

Memorandum

December 17, 2020

To: Dr. Vincent E. Morton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
From: Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students *KaW*
Subject: Student Government Senate Bill Legislation 2020-2021

Three pieces of passed 2020-2021 Senate Bills from Student Government are attached and listed below:

S.B.2020-2021.01 Department of Freshmen Leadership Enablement Act of Fall 2020

This legislation is an amendment to the Executive Departments and Cabinet in the Student Government Code Title V, Chapter 100, Article III, which is under the purview of the Dean of Students to approve.

The amendment adds a new section that establishes a Director of Freshman Leadership who provides direction to a new department called the Department of Freshmen Leadership and a Freshmen Council under the direction of this new department.

S.B.2020-2021.02 Emergency Status Reform Act

This legislation is an amendment to the Standing Rules and Regulations of the Senate in the Student Government Code Title VI, Chapter 200, Article IV, Section 13, which is under the purview of the Dean of Students to approve.

The amendment changes the Senate's legislative procedures by removing the requirement of providing printed pieces of legislation when they are considered as an emergency.

S.B.2020-2021.03 Student Government Resources Access Act

This legislation is an amendment to the Student Government Code Title IX "Statutes," which is under the purview of the Dean of Students to approve.

The amendment adds a new chapter, as Chapter 206, to identify the resources available to Student Government, articulate the officers who must have access to identified resources, and govern the proper usage and conduct of those resources.

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

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Memorandum

December 17, 2020

To: Dr. Vincent E. Morton Associate, Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students

From: Catching Valentinis-Dee, Student Body President

Subject: Student Government Passed Legislation: Senate Bills 2020-2021

Please find attached the below three pieces of legislation passed by the Student Senate.

Legislation Passed: S.B. 2020-2021.01 Bill entitled as the Department of Freshmen Leadership Enablement Act of Fall 2020

Number of Vote: 18 voted in favor, 8 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

I disagree with this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate that was authored to deliberately subvert the success of the Freshman Council program. According to Student Government governing documents this legislation's pass threshold precluded a veto.

Legislation Passed: S.B. 2020-2021.02 Bill to Reform the Emergency Status Procedure / Emergency Status Reform Act

Number of Vote: 27 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 1 voted to abstain

I approve this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate that strikes the requirement for printed copies of legislation under consideration to be granted emergency status.

Legislation Passed: S.B. 2020-2021.03 Bill entitled as the Student Government Resources Access Act

Number of Vote: 21 voted in favor, 6 voted in opposition, 2 voted to abstain

I do disagree with this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate that codifies previously discretionary access privileges without explicit necessity . According to Student Government governing documents this legislation's pass threshold precluded a veto.

AUTHOR

Senator DeSalvo, Cody

SPONSORS

Senator Macias, Regina
Senator Galvan, Jordyn
Senator Young, Jordan
Senate Leader Cleveland, Jacob

Date of First Reading: August 24, 2020

Emergency Status

S.B. 20-21.01

A Bill

A bill to be entitled "Department of Freshmen Leadership Enablement Act of Fall 2020," which establishes the Department of Freshmen Leadership and a Freshmen Council under its direction.

- 1 **WHEREAS:** The Senate strives to establish programs and
2 processes, which are clear to its members and
3 available to its constituents; and
- 4 **WHEREAS:** The Freshmen Class accounts for a large portion of
5 student involvement on campus and have unique needs
6 that need representation in Student Government; and
- 7 **WHEREAS:** Freshmen students also have a unique opportunity to
8 learn how Student Government functions, its purpose,
9 policies, and programs so that they can be better
10 prepared to serve in an elected or appointed capacity
11 for Student Government in the future; and
- 12 **WHEREAS:** Students approved a new Student Government
13 Constitution on February 20, 2020; and
- 14 **WHEREAS:** The new constitution states that "Upon ratification
15 and approval, this new constitution will supersede all

16 other constitutions and will make void all rules,
17 regulations, and court rulings established before its
18 ratification, unless those rules are specifically
19 paired with this constitution;" and

20 **WHEREAS:** To ensure that the Freshmen Council would exist under
21 the Constitution effective August 24 the 8th session
22 of the Student Senate passed legislation to establish
23 the Department of Freshmen Leadership, to establish a
24 Director of Freshmen Leadership as a Cabinet level
25 position, and to reinstate the Freshmen Council as a
26 program under the department. The legislation passed
27 by a large majority; and

28 **WHEREAS:** The Student Body President vetoed the Freshmen
29 Leadership Enablement Act and the Senate failed a
30 resolution to override the veto, as a result Freshmen
31 Council does not exist under the laws of Student
32 Government effective August 24, 2020; and

33 **WHEREAS:** This Act intends to reestablish the Department of
34 Freshmen Leadership and to reinstate the existence of
35 Freshmen Council as a program under its direction with
36 proper Senate oversight going forward; NOW, THEREFORE

37 **BE IT ENACTED:** Upon passage, this bill be forwarded to the
38 Student Body President for further action; and

39 **BE IT ENACTED:** Insert in Title V, Chapter 100, Article III,
40 Section 7:

41 §1 **DIRECTOR OF FRESHMEN LEADERSHIP.** Will oversee, with the help and oversight
42 of an external Advisory Board, provide advice to the Freshmen Council and advise the
43 President on issue affect the Freshmen class. In addition, the Director of Freshmen
44 Leadership will:

- 45 (a) Provide for the Freshmen Council a Student Government focused leadership and
46 technical training.
- 47 (b) Attend Freshmen Council meetings and any other meeting involving Freshmen
48 Council members.
- 49 (c) Supervise the Freshmen Council and ensure its operations are in compliance with
50 student government law and executive directives.
- 51 (d) Chair the Freshmen Council Advisory Board.
- 52 (e) Work to provide a mentorship program between the Freshmen Council and Senators.
- 53 (f) Set the goals of the Freshmen Leadership Department and ensure the Department
54 meets its statutory and written expectations including deadlines and projects.
- 55 (g) Encourage participation in University leadership events including the Leadership
56 Institute Conference, Homecoming, and other Bobcat Pride events.

57 **BE IT ENACTED:** That the following be established as the
58 Student Government Code of Laws Title IV
59 insert Chapter 600:

60 **ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE**

61 §1 **AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter and all its regulations are authorized pursuant to Article
62 VI, Section 17 (b) and (g) of the Student Government Constitution.

63 §2 **PURPOSE.** This Department will be known as the Department of Freshmen Leadership. The
64 leader of this Department will be the Director of Freshmen Leadership. The Department's
65 objectives in ascending level of importance must be:

- 66 (a) To elect one of their members to serve as a Senator in the Student Senate.
- 67 (b) To recommend action on concerns of the Freshmen Class to the President and Senate
68 through passage of petitions approved by a majority of Freshmen Council.

69 (c) To teach the selected freshmen about Student Government and prepare them for
70 future service to Student Government and Texas State University.

71 (d) To familiarize the selected freshmen with campus pride and traditions.

72 (e) To provide leadership learning opportunities centered on Student Government.

73 §3 **FRESHMEN COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD.** The Freshmen Council and Director of
74 Freshmen Leadership will be advised by an Advisory Board made up of 4 members of
75 Student Government representing the various branches of the organization including the
76 Chief Justice; or their designee, Senate Leader; or their designee, House Leader, or their
77 designee and will be chaired by the Director of Freshmen Leadership. The Advisory Board
78 will:

79 (a) Review, reject, or approve applications to Freshmen Council, conduct interviews, and
80 ensure selection criteria are met and forward approved applicants to the Director
81 Freshmen Leadership and President for their consideration for appointment.

82 (b) Prepare additional selection criteria outside of that of the President or Director as a
83 part of the selection process for admittance to the Freshmen Council.

84 (c) Must meet at least 4 times during the summer and at least twice monthly during the
85 Fall and Spring academic semester to provide non-binding advice to the Director on
86 Freshmen Council operations, or at other times as called by the Director.

87 (d) Support an appropriate, principled, and enriching learning experience for Freshmen
88 Council members.

89 (e) Serving in an independent oversight capacity, Board members must report to the
90 Senate Leader any issues or lapses that they believe violates Student Government law
91 or does not serve to advance a healthy, appropriate, Student Government values
92 driven educational experience for Freshmen Council members.

93 (f) At least one member of the Advisory Board, that is not the Director, will attend every
94 general meeting of the Freshmen Council.

95 (g) The Board will not exercise day to day operational control so as not to violate
96 constitutional separation of powers.

97 §4 **COUNCIL APPLICATION.** The Director, in consultation with the President, will establish
98 each year a standard application for admittance to the Freshmen Council and set a deadline
99 for application entry. The Advisory Board will be provided a copy of this application 7 days

100 before it is made public so that they can advise on the applications questions and substance,
101 their advice is nonbinding.

102 §5 **MEMBERSHIP SELECTION.** Upon explicit direction of the President, the Director must
103 recruit an initial class of applicants defined as freshmen by University policy to apply for
104 Freshmen Council. There will be at least ten (10) but no more than thirty (30) Freshmen
105 Council positions. Freshmen Council members must, by the Spring semester have and
106 maintain a 2.5 Texas State GPA. Within five (5) days of receipt of an application the
107 President or Director will send the applications to the Advisory Board for review and
108 consideration.

109 (a) The Advisory Board will consider the applicants at their next meeting or at a special
110 meeting for that purpose as called by the Director.

111 (b) The Advisory Board will conduct interviews, if they see fit, and forward approved
112 candidates to the President for appointment.

113 (c) The President or Director will notify the Senate, via Texas State email, the name(s) of
114 each appointed Freshmen Council member by the next Senate meeting immediately
115 following their appointment.

116 (d) The Director will maintain a list of back up candidates from the original applicant
117 pool or recruit a backup pool for use if the Freshmen Council cannot maintain the
118 minimum level of membership for operation.

119 §6 **MINIMUM OPERATIONAL MEMBERSHIP.** The Freshmen Council must operate at no
120 fewer than 10 members. When the Council membership is reduced to fewer than 10 the
121 Council will suspend operations until such time as the President appoints new members.

122 §7 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP.** Freshmen Council members, once
123 approved by the Advisory Board and appointed by the President, are full members of Student
124 Government with all the rights and duties conferred to their positions by law. This includes
125 adherence to ethical rules, Student Government law, and standards of conduct.

126

127

128 **CHAPTER 601 - FRESHMEN COUNCIL POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

129 **ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

130 §1 **AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter and all its regulations are authorized pursuant to Article
131 VI, Section 17 (b) and (g) of the Student Government Constitution.

132 §2 **AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION.** In addition to the Senate’s constitutional power to
133 amend this statute, this Policy and Procedure statement may be amended by Executive Order
134 of the President or temporarily suspended by a verbal directive of the President. It may also
135 be amended with permission of the President by a directive of the Director or other
136 responsible entity as determined by the President. Any changes must be provided to the Dean
137 of Students for final approval.

138 **ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATION**

139 §1 **PURPOSE OF OFFICERS.** The officers of Freshmen Council must help achieve the stated
140 objectives of Freshmen Council.

141 §2 **THE CHAIRPERSON.**

- 142 (a) Have no vote in the Council except in the event of a tie.
- 143 (b) Be an *ex officio* member of the Council.
- 144 (c) Maintain order at all times.
- 145 (d) Know the basics of parliamentary procedure.
- 146 (e) Not debate from the Chair except in the case of an appeal.
- 147 (f) At no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of petitions.
- 148 (g) Must create the Council meeting agendas.
- 149 (h) Follow the order of business as prescribed by the agenda unless the rules are
150 suspended.
- 151 (i) Remain impartial at all times while conducting meetings.
- 152 (j) Make clear to all of the council members the issue in question.
- 153 (k) Execute all powers and duties found in the Freshmen Council Policy and Procedure,
154 and ensure that the Council functions in compliance with the Student Government
155 Constitution, S.G.C., and all University policies and the rules and regulations of the
156 Texas State University System Board of Regents.

- 157 (l) Must have the power to nominate Freshmen Council members and *ex officio* members
- 158 to vacate executive officer positions with two-thirds majority confirmation vote by
- 159 the Freshmen Council.
- 160 (m) Be the only person authorized to recognize individuals wishing to speak during a
- 161 Council meeting.
- 162 (n) Not recognize anyone except Council members, the President, Student Government
- 163 Advisors, Cabinet members and *ex officio* Freshmen Council members during the Old
- 164 Business and New Business sections of the Agenda.
- 165 (o) Recognize qualified persons wishing to speak in a fair and impartial manner.
- 166 (p) Have the power to establish Ad-Hoc Committees and Special Committees made up of
- 167 selected Councilmembers.
- 168 (q) May appoint the Chairs of Ad-Hoc and Special Committees at their discretion.
- 169 (r) May act as a liaison between the Council and all other Student Government branches.

170 §3 **THE VICE CHAIRPERSON.**

- 171 (a) Assume the position of interim Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson's
- 172 absence.
- 173 (b) May become Chairperson in the event the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant.
- 174 (c) May be a Council Member.
- 175 (d) Assist the Chairperson in managing and scheduling the Council's council and
- 176 executive business.
- 177 (e) Serve on the Freshmen Council Executive Board and attend meetings as required.

178 §4 **THE PARLIAMENTARIAN.**

- 179 (a) Know the basics of Parliamentary Procedure once elected.
- 180 (b) Have the final say in all matters of procedural conflict on the Freshmen Council floor.
- 181 (c) Point out errors in procedure to the Chairperson of the Freshmen Council.
- 182 (d) Record all questions of order and other questions of procedure for future reference.
- 183 (e) Keep time during periods of limited debate and/or speech.
- 184 (f) Remove any person deemed out of order by the Chairperson or by the
- 185 Parliamentarian.
- 186 (g) Serves as Sergeant-at-Arms.

187 (h) Be an *ex officio* member of the Council but must have no authority to author, debate,
188 or sponsor petitions.

189 §5 **THE CLERK.**

190 (a) Assume the duty of the Freshmen Council Secretary.

191 (b) Keep a permanent record of all Freshmen Council proceedings in the form of minutes
192 that are to be posted within one week after the meeting.

193 (c) Be responsible for the printing of all Freshmen Council literature.

194 (d) Keep a record of all absences and excuses.

195 (e) Keep an accurate and up-to-date Freshmen Council roster.

196 (f) Be responsible for updating and maintaining the Freshmen Council TRACS page.

197 (g) Be responsible for maintaining the Freshmen Council's record of petitions.

198 (h) Be responsible for the carrying out of all official correspondence for the Freshmen
199 Council including delivery of the Freshmen Council Minutes to the Student
200 Government President and any other member of the campus community who requests
201 a copy.

202 (i) Be an *ex officio* member of the Council.

203 (j) Be responsible for maintaining the computerized Freshmen Council Voting Record,
204 which must be made available for public access.

205 §6 **THE HISTORIAN.**

206 (a) Keep an archive of all petitions for future viewing.

207 (b) Be a Freshmen Council member.

208 (c) Catalog and collect items throughout the course of the year that may be useful for
209 future Freshmen Council members.

210 (d) Be responsible for updating and maintaining the Freshmen Council Facebook and
211 other social media.

212 **ARTICLE III. COUNCIL MEETINGS GENERAL PROVISIONS**

213 §1 **MOTIONS.** A motion may be carried to only three levels at one given time.

214 §2 **DECISIONS OF THE CHAIRPERSON.** Decisions of the Chairperson may be overridden
215 by the majority vote of Council members present.

216 §3 **IMPARTIAL CHAIR.** The Chairperson or acting Chairperson of the Freshmen Council
217 must at no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of petitions or
218 other issues of actions of the Freshmen Council.

219 §4 **OPEN MEETINGS.** All Freshmen Council meetings must be open to the public.

220 §5 **PETITION ORIGINAL INTENT.** No petitions may be amended so as to change the
221 original intent.

222 §6 **DEFEATED PETITIONS.** Once petitions have been considered and defeated, no petitions
223 containing the same principle subject matter must be considered again during the same
224 semester it was presented. However, the original petitions may be reconsidered once.

225 §7 **RECONSIDERING.** A motion to reconsider may be made and seconded only by Council
226 members who voted on the prevailing side in the original vote. A motion to reconsider is
227 debatable if the item to be reconsidered is debatable. A motion to reconsider requires a
228 majority vote for passage. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the petitions may be
229 debated and amended. Upon termination of debate on the petitions, a new vote must be
230 taken.

231 **ARTICLE IV. FRESHMEN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES**

232 §1 **ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER.** The most up to date edition of Robert's Rules of Order
233 will be the sole source of parliamentary procedures unless otherwise provided by this Policy
234 and Procedure Statement.

235 §2 **MEETING DATES AND TIMES.** The Freshmen Council must meet on a schedule as
236 decided by the President, in consultation with the Director.

237 §3 **QUORUM.** No official business may be conducted by the Council without the presence of a
238 quorum. A quorum for the conduct of business must be two-thirds of the Council
239 membership.

240 §4 **MEMBERSHIP.** Membership must be determined by the total number of Council members
241 on the roll at the time a meeting is called to order.

242 §5 **ORDER OF BUSINESS.** Order of Business must be determined by the agenda. The general
243 order of business may be:

244 (a) Call to Order

245 (b) Roll Call

- 246 (c) Approval of Minutes
- 247 (d) Guest Speakers
- 248 (e) Public Forum
- 249 (f) Old Business
- 250 (g) New Business
- 251 (h) Chairperson’s Report
- 252 (i) Coordinator’s Report
- 253 (j) Announcements
- 254 (k) Adjournment

255 §6 **GUEST SPEAKERS.** A guest speaker must be on the posted agenda in order to address the
 256 Freshmen Council. A guest speaker must not be allowed to speak during the Old Business or
 257 New Business sections of the agenda. A guest speaker must be limited to no more than
 258 fifteen minutes of speaking time. There must be an initial question and answer period of ten
 259 minutes after speaking time has expired. Question and Answer time can be extended by a
 260 motion made by a Freshmen Council member, seconded, and approved by a simple majority
 261 vote of the Freshmen Council voting body.

262 §7 **ORDER OF GUEST SPEAKERS.** The order of speakers for Freshmen Council meetings
 263 with multiple speakers must be decided by the Chairperson.

- 264 (a) Non-council members may be allowed to address the Freshmen Council under the
 265 rules for guest speakers if adequate notice is given to the Chairperson of Freshmen
 266 Council prior to the start of the meeting. Otherwise, non-council members may
 267 address the Freshmen Council during the Public Forum for a maximum of two
 268 minutes. Public Forum must be limited to two students for a maximum of four
 269 minutes of speaking.

270 §8 **THE AGENDA.** The agenda must be sent out on the Friday preceding any formal Freshmen
 271 Council meeting except in cases where an emergency meeting has been called.

272 §9 **CONDUCT.** Members of the Freshmen Council must conduct themselves in an orderly
 273 fashion at all times while on the Council floor. Excessive persistent disruptions, which
 274 impacts the normal business of the meeting must be defined as disorderly. The Chairperson
 275 and the Parliamentarian of the Council must have the authority to decide what actions are

276 disorderly. Disorderly person(s) will be asked to leave the Freshmen Council chambers by
277 the either officer.

278 §10 **ON TOPIC DEBATE.** During debate all Council members must confine their remarks to
279 the subject at hand or must be ruled out of order.

280 §11 **UNLIMITED SPEAKING TIME.** Any Council member who has the floor must not be
281 interrupted by another Council member or officer for any purpose except as provided in
282 Robert’s Rules of Order or unless the member consents to yield the floor to that Council
283 member or officer.

284 §12 **ENFORCEMENT.** All rules of debate and decorum must be enforced by the
285 Parliamentarian and transgressors of these rules must be considered out of order.

286 §13 **RESULT OF BEING CALLED OUT OF ORDER.** All Council members ruled out of
287 order must automatically lose the floor. Any Council member ruled out of order two or more
288 times may be asked to leave the Freshmen Council chambers by the Parliamentarian.

289 §14 **PRECEDENT OF REGULATIONS.** Except in the cases of conflict with the Policy and
290 Procedure Statement, Robert’s Rules of Order must prevail in matters of procedure unless a
291 motion to suspend the rules has been approved.

292 §15 **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.** A motion to suspend the rules will enable the Order of
293 Business on the agenda to be amended with two-thirds approval of the Freshmen Council. A
294 motion to suspend the rules can also enable the Chairperson to recognize anyone in the
295 Freshmen Council chambers. All motions to suspend the Rules must require a two-thirds
296 vote.

297 §16 **DRESS CODE.** Proper attire is required at Freshmen Council meetings. Proper attire at a
298 minimum should be business causal and wardrobe selections should be those that both
299 preserve and honor the dignity of the meeting. Wardrobe selection should include, but is not
300 limited to a collared shirt, or sweater, with slacks or skirt or a dress. Complimentary
301 footwear should be worn. Proper attire in question will be determined by the Chairperson of
302 the Freshmen Council.

303 §17 **PRESENT TO VOTE.** Freshmen Council members must be present in the Freshmen
304 Council chamber in order to vote.

305 §18 **ABSTAIN.** Abstaining from a vote is solely reserved for a real or perceived conflict of
306 interest.

307 §19 **TIE VOTES.** A tie vote must be broken by the Chairperson.

308 §20 **DIVISION OF THE HOUSE.** At the desire of any Council member present, a division of
309 the house can be called as prescribed in Robert’s Rules of Order.

310 §21 **ROLL CALL VOTES.** All final votes on petitions and amendments to petitions must be
311 taken by roll call vote, except legislative amendment voting which may be conducted with a
312 vote by voice. Roll call votes are to be recorded in such a way that the vote can be connected
313 to the member who cast it. Secret ballot voting is prohibited under all circumstances, except
314 for elections. All other motions may be considered as outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order.

315 **ARTICLE V. PETITIONS**

316 §1 **PURPOSE.** A Freshmen Council petition is a recommendation to another organization or the
317 official support of any actions external to Freshmen Council. A Freshmen Council petition is
318 a formal statement expressing the opinion, will, or intent of the Freshmen Council as a
319 representative body of the freshmen of Texas State University or which is addressed to the
320 President for action. Each petition must carry:

- 321 (a) The name or names of sponsor(s) and the author(s).
- 322 (b) A title if the sponsor or co-sponsor wished to give it one.
- 323 (c) Each petition passed by the Freshmen Council must carry:
 - 324 (1) The date it was first introduced by the Freshmen Council.
 - 325 (2) A place for the signature of the Freshmen Council Chairperson, Freshmen
326 Council Clerk, and the Coordinator for Freshmen Council.
 - 327 (3) A place for the date on which the petition passed in the Freshmen Council.
 - 328 (4) Any amendments approved by the Freshmen Council.

329 §2 **SUBMITTING PETITIONS.** All petitions to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to
330 the Council Chairperson no later than noon on the Friday preceding the Council meeting.
331 Thereafter, petitions to be placed on the agenda require special permission from the
332 Chairperson and must not be accepted at all after 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

- 333 (a) First Reading – At the first meeting the petition must be placed under New Business
334 during formal meetings with quorum present. No debate or discussion may take place
335 on new petitions.

- 336 (b) Second Reading – At the next formal meeting following the meeting in which the
337 petitions were first read, the petitions must have a second reading under Old
338 Business.
- 339 (c) Move for Adoption – After second reading under Old Business, it may then be moved
340 and seconded for adoption. At this time, amendments to the petitions may be
341 proposed and voted on. All amendments must be pertinent to the petitions being
342 considered. Upon termination of debate, if the petitions have not been taken from the
343 floor, a roll call vote must be taken to determine passage or failure of the petitions.
- 344 (d) Upon passage of a petition it must be forwarded by the Freshmen Council Chair to
345 the President, the Senator representing Freshmen Council, the Senate Leader, and the
346 Senate Parliamentarian. Upon being forwarded, the Senators may propose the petition
347 as legislation.

348 **ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF FRESHMEN COUNCIL**

349 §1 **PURPOSE.** Ad-Hoc Committees can be established throughout the academic year by the
350 Chairperson of the Freshmen Council, petitions, or motion and approved by a simple
351 majority of the Freshmen Council to study specific problems or concerns of the freshmen
352 class and recommend solutions to the Freshmen Council. Freshmen Council members may
353 not serve on more than one Ad-Hoc committee.

354 §2 **POWERS OF COMMITTEE.** No Ad-Hoc committee must have the authority to amend,
355 delete, or change in any way the nature, purpose, or content of any petition referred to it, but
356 may draft and recommend amendments thereto.

- 357 (a) Ad-Hoc committee members will be appointed by the Chairperson of the Freshmen
358 Council.
- 359 (b) Ad-Hoc committees must have petition review power over all petitions submitted to
360 their committee but must not be able to kill or amend a petition.
- 361 (c) Will be dissolved as soon as the Chairperson of the Freshmen Council and the
362 Chairperson of the Committee feel the project is completed, or by petitions or motion.

363 **ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

364 §1 **ELECTIONS.** Election for Freshmen Council officers will take place two weeks after the
365 initial appointment of at least 10 Freshmen Council members.

366 §2 **NOMINATIONS.** Nominations will be issued in writing. All candidates wishing to run for
367 Freshmen Council officer positions will submit their names, and desired position to the
368 Director of Freshmen Leadership at least one week before Elections.

369 §3 **CANDIDATE SPEECHES.** On first ballot, each candidate for office will be permitted 7
370 minutes to speak to the chamber about their candidacy. Each candidate will be allowed an
371 additional 3 minutes to answer any questions from their peers. Follow up candidate speeches
372 are permitted after each unsuccessful ballot for a maximum of 3 minutes.

373 §4 **VOTING.** Voting will be done by secret ballot. After candidate speeches are complete for
374 each position, the candidates will leave the meeting room and the Council may discuss and
375 debate each of the candidates. Candidates for the office under consideration at the time will
376 not vote. Upon the conclusion of discussion, a vote by secret ballot will be held. If no
377 candidate receives a majority of votes, the candidates with the highest and second highest
378 votes will enter a runoff race. Should a runoff race occur the candidates who are not included
379 in the runoff will be allowed back into the chamber to debate, discuss, and vote. A second
380 period of debate and discussion will occur, after debate and discussion a second vote by
381 secret ballot will determine the election outcome. If there is a tie on the second ballot, a third
382 period of debate and discussion will occur, followed by a third secret ballot. The order of
383 election must be as follows:

- 384 (a) Senator
- 385 (b) Chairperson
- 386 (c) Vice-Chairperson
- 387 (d) Parliamentarian
- 388 (e) Clerk
- 389 (f) Historian

390 §5 **PRESIDENT'S POWER TO BREAK A TIE.** If a tie occurs after the third secret ballot the
391 President, or designee, will break the tie.

392 **ARTICLE VIII. ABSENCE POLICY**

393 §1 **EXCESSIVE ABSENCES.** Three unexcused absences from Freshmen Council meetings in
394 one semester, either from general assembly or committee meetings, must be just cause for
395 removal of a Council member.

