

THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

BYLAWS

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By: The Graduate Student Senate Policy Committee



The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Graduate Student Senate

Bylaws

These Bylaws are rules adopted by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Graduate Student Senate as a means of governing all meetings and affairs of the GSS and of the graduate students of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (hereinafter “University”).

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Preamble

We, the graduate students of The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, in order to secure a tradition of academic excellence and professional development; to preserve the right of students to acquire a quality, affordable education in a just and safe environment; to provide means of communication between students and graduate programs; to provide a responsive forum for varying student viewpoints; to encourage accountability among the students, faculty, administration, alumni and the surrounding community; to promote the general welfare of the student body; and to maintain liaison with alumni; do hereby establish these Bylaws in accordance with the Graduate Student Senate Constitution, for the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Graduate Student Senate (hereinafter “GSS”).

Article I. Representation

- A. The GSS shall represent the graduate student body of the University. Voting members of the GSS are defined herein as “Senators.”
- B. Any graduate student who is currently registered for at least one graduate-level course bearing a minimum of three (3) academic credits shall be eligible to vote in GSS elections.
- C. Constituencies shall be comprised of departments or programs as defined by the Registrar/Enrollment Center and represented by Senators.
- D. Representation of graduate students to the GSS shall be as follows:
 - 1. One (1) Senator for every one hundred and fifty (150) graduate students or fraction thereof in each department or program;
 - a. If a college/school is borderline of the threshold to gain another Senate seat, the GSS may grant that college/school the additional seat with a simple majority vote;
 - 2. Election procedures must meet the minimum requirements as outlined in Article III.

Article II. Senators

- A. Senators shall be elected and serve a term of one year, or the remainder of the term of the Senator who left office.
- B. In order to be eligible to serve on the GSS, candidates must be graduate students enrolled in the college or school which they are seeking to represent. Further, candidates must meet the Senator criteria as defined in the GSS Constitution Article III.
- C. Senator Rights and Responsibilities
 - 1. Bring the concerns, needs, and wishes of their constituents to the GSS and solicit input from graduate students in GSS business and activities;
 - 2. Attend all regularly-scheduled meetings of the GSS (hereinafter Senate Meetings),

special meetings called by the President (hereinafter Special Meetings), and meetings of its committees to which he or she has been appointed (hereinafter Committee Meetings);

3. Disseminate information regarding GSS business, University-wide events, and issues that affect graduate students to the students of his/her department or program;

4. Be familiar with the GSS Constitution, Bylaws, and procedures, as well as Robert's Rules of Order;

5. Read and review the agenda and minutes of each Senate and Special Meeting and each funding request prior to voting;

6. Have one (1) vote in all GSS matters; and

7. Serve on at least one (1) standing committee of the GSS, as defined in Article V.

D. Senators will be elected according to Article III.

E. If any member of GSS also serves as an executive member of another organization, said Senator must disclose their involvement to the GSS up front, and recuse themselves from any votes the GSS might have regarding said organization.

F. Termination of Senators

1. Any constituency represented in the GSS may recall its Senator(s) at any time by simple majority vote of 20% of said constituency or at least 20 people, whichever is greater; upon which notice shall be given to the GSS within 48 hours. Re-election shall follow the guidelines as specified in Article III.

2. Senators who miss two consecutive unexcused Senate Meetings or three unexcused Senate Meetings in one academic semester shall be notified in writing by the Vice President. In order to remain in good standing, the said Senator must:

a. Respond in writing to the notification within 10 working days;

b. Attend the Senate Meeting immediately following the notification, and

c. Give justification to the GSS Executive Board of their absences.

3. The GSS will vote whether to retroactively excuse the said Senator's absences (and place said Senator in good standing) or to terminate said Senator.

4. Senators who fail to attend a third consecutive unexcused Senate Meeting or have a fourth unexcused absence in the academic semester shall be terminated and will be replaced by a replacement Senator, who will be elected as per Article III, and serve the remainder of the Senator's original term.

5. Terminated Senators forfeit their positions on all GSS committees.

G. Serving of Two Seats

1. One person cannot serve in more than one Senate seat, nor as both a Senator and Student Trustee.

2. If, during an election a student received seats in any of the above combinations, said student must forfeit one of them and the forfeited seat shall go to the student receiving the next highest number of votes.

Article III. Elections

A. Voters

Only qualified members of the graduate student body under Article I may vote or sign a Graduate Student Senator Candidate Form. A graduate student may sign any Graduate Student Senator Candidate Form as long as the given graduate student is a member of the constituency of the Senator seat sought by the candidate.

B. Candidates

Only qualified members of the graduate student body under Article II may seek election. To be listed as a candidate on either a spring or special election ballot, the candidate must submit a Graduate Student Senator Candidate Form to the Elections Committee by the deadline stated on said form.

C. Senator Election Guidelines

1. Senators shall be elected by their respective constituencies, and must follow these minimum guidelines:

a. Spring and special elections (as discussed in the GSS Constitution Article VIII) shall be adequately advertised to the UMass Dartmouth graduate student body for at least one week prior to the nomination and campaigning period. The adequacy of the advertising shall be determined by the President.

b. Spring elections shall have a minimum two-week nomination and campaigning period. Special elections to fill vacancies shall have a minimum of one week and maximum of two weeks for nominations and campaigning.

c. The voting period shall be open for seven days.

d. The election process (advertising, nominating & campaigning, and voting activities) must not exceed six weeks.

e. The winner is determined by simple majority.

f. Elections must have 5% or 5 grad students, whichever is greater, voting in the election.

g. The GSS Elections Committee shall publicly announce the election results within three business days after the end of the voting period.

2. The Elections Committee reserves the right to review the nomination, election and voting procedures of any constituency. If said procedure fails to follow the minimum required guidelines, the Committee may require the constituency to hold a new election that fulfills minimum requirements.

3. Special elections of Senators to fill vacancies shall be held no later than one month after the vacancy is formed.
- D. Regulation of Senator Elections
1. Removing or interfering with any other candidate's signs is prohibited. Any such activities should be reported to the Elections Committee or Senator, who shall refer the matter to the Judicial Affairs Office.
 2. Candidates may begin to put up posters as soon as Graduate Student Senator Candidate Forms become available.
 3. All candidates must follow the University poster policies.
 4. In the event of a tie, an internal election shall be held at the next Senate Meeting after the end of the voting period to determine the winner.
- E. Disputes
1. The Elections Committee shall be designated to mediate any and all disputes.
 2. All disputes must be placed in writing and submitted to the Elections Committee within 48 hours after the results have been released.
 3. If the Elections Committee is unable to successfully mediate a dispute, they shall refer the matter to the GSS advisor.
- F. Internal Elections
1. Internal elections shall be conducted under an Executive Session (see Article VI Section B).
 2. Internal elections shall be held for Executive Board positions as described in the GSS Constitution Article VIII. Any current Senator can run for any vacant Executive Board position. A simple majority vote will be required. In the event of a tie, the acting President shall be the deciding vote. One person cannot serve in more than one Executive Board position.
- G. Transition Meetings
1. After the Spring election results are ratified and Senator-Elects accept their positions, Transition Meetings will begin.
 2. Transition Meetings are the last meetings of the outgoing Senate.
 - a. The purpose of Transition Meetings will be to finish any business of the outgoing Senate while informing the incoming Senate of any outstanding matters.
 - b. Transition Meetings shall also serve as informational sessions on the workings of the Senate.
 3. Incoming Senators will be required to attend all Transition Meetings.
 4. Transition Meetings will be a minimum of two separate meetings.
 - a. Senator-Elects are allowed to resign at any point during the transition if they wish, in which case the Runner-Up in the election for that position shall fill the spot if they are willing.

5. The adjournment of the last Transition Meeting will mark the end of the outgoing Senate session and the beginning of the new Senate session.

a. At this time, Executive Board elections shall take place according to Article III Section F.

