



Student Senate

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STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1194

TITLE: Rules and Procedures Reconstruction Authorization (Volume 4)

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SPONSOR(S):

Rule III **Selection and Removal**

(Amended: 2011-116, 2014-106, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2019-138, 2020-1064, 2021-104, 2021-110, 2022-126, 2023-188, 2023-191, 2023-193, 2024-221, 2025-158, 2025-165, 2025-171, 2025-177, 2025-180, 2025-185)

A. Senate Officer Elections

a. Senate President

- i. The Senate President shall be elected at the first meeting of the Senate following the validation of Senate election results each Fall and Spring, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant.
- ii. After nominations from the floor have closed, each nominee shall have five minutes to address the body, followed by a five minute question and answer period. The Senate President shall be elected by roll call ballot from all Senators present and voting. A majority of all votes cast shall be required to win the election. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, the Senate shall hold a run-off election between the two candidates that received the greatest number of votes.

b. Senate President Pro Tempore

- i. The Senate President Pro Tempore shall be elected in the same manner and at the same time as the Senate President, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant.

c. Member at Large 1 and 2

- i. The Senate shall elect two Members At Large at the same time as the Senate President, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant.

- ii. After nominations from the floor have closed, each nominee shall have five minutes to address the body, followed by a five minute question and answer period. The Members At Large shall be elected by a standing vote by all Senators present and voting. A majority of all votes cast shall be required to win the election. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, the Senate shall hold a runoff election between the three candidates that received the greatest number of votes.

B. Order of Succession

- a. The Senate President shall serve as the Chair of the Senate. In the Senate President's absence, the order of succession is as follows:
 - i. Senate President Pro Tempore
 - ii. Judiciary Committee Chair
 - iii. Budget and Appropriations Chair
 - iv. Rules and Ethics Chair
 - v. Information and Communication Chair
 - vi. A Senator elected from the body in the same manner as the Senate President

C. Censure

- a. Censures are a formal statement of disapproval in the form of a resolution that serves as an official warning from the Senate to refrain from similar actions in the future.
 - i. The term "censure" does not have to appear in the resolution. A censure does not remove a Senator from office nor does it deny a Senator their rights or privileges.
- b. Senators may be censured for repeatedly disrupting the business of the Senate, inappropriate actions during the discharge of statutorily mandated duties, or for violations of Student Body Law.
- c. Any Senator may request the censure of another Senator by filing a petition for censure in the form of a written resolution to the Rules and Ethics Committee.
- d. The Senate may only hear a censure on the Senate floor if the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends it be heard.
- e. Timeline:
 - i. Upon receiving a petition for censure, the Rules and Ethics Committee has a maximum of two weeks to investigate and hear the charges as outlined in Rule VI Section E. The Rules and Ethics Committee may choose to not investigate a petition for censure that is substantially similar to a petition that has already been heard. A petition calling for censure of another Senator must have at least twenty Senators' signatures of support.
 - ii. Any evidence from the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) must be submitted to the Rules and Ethics Committee email at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

committee shall not send a recommendation to the Senate and charges will be dropped.

- g. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to censure a Senator. If a Senator is censured twice within a one-year period, the Rules and Ethics Committee shall automatically investigate that Senator and may, at the committee's discretion, submit a resolution calling for that Senator's expulsion to the Senate.

D. Expulsion

- a. Any Senator may request the expulsion of another Senator from the Senate by filing a petition in the form of a written resolution calling for expulsion with the Rules and Ethics Committee.
 - i. An expulsion charge does not remove a Senator from office nor does it deny a Senator their rights or privileges.
- b. The Senate may only hear an expulsion on the Senate floor if the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends it be heard.
- c. Timeline:
 - i. The timeline for Expulsion proceedings shall be the same as that of the Censure proceedings.
- d. Hearing:
 - i. The hearing procedure shall be the same as that for the Censure.
- e. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to expel a Senator.
- f. The expulsion of a Senator becomes effective immediately after the final announcement of the vote.

E. Removal

- a. The following Officers may be removed using this procedure:
 - i. Senate President
 - ii. Senate President Pro Tempore
 - iii. Senate Member At Large
 - iv. All Standing Committee Chairs
 - v. All Standing Committee Members
 - vi. Senate Parliamentarian
 - vii. Sergeant at Arms
- b. Any Senator may request the removal of the aforementioned individuals from their respective offices by filing a petition in the form of a written resolution with the Rules and Ethics Committee.
 - i. A call for removal does not immediately remove a Senator from their office nor does it deny a Senator their rights or privileges.
- c. The Senate may only hear a recommendation for removal from an office on the Senate floor if the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends it be heard.
- d. Timeline:

- iii. Should a member of the Rules and Ethics Committee be the subject of the petition, they shall recuse themselves before any investigation.
- iv. If the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends censure to the Senate, the Senator subject to censure shall be informed by the Rules and Ethics Committee no later than five days before the meeting of the Senate at which the resolution for censure shall be heard.
- v. The Senate shall hear the censure at the next regular meeting following the Rules and Ethics Committee's recommendation, provided that the Senator in question has received at least five days' official notice from the time the recommendation is made.
- vi. The Senator subject to censure, not the author(s) or sponsor(s), shall have final privilege when a resolution for censure is being debated in the Senate.
- f. Hearing:
 - i. The Senator(s) that filed the resolution of censure shall act as the plaintiff(s) in any hearing regarding the investigation, presenting evidence calling for disciplinary action against the Senator(s) under investigation. The plaintiff(s) may obtain a student designee to represent them at hearings of the committee. When conducting an investigation on orders from the Senate or on the committee's own initiative, the Rules and Ethics Committee shall appoint a willing Senator to act as the plaintiff.
 - ii. The Senator(s) being investigated shall be considered the defendant(s) in any hearing regarding the investigation. The defendant(s) may obtain a student designee to represent them at hearings of the committee.
 - iii. Both sides may present opening statements to the committee before evidence is heard, with the plaintiff presenting first.
 - iv. Following opening statements, both sides shall present their arguments to the committee. During the presentation of arguments, members of the committee may interject to ask questions, but such questioning and answers thereof shall not use time afforded to the side presenting its arguments.
 - v. Following the presentation of arguments, both sides may present closing remarks to the committee, with the plaintiff presenting first.
 - vi. The Rules and Ethics Committee may impose time restrictions on each stage of the hearing, so long as each side is afforded an equal amount of time for each stage of the hearing.
 - vii. Following closing remarks, the committee shall move into deliberations. No new evidence may be presented and only committee members will be recognized to speak.
 - viii. If the committee deems that the charges presented are well founded, the committee shall report to the Senate a resolution calling for the defendant's censure. If the committee deems the charges to be not well founded, the

- i. The timeline for Removal proceedings shall be the same as that of the Censure and Expulsion proceedings.
- e. Hearing:
 - i. The hearing procedure shall be the same as that for the Censure and Expulsion.
- f. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to remove an individual from their respective position.
- g. The expulsion of a Senator from their respective position is effective immediately after the final announcement of the vote. In the event that the Senate President, Senate President Pro Tempore, or Senate Member at Large is removed from their respective position, elections as outlined in Rule III Section A may not take place until the following regular meeting.

Julia Seifer 10/8/25
Julia Seifer Date
Senate President