396 §2 **RECORDING ABSENCES.** All absences will be recorded as excused and unexcused.

397 §3 **REPORTING ABSENCES.** All excuses must be turned into the Chairperson and the
398 Freshmen Council Clerk and/or the Coordinator for Freshmen Council no later than 5:00
399 p.m. of the Friday following the meeting missed (except holidays).

400 §4 **RECORDING ATTENDANCE.** The Freshmen Council Clerk will keep an attendance file
401 of all excuses for absences along with an up-to-date running attendance record. Excuses will
402 be kept on file for a period dating back one year. This file will be open to the public.

403 §5 **FAILURE TO INFORM.** Absent Council members who fail to turn in an excuse must have
404 their absences recorded as unexcused.

405 §6 **ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES.** Freshmen Council Clerk must keep a running list of excused
406 and unexcused absences. Excused absences include:

- 407 (a) Death in the Family.
- 408 (b) Illness.
- 409 (c) School sponsored trips.
- 410 (d) Other extraordinary circumstances as defined by the Council Clerk.
- 411 (e) Representing the Freshmen Council in an official capacity.

412 §7 **WARNING FOR ABSENCES.** When a Council member acquires one unexcused absence,
413 they will be warned that they have one remaining unexcused absence.

414 §8 **REMOVAL BECAUSE OF ABSENCES.** Once a Council member acquires two unexcused
415 absences, the Director will meet with the member and discuss the reason for absences. After
416 this meeting, should the member receive another unexcused absence the Director will ask the
417 member to resign. If the member refuses to resign, the Director will remove the member with
418 permission from the President.

419 §9 **REVOKED VOTING RIGHTS IF ABSENT.** A Council member not present for roll call
420 must be recorded as absent and have no vote.

421 §10 **RECORDING TARDY.** The Freshmen Council Clerk must record in the minutes a tardy
422 when a Council member arrives after roll call.

423 §11 **RESPONSIBILITY OF TARDY MEMBER.** When a tardy Council member arrives to the
424 Freshmen Council meeting, they must check with the Freshmen Council Clerk after the
425 Freshmen Council meeting and the absence may be removed if qualified.

426 **ARTICLE IX. FRESHMEN COUNCIL REMOVAL**

427 §1 **POWERS TO REMOVE.** The President and the Director for Freshmen Leadership may
428 remove any Freshmen Council member in a manner outlined for reasons including but not
429 limited to:

- 430 (a) Violations of the student government law.
- 431 (b) Violation of this policy and procedures statement.
- 432 (c) Conduct unbecoming of a member of Student Government.
- 433 (d) Other reasons as described by the President.

434 **CHAPTER 602 -FRESHMEN FORUM AUTHORIZATION ACT**

435 **ARTICLE I. ADMINISTRATIVE**

436 §1 **AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter and all its regulations are authorized pursuant to Article
437 VI, Section 17 (b) and (g) of the Student Government Constitution.

438 §2 **PURPOSE.** Freshmen Council is a representative group for the Freshmen class, and
439 therefore should be responsible for giving them a voice. In creating a Freshmen Forum, it
440 will make it easier for freshmen to relay information and ideas to Freshmen representatives
441 and make Student Government more accessible to the students. In enacting this document,
442 “Freshmen Forum” will occur at least once per semester. “Freshmen Forum” will be an
443 inclusive discussion among Freshmen Council members and the students and create dialogue
444 about issues on campus and how to resolve them, pushing for positive change. Doing so will
445 permit steady development from an important source of students who can provide a new
446 perspective to the university.

447 §3 **COMPOSITION.** “Freshmen Forum” should be comprised of the Director of Freshmen
448 Leadership, the Department of Freshmen Leadership, the current members of Freshmen
449 Council, and any freshmen or first-year students. It may include, but is not limited to, former
450 members of the Freshmen Council, faculty, and staff of Texas State University, and
451 current/former Senators.