H. Junior Senators

1. Runners-Up in the Spring elections shall have the first right of refusal to the position of Junior Senator.

a. The number of Junior Senator seats will match the number of Senator seats.

b. If a Junior Senator seat is vacant, the GSS may appoint an appropriate graduate student to that seat with a simple majority vote.

Article IV. Officers

A. Terms

1. The term of all Executive Board officers shall be one year, or the remainder of the term of the Executive Board officer who left office.

2. The Executive Board officers shall serve as part-time equivalent staff and shall receive a stipend equal to the minimum hourly rate of part-time equivalent graduate employees as determined by the Office of Graduate Studies. Stipends shall be set at 5 hours per week.

B. Rights and Responsibilities

1. President: Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

a. Serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee

b. Serve as chief administrative officer and controls all business and affairs of the GSS

c. Be a non-voting member of all GSS committees

d. Chair all Senate and Special meetings, and all Executive Sessions

e. Serve as liaison with the University administration

f. Act as co-signer, with the Treasurer, on all financial matters

2. Vice President: Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

a. Serve as the Chair of the Policy Committee, unless declined as stated in Article V Section C.4

b. Serve as Acting President in the absence of the President

c. Assist the President in their duties

d. Act as Parliamentarian to ensure Robert's Rules of Order

3. Secretary: Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

a. Serve as the Chair of the Social Committee, unless declined as stated in Article V Section C.5

b. Assist the President and Vice President in their duties

c. Be responsible for facilitating all GSS communications

d. Keep records of all correspondence

- e. Issue copies of the GSS Constitution and Bylaws to all new GSS members
 - f. Take the minutes of all Senate and Special Meetings, and Executive Sessions
 - g. Be responsible for the digital publication of those minutes within 24 hours
 - h. Keep record of all motions, minutes, activities, and duties performed by the Senate.
4. Treasurer: Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:
- a. Serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee
 - b. Serve as chief financial officer of the GSS
 - c. Manage the GSS account in conjunction with the Finance Committee and at the direction of the GSS
 - d. Control purchasing and expenditure of GSS funds
 - e. Develop the GSS budget with the Finance Committee and the University

Article V. Committees

- A. The GSS shall have the power to establish and/or appoint standing and ad hoc committees to the GSS as are deemed necessary for the successful conduct of its business.
- B. Committee Operations
1. Committees shall function collectively according to principles of maximum participation of the membership.
 2. All committee members shall recuse him/herself from committee actions that may present a conflict of interest.
 3. Committees shall keep accurate written minutes of their meetings and shall make them available to the GSS upon request.
 4. The appointment of Senators to standing committees shall be on the agenda of the last Senate Meeting of the spring semester.
 5. A committee Chair, in coordination with their committee, shall have the right to recall any committee member serving on said committee by two-thirds (2/3) vote of that committee.
 6. Only Senators on a committee shall be entitled to cast a vote regarding committee matters. Any other persons present at the committee meeting may participate in the discussion, but are not entitled to vote in any committee matters. This applies to all Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.
 7. Committee Chairs have the right to invite other students and faculty/staff to committee meetings as deemed necessary to answer any questions that committee members may have regarding committee matters.
- C. Standing Committees
1. Executive Committee
 - a. Membership of the Executive committee shall consist of the President as the

Chair, the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as voting members, and the faculty advisor as a non-voting member.

b. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the President or any two members of the Executive Committee as required for the conduct of necessary business. A quorum for all business shall be three voting members of the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held under Executive Session (see Article VI Section B). However, the Executive Committee reserves the right to invite other people to join and speak as deemed necessary.

c. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the following tasks:

i. To fulfill those functions required of it under these Bylaws and the GSS Constitution

ii. To discuss and approve GSS priorities, plans, policies, and actions, and proposing and recommending such to the GSS for approval

iii. To review motions submitted for inclusion on the agenda of a Senate or Special Meeting. No such motion submitted may be omitted from the agenda.

iv. To organize and to execute efficient day-to-day functioning of the GSS. Such duties may include, but are not limited to, purchase of necessary materials, maintenance of GSS files and archives, and issuance of GSS documents.

v. To ensure an accurate and current record of income and expenditure of GSS funds, which shall be open to inspection by any member of University administration

vi. To act in full, on behalf of the GSS, in such areas and for such terms as the GSS may determine (e.g., Intersession)

d. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be strictly subject to review and amendment or repeal in a Senate or Special Meeting.

