

The SBA Senate met on February 4, 2015 to consider a slate of proposed amendments to the SBA Constitution. The following proposals were unanimously adopted by the SBA Senate at that meeting.

1. Codify footnote #1 (Bottom of page one of the current Constitution)

Replaces 'Vice President' with 'Executive Vice President'

Replaces 'Treasurer' with 'Vice President of Finance'

Replaces 'Secretary' with 'Chief of Staff'

Note: This footnote was already implemented in the text of the Constitution by a previous Senate.

2. Amend Article I, Section 2, Clause 2 (Page one of the current Constitution)

Proposed Text: In the absence of the Executive Vice President, the President Pro Tempore shall preside. The Senate may by law provide for the case of the absence of the Executive Vice President and the President Pro Tempore declaring who shall act as presiding officer; and such person shall act accordingly until the Executive Vice President or President Pro Tempore is present.

Effect: Places the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in charge of meetings in the event that the Executive Vice President is absent rather than the Vice President of Finance or Chief of Staff.

Rationale: Promotes legislative independence; More closely mirrors the federal system (model for our own system); Allows the VPF and Chief of Staff to focus their attention on providing information and advice; Would add purpose to the office of President Pro Tempore

3. Amend Article I, Section 2, Clause 3 (Page one of the current Constitution)

Proposed Text: Class senators shall be apportioned as follows: one shall be elected by each class of students (1L, 2L, 3L) for each Inn of Court; one shall be elected by the 4LE class; one shall be elected to serve as an at-large representative of day students; one shall be elected to serve as an at-large representative of night students; one will be elected by the newly transferred students; and one shall be elected to represent the Post *Juris Doctor* students (LLM/SJD).

Effect: None – Codification of current system

Rationale: This amendment would serve to codify our current system of apportionment under the Inns of Court program.

4. Amend Article I, Section 3, Clause 2 (Page two of the current Constitution)

Proposed Text: The Senate shall hold one day of elections in each semester. For the spring semester, the Senate shall prescribe a day of elections which shall be no later than the last Wednesday in February. For the fall semester, the day of elections shall be no later than the last Wednesday in September. The Senate shall also prescribe for each semester an auxiliary day for elections, to be invoked in the case of school closure or other emergency; and the auxiliary day in each case shall be in a week subsequent to the week for which the initial date is prescribed. In no case shall the auxiliary day be later than fourteen days following the initial date. All election results shall be ratified by the Senate at a meeting in the first week of April.

Effect: Pushes back the transition date from early/mid-March to the beginning of April and sets a more firm date.

Rationale: It would create a more orderly transition for both the Executive and Senate

5. Amend Article 2, Section 3, Clause 3 (Page six of the current Constitution)

Proposed Text: The President shall commission all the officers of the Student Bar Association and shall receive representatives from external organizations; commissions and grants shall run in the name of the Student Bar Association and be attested to by the President. The President may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices; and he or she shall hold a meeting of all such executive department heads no less than twice a month.

Effect: Requires the President to meet with her executive department heads twice a month vs. twice a semester.

Rationale: This would encourage greater oversight of the executive departments by the President => Idea was proposed by President Clemens.

6. Amend Article 2, Section 3, Clause 4 (Page six of the current Constitution)

Proposed Text: The President, or at the discretion of the President, the Vice President of Finance of the Student Bar Association, shall present a report to the Senate no less than twice a semester concerning the budget and financial status of the Student Bar Association.

Effect: Would require the President to provide an additional report each semester.

Rationale: This would promote increased oversight over the Executive's financial expenditures by the Senate => Idea was proposed by President Clemens

Informational sessions will be held in STU223 on Monday, February 9th and Thursday, February 12th. Both sessions will run from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Feel free to drop in and ask any questions you may have.