INTRODUCTION OF BILL 56-B-32: AMENDING THE STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

Bill 56-B-32 proposes several changes to the Student Senate Bylaws on various topics. Firstly, Bill 56-B-32 proposes an amendment to section 6.07.2 Web Coordinator to alter the job responsibilities of the Web Coordinator to include maintenance of the Press Release Section of the Student Senate Webpage. This new initiative allows Student Senate Executives and Senators to post press releases relating to initiatives, legislation or any other priorities they see fit. The page clearly indicates that the press releases are the opinions of the individuals and not those of the entire Student Senate.

Coinciding with Bill 56-B-31, Bill 56-B-32 also alters Section 5.01 Appointments dictating that the Vacancies Committee must conduct interviews based on a uniform application and interview process as established by the committee at the beginning of each session and that members of the committee must attend all meetings and shall receive an absence for any unexcused absence.

Thirdly, under sections 4.07.6 Taking Office, 4.07.7 Elections Committee, 6.07.7 Parliamentarian, 6.07.8 Student Court & Chief Justice, 6.08.2 Officers, 11.01, and 12.04, Bill 56-B-32 replaces the Student Court and Chief Justice of the Student Court with the Elections Committee and the Parliamentarian. Bill 56-B-22 which passed Student Senate in December calls for a referendum to remove the Student Court from the Student Body Constitution because the court has never fully functioned. The absolute removal of the Student Court should and will be a decision made by the Students of UW-Eau Claire. However, whether the court is removed or not, the court is currently vacant thus is unable to function. Due to the inability of the court to fulfill its function to oversee Student Senate General Elections, this bill temporarily places the duties of the court in the hands of the Parliamentarian and the Elections Committee. Under section 4.07.6 Taking Office the Elections Committee will be in charge of certifying the elections. Under section 4.07.7 Elections Committee the Parliamentarian will be responsible for chairing the committee. Under section 6.07.7 Parliamentarian the duty of chairing the elections committee will be added. Section 6.07.8 Student Court & Chief Justice in its entirety will be removed. The Chief Justice will be removed from the Officers Stipend list in section 6.08.2. Section 11.01 makes the Elections Committee and the Parliamentarian in charge of referendum administration. In section 12.04 the Parliamentarian will be responsible for administering the oath of office to the incoming Student Body President if the previous President is unavailable. Student Senate requires a functioning oversight mechanism in the short term to oversee the upcoming April elections. This bill allows for that oversight while leaving the future of the court in the hands of the Students allowing the next session of Student Senate to use the electoral oversight model this bill creates, create a new model if the court is removed from the Constitution, or create a functioning court if the court remains in the Constitution.

Finally, Bill 56-B-32 adds the language recommended by the Internal Affairs “that I will maintain honorable conduct” to the Student Senate Oaths of Office for Senators, Executives, and the Student Body President and Vice President.

I look forward to introducing this Bill on Monday, February 25th during the Student Senate’s weekly scheduled floor-period.

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