

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

601 University Drive | LBJ Student Center, Suite 5-9.1 | San Marcos, Texas 78666-4684

phone: 512.245.2124 | *fax:* 512.245.8268 | DOS.TXSTATE.EDU

This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.



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

Parliamentarian DeSalvo, Cody

Sponsors

Senator Galvan, Jordyn
Senator Haynes, KeAirra
Senator Retz, Cody
Senator Stephanos, Jenna

Date of First Reading: October 19, 2020

S.B. 20-21.3

A Bill

To be entitled "Student Government Resources Access Act," which intends to identify the types of Student Government assets, tools, and resources and specify which members may have access to the same.

1 **BE IT ENACTED:** That Title IX be amended by inserting Chapter 206
2 "Student Government Resources Access Act" and be
3 amended as follows:

4 **CHAPTER 206 - STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOURCE ACCESS ACT**

5 **ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION AND DEFINITIONS**

6 §1 **AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter and all its regulations are authorized pursuant to Article
7 VI, Section 17 (g) and (o) of the Student Government Constitution.

8 §2 **PURPOSE AND INTENT.** It is the intent of this legislation to identify the resources
9 available to Student Government, articulate which officers must have access to said
10 resources, and govern the proper usage and conduct of those resources so as to enable
11 members and officers to perform their roles and ensure reasonable, justifiable restrictions
12 therein. This chapter intends to provide broad protections against overly restrictive or
13 prohibitive standards for the use of Student Government resources by officers of the
14 organization in each of the three branches. As a result, the terms and usages in this chapter
15 are intended to be interpreted broadly, with proper context that most members of the Texas

16 State community understand. The resources outlined herein are common university tools
17 most students, faculty and staff are aware of and the terms used in this chapter should
18 generally be understood to apply to those tools regardless of their name, origins, or
19 department specific management practices.

20 §3 **DEFINITIONS.** This chapter defines “Student Government resource” and variations therein
21 as any non-monetary asset under the control of the Student Government and its officers such
22 that it can be used for official business. This may include electronic tools, office space, and
23 supplies.

24 §4 **UNLAWFUL RESTRICTION.** It will be a violation of this Act for any person to delay
25 access to Student Government resources or for any person to prohibit or substantially impede
26 the use of resources authorized by this Act.

27 §5 **READ AND WRITE ACCESS.** Read and write access will be defined as the ability to
28 upload, download, and edit files and content.

29 §6 **INAPPROPRIATE USE.** Any use of the resources outlined in this chapter which serves to
30 advance, plan, or promote a campaign for office is prohibited. Usage of Student Government
31 resources are authorized only in the performance of the authorized persons official duties and
32 should never be used for personal reasons. Should any authorized person misuse the resource
33 through inappropriate use or posting of content that violates the Code of Ethics or Student
34 Code of Conduct they will be in violation of this chapter and subject to sanction including
35 but not limited to revocation of access to authorized resources.

36 §7 **REQUIRED TRAININGS.** Any access granted under this Act may be reasonably denied if
37 access is contingent on a University mandated training. If a mandatory training is required,
38 Student Government is obligated to pay for the training from either an authorized line item or
39 discretionary funding. The President is required to authorize said funding for University
40 mandated trainings related to grant access to resources under this Act.

41 **ARTICLE II. RESOURCE ACCESS**

42 §1 **OFFICE SPACE ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Chief Justice,
43 House and Senate Leaders, House and Senate Parliamentarian, Attorney General, and all
44 Directors will be granted magnetic key access, or other form of access, to the main lobby
45 office space occupied by Student Government during the LBJ Student Center’s standard
46 hours of operation. Expanded hours of access may be granted by the President.

- 47 (a) The President will be allocated a private office space for which access may be
48 restricted from all other persons or they may grant access to whomever they wish.
- 49 (b) The Vice President will be allocated a private office space for which access may be
50 restricted by them from all other persons or they may grant access to whomever they
51 wish.
- 52 (c) The Chief of Staff may be assigned a private or shared workspace, the President is
53 authorized latitude on which approach.

54 §2 **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Chief
55 of Staff, Chief Justice, Senate Leader, Senate Parliamentarian, House Leader and House
56 Parliamentarian will have read and write access to any Canvas Learning Management group
57 set up for sharing of files, documents, and resource.

- 58 (a) If the House or Senate establishes a separate, chamber specific, Canvas site the Vice
59 President, chamber Leader, chamber Parliamentarian, and Chief Justice will be
60 granted read and write access to the site.
- 61 (b) If another system is used for file management by the Student Government, Senate or
62 House, other than that of a university offered resource, the same rules will apply to
63 that file management system as well.
- 64 (c) The President may designate access of various levels to other members as deemed
65 appropriate.

66 §3 **DEPARTMENT SHARE DRIVE ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Chief of Staff,
67 Chief Justice, Senate Leader, House Leader, Attorney General, and all Directors will be
68 granted read and write access to the Department Shared Drive. The President may designate
69 access of various levels to other members as they deem appropriate.

70 §4 **WEBSITE ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Senate Leader, House Leader, Chief of
71 Staff, Chief Justice, Senate and House Clerk, and Supreme Court Clerk will read and write to
72 the Student Government website only after they have received the required university
73 approved training.

- 74 (a) To respect the independence and autonomy of each branch of Student Government,
75 members of each of the branches will only edit the information on their specific
76 webpage. The main Student Government page will be edited only by the President,
77 Vice President, Chief of Staff, Director of Marketing and Outreach or designee and

78 when authorized by any such listed officer. The general organization of the whole
79 website will be up to the same officers listed in this paragraph.

80 (b) If no member of the branch is properly trained, the authorized editor may delegate
81 their rights under this section to a trained person.

82 §5 **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, and
83 Director of Marketing and Outreach will have read and write access to social media accounts
84 branded as representing the Student Government as a whole. The President may designate
85 access of various levels to other members as they deem appropriate.

86 (a) The Senate and House may, through simple resolution, authorize the creation of
87 separate branded social media accounts for each chamber. In such cases, only the
88 chamber Leader and chamber Parliamentarian will be granted read and write access to
89 their respective chamber.

90 §6 **OFFICE SUPPLIES ACCESS.** The President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Chief Justice,
91 Senate Leader and House Leader may responsibly use office supplies purchased by Student
92 Government in the performance of their official duties. All other members may use the office
93 supply resources with express permission of the President, Vice President or Chief of Staff.

94 §7 **UNSPECIFIED RESOURCE ACCESS.** If this chapter does not embrace or outline a
95 specific Student Government resource, but the definition found in Title 9, Chapter 206,
96 Article I, Section 3 does apply, the President may designate the access and usage until such
97 time as its use is regulated through amendment of this Act.