subsequently be administered the Oath of Office.

§3-1.15. Resignation.

(a) A Senator may declare his or her resignation at any time for due cause. All voluntary resignations must be delivered in writing to the President.

(b) Departure from a General Assembly prior to adjournment without being granted a Questions of Privilege to leave will automatically constitute a declaration of vacancy.

§3-1.16. Removal from Office.

(a) **Attendance Removal:** When a Senator has exceeded the total number of absences, the Senator will appear at a hearing of the Internal Affairs Committee. The Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee shall give the Senator a five-day written notice of at least 5 days prior to the date the hearing is to occur. The Senator in question is allowed one postponement, and the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee is required to give another five day written notice of the date of the new hearing. If the Senator cannot provide proper excuses for his or her absences, his or her membership will be revoked. If the Senator fails to attend the hearing or contact the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee to reschedule the hearing, the hearing will be conducted in absentia.
(b) *Disciplinary Removal:* Any Senator alleged to have acted in a manner inconsistent with the Oath of Office shall be brought before a Special Assembly.

i. The President Pro Tempore shall chair the Special Assembly unless he or she is being presented for removal, in which case the Parliamentarian shall assume the chair.

ii. Senators shall be removed from Office upon a three-fourths vote of Senators present in a Special Assembly.
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Mandates:

Dr. Arthur R. Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Christine Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Karen Shaffer, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Student Activities
Adam Burden, Advisor to the Senate
Fahn Darkor, Press Secretary
Niner Times

I hereby certify that this legislation was considered and adopted by the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Body and the By-Laws of the Student Senate on this ________ day of ______________, ____________.

Alexander S. Rodriguez
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

I hereby signify my approval of this legislation as adopted by the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, this ________ day of ________________, ____________.

Mitchell Daratony
UNC CHARLOTTE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
THE STUDENT SENATE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

President of the Student Body

UNC CHARLOTTE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION