

The Student Government Association of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

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Bylaws Amendment Proposal: Legislation Submission and Agenda Placement Guidelines

Amendment to Bylaws Section XIII. Legislation

To amend the current requirements for placing legislation on the agenda to make the process less restrictive and add a "fast track" option for urgent legislation.

SECTION 1: Current Language:

- In addition to the requirements listed in the Constitution and Bylaws, pieces of legislation must meet the following requirements to be placed on the agenda:
- Senators shall reach out to the department(s) to be affected upon the potential passage of the legislation, either by email or in-person. Senators shall ask for the input of those in the department about the legislation.
- Upon successfully inquiring from the department(s), senators can move forward with the original piece of legislation, modify it based on the opinions of the department, withdraw the legislation from consideration, or make any other determination they see fit.
- A senator has successfully inquired from a department when one or more individuals from the department respond with their input. If a department fails to respond to a senator inquiry after 1 month, senators may move forward with their legislation and have it placed on the agenda for the next meeting date.
- Departments or anyone in them shall not determine whether a piece of legislation can be placed on the agenda, nor shall the executive board and advisors be influenced by departments.
- Any legislation shall be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting date after successfully receiving feedback from the department(s) affected by their legislation or after a period of 1 month of no response from the department(s).
- Committees shall determine if these guidelines have been followed and give a recommendation to the senate of do pass, no recommendation, or of no pass. For a committee to have legislation voted upon, they must have at least three (3) voting members present.
 - Do Pass: All specified guidelines have been followed
 - No Recommendation: Unclear if guidelines have been followed or is a controversial piece of legislation that may spark debate in session.
 - No Pass: Guidelines were not followed based on the standards provided.
- Recommendations are not based on whether senators agree with a piece of legislation, but rather if the legislation has followed all the guidelines.
- The executive board shall establish a department contact list with emails of the individuals included. This list will be used to ensure senators know exactly who to contact for legislation ideas.
- Bills shall be excluded from these contact rules, unless a department is affected by the results of its passage.

- Lastly, neither the executive board nor its advisors shall bar a piece of legislation from being added to the agenda if it meets the requirements listed above and any other requirements otherwise listed in the constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 2: Proposed Amendment:

Section XIII. Legislation Part 11 - Legislation Submission and Agenda Placement Guidelines (Amended)

In addition to the requirements listed in the Constitution and Bylaws, pieces of legislation must meet the following guidelines to be placed on the agenda:

- **Departmental Inquiries:** Senators are encouraged to reach out to the department(s) that will be affected by the potential passage of legislation. This inquiry can be done by email, in-person, or through other reasonable means. Senators should request input from the relevant department(s) to ensure all concerns and perspectives are considered.
- Senators may choose to proceed with the legislation, modify it based on department feedback, withdraw the legislation, or take other actions based on the input received.
- A senator has successfully inquired from a department when one or more individuals from the department respond with their input. If a department does not respond to the senator's inquiry within 30 calendar days, senators may move forward with the legislation and have it placed on the agenda for the next available meeting.
- **No Departmental Control:** No department or individual within it shall have the authority to prevent legislation from being placed on the agenda. Additionally, the executive board and advisors shall not be influenced by department opinions when determining agenda placement, as long as the guidelines are met.

Fast-Tracking Legislation:

- In cases where the legislation is time-sensitive or of immediate importance, any piece of legislation may be "fast-tracked" if a senator believes that it is necessary. Fast-tracking can be requested by the sponsor of the legislation, and the legislation will be moved to the agenda at the next available meeting regardless of the usual departmental inquiry process.
- The decision to fast-track legislation should be based on urgency and relevance, with the primary consideration being the potential positive impact or immediate need for the legislation.

Legislation Placement:

- Any legislation that has met the guidelines or been fast-tracked shall be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting. If feedback from the relevant department(s) is received after the one-month period or after fast-tracking approval, the legislation will be considered accordingly by the Senate.

Committee Responsibilities:

- Committees shall review the legislation and verify that the guidelines, including inquiries, have been followed. They will provide a recommendation to the Senate based on adherence to these guidelines:
 - Do Pass: All guidelines have been followed appropriately.
 - No Recommendation: The legislation’s compliance with guidelines is unclear, or the legislation may be controversial and require further debate in session.
 - No Pass: Guidelines were not followed based on the standards provided.
- For a committee to vote on a piece of legislation, at least three (3) voting members must be present.

Department Contact List:

- The executive board should maintain and make available an up-to-date department contact list with relevant individuals’ emails, so senators can easily reach out for feedback and input on legislation. This list will ensure senators have direct access to the appropriate department representatives.

Exclusions for Bills:

- Bills are exempt from the departmental inquiry requirements unless a department is directly impacted by the passage of the bill.

Final Clause:

- The executive board and advisors shall not withhold legislation from being placed on the agenda if the legislation adheres to the requirements set forth in this section and any additional stipulations in the Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 5: Copies of this amendment shall be distributed to the following:

All Current members of the USAO Government Association (SGA) Senate, all current members of the SGA Executive Council, all current members of the SGA Supreme Court, and all current advisors of the SGA.

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