Attendance Policies

A Report
of the
ad hoc Committee on Constitutional Revisions (GA/AC.CR)
of the
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
of the
University of Pennsylvania

GA/44/BILL/16/R.0
GA/AC.CR/44/M/4/Corr.1
A/Const/44/Amend.4/Pro.2/R.0

February 25, 2023
Abstract

The ad hoc Committee on Constitutional Revisions was constituted by the GAPSA General Assembly on October 12, 2022 to review the GAPSA Constitution and recommend amendments.

These amendments clarify the mandatory procedures for dismissing a General Assembly Representative, clarify and make more concise the requirement that General Assembly Representatives attend Council and Committee meetings, clarify and make more concise the proxy policy, add safeguards on the proxy policy as to transparency and entrenchment, add the requirement for the announcement of meeting attendance and quorum thresholds for every meeting, and allow nonresponse by a school appointing organization as to a General Assembly request to recall their representative to be addressed at the following General Assembly meeting.

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Resolved, by the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly of the University of Pennsylvania,

Section 1. That the amendments in this instrument are applied sequentially and take effect simultaneously, even if this instrument is divided and voted on in separate questions at the same meeting; all punctuation included quotes is literal and interpreted as the content of the quote, not as part of the enacting sentence;

1 Attendance Policy

Section 2. That Article VI(C) and all its paragraphs and subparagraphs are substituted by “Each General Assembly Representative must be a member of at least one standing committee that has need for their participation. There shall be an opportunity for General Assembly Representatives to express their preferences, which, however, cannot be guaranteed and depend on the needs of each committee and the number of interested members. Every month of every committee membership for which a member is absent without accepted excuse from a majority of committee meetings called at least seven (7) days in advance or fails to meet the criteria for active committee participation, as defined in the committee’s or its parent’s Bylaws or policies it has adopted for this purpose, shall count as an absence from a General Assembly meeting.” as Article VI(C);

Section 3. That Article VII(D) is amended by adding “Every month for which a member is absent without accepted excuse from a majority of Council meetings shall count as an absence from a General Assembly meeting.” as paragraph (7) at the end of the section;

2 General Assembly Proxy Policy

Section 4. That Article II(E) is amended by striking out paragraph (8) and all its subparagraphs and inserting “Any General Assembly Representative may appoint a proxy to participate on their behalf at a General Assembly meeting with full voting and other rights, valid upon the receipt by the Vice President for Operations or designee and reporting to the General Assembly of a certificate of the proxy appointment endorsed by the representative. A proxy vote may not be exercised to amend the proxy policy; changes to the proxy policy so passed are null and void. A single student may concurrently exercise at most two (2) proxy votes in a particular meeting. A single student may appoint a proxy for all or part of at most two (2) meetings per semester. A member represented by proxy counts as present for the purpose of determining a voting result.” as Article II(E)(8);

Section 5. That Article V(J)(5) is amended by adding “The Director of Logistics or designee shall announce to the General Assembly at the beginning of each meeting: the number of members in attendance (including separately those attending virtually and physically), the number represented by proxy, the total number of members, the number of vacant seats, and the number of members required for quorum, each of these reported collectively and per
Council; and the certificates of proxy appointment and of election of new members.” at the end of the paragraph;

3 Dismissal and Removal Proceedings

Section 6. That Article II(C) is amended—

(a) by striking out “fourteen” in paragraph (3) and inserting “ten (10)”;

(b) by striking out “fourteenth” in paragraph (4) and inserting “tenth”;

Section 7. That Article II(C)(6) is amended by adding “The membership and good standing of voting members of the General Assembly can only removed by the dismissal proceedings described in Article II, section C.” at the end of the paragraph;

4 Enactment

Section 8. That the official abstract of these amendments is “These amendments clarify the mandatory procedures for dismissing a General Assembly Representative, clarify and make more concise the requirement that General Assembly Representatives attend Council and Committee meetings, clarify and make more concise the proxy policy, add safeguards on the proxy policy as to transparency and entrenchment, add the requirement for the announcement of meeting attendance and quorum thresholds for every meeting, and allow nonresponse by a school appointing organization as to a General Assembly request to recall their representative to be addressed at the following General Assembly meeting.”;