

1 **ACT 1819-SP-001**

2 **AN ACT TO MODIFY SENATOR ELECTION PROCEDURES**

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7 **Section 1:** The purpose of this act is to simplify Senator election procedures.
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9 **Section 2:** Section III.1 of the CGS Bylaws shall be amended to read:

10 “Section III.1: General - The Council of Graduate Students holds the authority to select student members
11 of the University Senate to represent the interests of all graduate students. The Council of Graduate
12 Students shall elect ten graduate students from a single slate.”
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14 **Section 3:** Section III.3 of the CGS Bylaws shall be amended to read:

15 “Section III.3: Nominations - Nominations to fill vacant Senator positions shall normally take place at the
16 third meeting of the spring term. The Organization and Elections Committee shall present a slate of no
17 fewer than ten (10) consenting nominees at that meeting, and any delegate may also nominate candidates
18 at that meeting. Candidates consenting to nomination will submit materials attesting to their qualifications
19 to the Secretary in time for inclusion in the subsequent meeting packet. Materials required will be
20 established by the Organization and Elections Committee.”
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22 **Section 4:** Section III.4 of the CGS Bylaws shall be amended to read:

23 “Section III.4: Elections
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25 “III.4.A Elections to fill vacant Senator positions shall normally take place at the fourth meeting
26 of the spring term.

27 “III.4.B At the discretion of the body, candidates for election shall be made available outside of
28 the normal meeting time for delegates to address their qualifications.

29 “III.4.C At the Senator election, each delegate will be given a ballot with the option to approve
30 each candidate on the slate. Delegates will submit their ballots to one of the tellers, appointed as specified
31 by the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order. The tellers will count the number of approvals that
32 each candidate received. The ten candidates with the most approvals are elected. Should there be a tie in
33 determining the top ten candidates, the President shall cast a tie-breaking vote.

34 “III.4.D Write-in votes shall be considered invalid and will not be counted in the total.”
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36 **Section 5:** This act will take effect immediately.
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38 **Appendix – Existing CGS Bylaws – Sections III.1 – III.4**
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40 **Section III.1: General** - The Council of Graduate Students holds the authority to select student members
41 of the University Senate to represent the interests of all graduate students. The Council of Graduate
42 Students shall elect one graduate student from any department, found to be in good standing with the
43 graduate school to represent one of the ten college clusters, which are:
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- 45 1) Arts; 2) Biological Sciences; 3) Business; 4) Education; 5) Engineering; 6) Food, Agriculture,
46 and Environmental Sciences and Human Ecology; 7) Humanities; 8) Mathematical and Physical
47 Sciences; 9) Medicine and Public Health, Dentistry, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, and
48 Veterinary Medicine; and 10) Social and Behavioral Sciences, Social work, and Law. (Amended
49 6/14/13, 1314SU007)
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51 **Section III.2: Duties** - These Senators will regularly attend the meetings of their respective committees,
52 the University Senate, and the Council of Graduate Students, will report to CGS as necessary or as
53 directed, and will consult with the President and the Council to develop and promote graduate student
54 positions on the issues or proposals considered by those bodies. Their term of office will extend one year
55 beginning with autumn semester. (Amended 01/30/15, 1415SP008)
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57 **Section III.3: Nominations**
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59 III.3.A. Any eligible graduate student may apply for election or may be nominated by another
60 graduate student. The Organization and Elections Committee may establish a deadline for
61 nominations. Such a deadline shall be no earlier than the first meeting of spring semester. The
62 committee may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for particular positions or consider
63 applications received after such a deadline.
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65 III.3.B. All applications will be considered by the Organization and Elections Committee using
66 whatever means (interview, screening of resumes, references, etc.) the committee deems
67 appropriate.
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69 III.3.C. A majority vote of the members of the Organization and Elections Committee shall be
70 required for a candidate's name to be presented to the Council.
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72 III.3.D. Upon completion of their review process, the Organization and Elections Committee shall
73 present the names of all candidates deemed qualified to the Council to stand for election.
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75 **Section III.4: Elections**
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77 III.4.A. The initial election of Senators to take office in the autumn semester of a given calendar
78 year shall take place in the spring semester of that year, no earlier 7 than the fourth meeting of
79 that semester.
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81 III.4.B. Additional names may be placed on the ballot at the time of election by a majority vote of
82 Council members.
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84 III.4.C. Immediately prior to the election, each candidate will have an opportunity to address the
85 Council and/or respond to members' questions for a maximum of five minutes.
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87 III.4.D. Voting shall be by secret ballot in contested elections and by Objection to Consent in
88 uncontested elections. Write-in votes and blank ballots shall be invalid and not counted in the
89 total. III.4.E. A simple majority vote is required to elect a Senator. If no candidate receives a
90 majority, then at the same meeting the Council shall vote again between the two candidates
91 receiving the most votes (or between all candidates receiving a maximal number of votes). This
92 procedure shall be repeated as necessary until a candidate is elected.
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