

Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate (DUSS) Bylaws

Preamble

We, the members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate (DUSS) seek to address the concerns of Undergraduate Students of the University of Delaware in order to improve the quality of life at the University of those students.

Article 1

-Purpose and Responsibilities-

Section 1: Purpose

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall act as the legislating body of the Student Government Association and shall exercise powers pursuant of the restrictions and obligations of the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 2: Responsibilities

It is the charge of the Senators of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate to meet the needs of their constituents and of the entire student body through resolutions that shall be proposed at meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

Article 2

-Membership-

Section 1: Senators

The Senators of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall consist of the President or leader or designated appointee of all registered student organizations, fraternities, sororities, and residence hall complexes.

Section 2: Elected Officers

The Elected Executive Officers of the Student Government Association shall be the presiding officers of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. Appointed Executive members of the SGA Cabinet are not voting members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, however they are permitted and expected to be present at every meeting. The President of SGA shall give a general SGA report at every meeting.

Section 3: Advisor

The Advisor of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall be the Director of the Student Centers of the University of Delaware or his/her appointee.

Section 4: Membership Limitations

No Senator may represent more than one organization in the Senate. No SGA Cabinet member may serve as a Senator in the DUSS.

Article 3

-Structure-

Section 1: Senate Leaders

A. Speaker of the Senate

At the last regular meeting of the academic year the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall elect itself a Speaker of the Senate for the following academic year. In order to be nominated for Speaker of the Senate one must be a recognized member of the Senate. Nominations for Speaker of the Senate must be made by a fellow Senator and must be seconded by another Senator. The Speaker of the Senate shall work with the Vice President and President of the Student Government Association to ensure that the Senate is run in an orderly manner. The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the power to appoint Committee Chairs to Standing and Ad-hoc Committees that are formed by the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall work with all other Senators to develop major issues to be discussed at Senate meetings. Emergency sessions of the Senate may be called and require the consent of both the Speaker of the Senate as well as the President and Vice President of the Student Government Association.

B. Vice Speaker of the Senate

The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall serve as the Vice Speaker of the Senate. The Vice Speaker of the Senate shall preside over meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate in the absence of the Speaker of the Senate.

Section 2: Meetings

A. Meeting Times

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall meet on the first Monday of every month during the regular academic year at a time and place determined by the President of the Student Government Association and the Speaker of the Undergraduate Student Senate in consultation with the Executive board of the SGA. The date of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate meeting may be changed to another date by a majority

approval of all Senators and Elected Executive Board members present at a regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

B. Meeting Attendees

All Senators shall be present and have a vote for every meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. All Elected Executive Officers of the Student Government Association shall be present and have one vote for every meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. All Cabinet members of the Student Government Association shall be present at every meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate meetings shall be open for public viewing without any participation. The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate may, with a 2/3 affirmative majority, vote to close a meeting or portion of a meeting to the public. If a meeting is closed to the public those allowed inside the Senate Chambers shall be: The Elected Executive Officers of the SGA, the SGA Cabinet, all Senators, and the DUSS Advisor. The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate may not vote to close all meetings to the public; this must be done on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

C. Seating Arrangements/Location

The President of the Student Government Association, the Speaker of the Senate, and the Elected Officers of the Student Government Association shall decide upon the seating arrangement as well as the location of meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

D. Academic Calendar Sessions

There shall be two sessions of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate per academic year. The first session shall be known as the Fall Session and the second session shall be known as the Spring Session. The 1st Senate will only meet for one session (Spring Session 2005).

1st Senate (/Spring Session 2005) 2nd Senate (Fall Session 2005/Spring Session 2006)
3rd Senate (Fall Session 2006/Spring Session 2007) 4th Senate (Fall Session 2007/Spring Session 2008)
5th Senate (Fall Session 2008/Spring Session 2009) 6th Senate (Fall Session 2009/Spring Session 2010)
7th Senate (Fall Session 2010/Spring Session 2011) 8th Senate (Fall Session 2011/Spring Session 2012)
9th Senate (Fall Session 2012/Spring Session 2013) 10th Senate (Fall Session 2013/Spring Session 2014)

Subsequent Senates shall follow this formula for numbering every Senate

Article 4

-Senate Power-

The Senate may:

1. Vote for a Speaker of the Senate;
2. Propose resolutions for consideration before the Senate;
3. Vote on resolutions proposed to the Senate;
4. Call for and vote upon the removal or addition of Senators to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate;
5. Call for and vote upon the removal of any one of the Senate Leaders (2/3 affirmative vote of all members of the Senate present needed to remove a Senate Leader from office);
6. Create standing committees within the Senate to address any issue (2/3 affirmative vote of all members of the Senate present needed to create a standing committee within the Senate);
7. Create ad-hoc committees to address any issue (50% +1 affirmative vote of all members of the Senate present needed to create an ad-hoc committee).

