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LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

TITLE: Restructuring

AUTHORS: Bethel Tesfai, Zach Tufenkjian

SPONSORS: Ginger Gordon, Sarah Miller, Harper Taylor, Megan Mae Oitzman, Don Tran, Hannah Tuttle, Annika Bos, Hunter Walker, Chris Malone, Katy Mae Turner, Marisol Villarreal, Ruhi Thapar, Haley O’Donnell, Cayleigh Nelson

NUMBER: \_\_\_SE 69-18\_\_\_

DATE SUMBITTED: \_\_\_02/22/22\_\_\_

VOTE: FAILED

FOR: 25

AGAINST: 12

ABSTAIN: 1

Conflict of Interest: 0

NOT PRESENT: 11

Whereas: Student Senate is elected by the student body to represent and voice the opinions of students; and

Whereas: Student Senate is a means by which students’ concerns are addressed; and

Whereas: Student Senate is currently elected through an at-large voting system, that only ensures class representation; and

Whereas: The absence of a structured voting system allows for multiple parts of campus to have no representation, while some parts are overrepresented; and

Whereas: It would be more effective for students to gain representation by academic college due to the wide variety of students within classes; and

Whereas: A structured voting system has the potential to increase representation of the student body within the Senate, allowing it to better serve its purpose; and

Therefore: Be it resolved by the 69th Legislative Session of the Baylor University Student Senate assembled that the following proposed changes be put to a vote by the Student Body on March 15, 2022 and hereby amended in the Baylor University Student Body Constitution upon ratification:

**ARTICLE II**

# SECTION IV – THE BAYLOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

1. Student Senate shall be comprised of fifty-two undergraduate Student Senators, ~~composed of thirteen Student Senators from each academic class, representing the Baylor University Student Body to be apportioned in a manner determined within the Electoral Code and ratified by two-thirds of the Student Senate and subject to veto by the Student Body President.~~  composed of thirteen Student Senators from the freshman class, sixteen Student Senators based on academic colleges, eighteen Student Senators representing At-Large, and the remaining five Student Senators based on specific student populations. Student Senators shall be apportioned in a manner determined within the Electoral Code and ratified by two-thirds of the Student Senate and subject to veto by the Student Body President. Academic College, At-Large, and Specified Student Population Seats shall be apportioned in the following manner:
   1. Academic College Seats (16 Total)
      1. College of Arts and Sciences: 6
      2. Hankamer School of Business: 3
      3. School of Engineering and Computer Science: 1
      4. School of Education: 1
      5. Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences: 2
      6. Honors College: 1
      7. School of Music: 1
      8. Diana R. Garland School of Social Work: 1
   2. At-Large Seats (18 Total)
      1. At-Large seats shall be equally allocated among sophomore, junior, and senior classifications (6 for each classification).
   3. Specified Student Population Seats (5 Total)
      1. One seat shall be allocated to each of the following student populations: First in Line, International, Student Athlete, Transfer, and Veteran/ROTC.

**SECTION XI – STUDENT SENATE**

Par. 1. Vacancy in The Office of a Student Senator

1. ~~The class officers of the class in which the Student Senate vacancy has occurred shall nominate by majority vote a member of the respective class to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of that seat.~~
2. ~~A nominee shall be confirmed by two- thirds majority of the Student Senate.~~
3. If an At-Large or freshman Senate seat remains or becomes vacant following a Student Government election cycle or during a legislative session, then the class officers of the vacancy’s respective class shall nominate by a majority vote a member of their respective class to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the At-Large seat.
4. If a category-specific seat (Academic College or Student Population) is not filled following a spring election cycle, then the seat shall become At-Large. The runner-up of the At-Large election for the least represented class will be given the available seat. If no runner-up is available or all remaining candidates reject the seat, the seat shall become vacant.
5. If a senator occupying a category-specific seat resigns or is removed from their seat, then the category-specific seat shall become vacant. The class officers representing the former senator’s classification shall nominate by a majority vote a member of the seat’s represented constituency to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the category-specific seat.
6. If a senator occupying a category-specific seat leaves the constituency they represent, then the senator shall resign, and the seat shall become vacant as a category-specific seat.
7. All Senate nominees shall be confirmed a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate.

Furthermore: The following provisions of the Baylor University Electoral Code shall be amended to the following:

**TITLE II THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

2.8. The Elections Marshal

2.8.2. The Elections Marshal shall monitor the activity of candidates and campaign workers during the campaign period of all Student Government elections in order to ensure Candidate compliance with the Electoral Code and Baylor University Student Body Constitution.

2.8.2.1. In preparation for the Student Senate elections, the Elections Marshal shall collect confirmation from each candidate who filed to run for a seat representing a specified Student Population.

2.8.2.2. Adequate proof of constituency (e.g. verification by Baylor faculty, staff, or administration) in any of the stated categories shall be determined by the Elections Marshal.

2.8.2.3. The Elections Marshal shall remind all candidates *twice* before campaigning begins of their need to provide adequate proof of constituency.

2.8.2.4. Failure to provide adequate proof of constituency before campaigning begins shall result in the candidate’s removal from all ballots.

# TITLE III CANDIDATES

3.1. Eligibility

3.1.5.1. Students may campaign for two seats in the Student ~~Senator~~ Senate that they qualify for.

3.1.5.1.1. A clarifying document that outlines qualifications for Senate seat categories will be updated yearly by Student Activities and received by the Internal Vice President to be posted on the Student Government website.

3.1.5.2. Students may campaign for one seat in the Student Senate and a Student Body Officer position.

3.2. Candidate Filing

3.2.3. Senate candidates running for seats in two Senate seat categories shall provide on their filing form a ranking of the seats they are campaigning for. After the filing deadline has passed candidates may not change the position(s) that they are running for without a decision of the Electoral Commission.

# TITLE V VOTING

5.2. Voting Process

5.2.1. A student may vote after certifying they are a student at Baylor University.

5.2.1.1. A student shall only be able to vote for the Student Senate categories in which they qualify.

5.3. Results

5.3.4. In the event a candidate receives both a Student Senate seat and another position they shall be given the other position and the candidate receiving the next votes in the Student Senate election will take that candidate's spot.

5.3.4.1. If a candidate running for two Senate seat categories receives enough votes to win a seat in both categories, the candidate shall be given the seat ranked first on their filing form.

5.3.5. In Student Senate elections, the top ~~thirteen~~ candidate(s) shall receive seats ~~in their respective senate classes~~ for each respective category.

Furthermore: A copy of this resolution will be sent to: Zoey Johnson, Electoral Commissioner; Katy Crawford, Internal Vice President; Gracie Kelliher, Student Body President; Burke Craighead, Attorney General; Zach Tufenkjian, Student Body External Vice President; and Tanner Vickers, Student Government Advisor.

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