Article 5

-Parliamentary Authority-

Section 1: Procedure

A. The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall abide by the rules and regulations presented in the Student Government Association Constitution and its Bylaws as well as the Bylaws of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be followed at every meeting of the Senate unless a particular procedure is outlined in the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, or DUSS Bylaws. If a conflict arises between *Robert's Rules of Order* and the Constitution or Bylaws, the authority of the SGA and DUSS shall take precedent. Resolutions to be placed before the Senate must be presented in written format to the SGA President at least seven days prior to the next regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. Elected Officers of the SGA may present resolutions to the Senate at any time so long as written copies of the resolution are first presented to the SGA President. Resolutions may only be presented by Senators and Elected SGA officers.

B. Resolution Procedure

In order to be approved by the Senate, resolutions must receive a 50% + 1 affirmative vote of all members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate present. The Speaker of the Senate shall immediately sign resolutions that are passed. If the Speaker is absent then the Vice Speaker shall sign the resolutions that are passed. The resolution is then formally passed on from the Speaker of the Senate to the President of the SGA who has until the next regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate to:

- a.) **Sign the resolution.** Any resolution that is passed in the Senate and signed by the President of the SGA shall be considered an official resolution of the Student Government Association and the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

b.) **Veto the resolution.** The Senate may, if desired, override this veto with a 2/3 affirmative vote of the members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate present. Any resolution that is vetoed by the SGA President but passed through the Senate with a 2/3 affirmative vote shall be considered an official resolution of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

c.) **Pocket the resolution.** If the President of the SGA pockets a resolution, that resolution shall not take effect until the next regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. Any resolution that is pocketed by the President of the SGA and later takes effect shall be considered an official resolution of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

C. Election Procedure

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall follow the following guidelines when conducting elections for the Speaker of the Senate. The following procedure shall occur during a private session of the Senate.

1. The SGA President will open the floor to nominations. It shall take a nomination and a second to be placed on the ballot. Nominations shall occur until there are no more nominations made.
2. Each candidate shall be allotted three minutes to address the Senate concerning the position that he or she is running for.
3. Following the speeches of all candidates, the candidates will be asked to cast their votes for each position available by secret ballots which will be given to the President of the SGA. After voting the candidates will be asked to leave the Senate Chambers and a debate session of the Senate will follow. The SGA President will decide how much time to allot for the debate on the candidates.
4. Following the debate there will be a vote of the Senate (minus those Senators who are candidates) for the available positions. A candidate needs a majority vote of all Senators present in order to win. If multiple candidates are running for a single position and a majority is not reached, the person with the least number of votes will be eliminated and another vote will be taken. This process shall be repeated until one of the candidates receives a majority vote (50% +
5. Once the voting is complete the candidates will be allowed back into the Senate Chambers and the winners will be announced.

D. Removal of Senate Leaders

A 2/3 affirmative vote of all members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate present at a regular meeting is needed to remove a Senate Leader from office. If the Speaker of the Senate is removed from office the Vice Speaker of the Senate shall become the Speaker of the Senate. If the Vice Speaker of the Senate is removed from office, elections will be held to replace that position at the next regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. Removed Senate Leaders may appeal their

removal to the Committee on Appeals as provided in the SGA Constitution (Article IV, Section 2).

E. Budget Control

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate can only request funds from the Treasurer of the Student Government Association. Any allocation of money to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate must be approved by an affirmative vote of at least four of the six Elected Executive Board Members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Congress.

Section 2: Hierarchy

Chain of Command for the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate

1. SGA President
2. Speaker of the Senate
3. Vice Speaker of the Senate / SGA Vice President
6. SGA Treasurer
7. SGA Secretary
8. SGA Faculty Senator
9. SGA Faculty Senator

Article 6

-Amendments to Bylaws-

The Senate may amend these Bylaws through the passage of a resolution detailing the changes. (Resolutions concerning changes to the Bylaws of the DUSS require a 2/3 affirmative vote to pass)

Article 7

-Enactment of Bylaws-

These Bylaws shall supersede and nullify any previously existing version of these Bylaws.

ORIGIN: 1st Senate

REVISED: 3rd Senate