2. Finance Committee

a. Membership of the Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer as Chair, plus any number of Senators and Junior Senators who choose to join the Finance Committee.

b. Finance Committee meetings shall be called as required for the conduct of necessary business. A quorum is obtained when a simple majority of Finance Committee members are present. Finance Committee meetings shall be open to all graduate students who wish to attend.

c. The Finance Committee shall be charged with the following tasks:

i. To review requests to the GSS for funds submitted by any graduate student or organization prior to GSS vote

- ii. To advise all graduate students and groups on the funding requests they have submitted and their supporting documentation, and clarifying possible problems in funding requests, according to Article IX
 - iii. To make recommendations to the GSS for the approval of any funding request or part thereof, which was submitted to the GSS in accordance with these Bylaws.
- d. When evaluating funding requests and making its recommendation to the GSS for non-SRO and ad hoc allocation, the Finance Committee shall consider all of the following:
 - i. Whether the funding is used for an event in which all graduate students spanning all colleges within the University will be able to attend
 - ii. The event's likelihood of success, the academic/cultural value given to the attendees, and the promotion of the University's name
 - iii. Whether the entity requesting funds has done any form of fundraising, and whether the entity has requested departmental funds
 - iv. The requesting entity's primary funding source
 - v. The requesting entity's current account balance
- e. The following section shall serve as guidelines for the Finance Committee when dealing with types of expenses covered. The Finance Committee reserves the right to deviate from the guidelines below if they feel the circumstances warrant it. By deviating from the below guidelines, the Finance Committee shall give a report to the GSS of why they felt deviation was necessary.
 - i. General organizational apparel will not be funded.
 - ii. Specific event apparel directly related to the execution/promotion of the event will be covered by no more than \$200.
 - iii. Travel expenses for lecturers or distinguished visitors to the University may be covered by no more than \$500 per event.
 - iv. Total travel expenses for graduate students per fiscal year may be covered up to an amount disclosed on the GSS website at the beginning of the fiscal year.
 - v. Total travel expenses per fiscal year is determined by the Treasurer and voted upon by the GSS, in anticipation of the GSS annual budget and in consideration of previous funding requests.
 - vi. Honoria expenses (such as for lecturers or distinguished visitors) may be covered by no more than an amount determined by the Treasurer and voted upon by the GSS, in consideration of the GSS annual budget and previous funding requests.

3. Elections Committee

- a. Membership of the Elections Committee shall consist of any number of Senators and Junior Senators who choose to join the Elections Committee, plus a Chair elected by the Elections Committee members.
- b. Candidates running for a Senate Seat in that semester may not stand on the Elections Committee, and may not attend Elections Committee meetings. If the Elections Committee Chair or any member of the Elections Committee is interested in running for Senator in that semester, they must forfeit their membership on the Elections Committee.
- c. Elections Committee meetings shall be called as required for the conduct of necessary business. A quorum is obtained when a simple majority of Elections Committee members are present.
- d. The Elections Committee shall be charged with the following tasks:
 - i. Conducting elections of Executive Board officers according to Article III
 - ii. Calling for special elections when needed in accordance with Article III
 - iii. Reporting the results of elections to the GSS
 - iv. Reviewing, if necessary, the Senator election procedures of each constituency as stated in Article III

4. Policy Committee

- a. Membership of the Policy Committee shall consist of the Vice President as Chair, plus any number of Senators and Junior Senators who choose to join the Policy Committee. The Vice President reserves the right to decline serving as Chair, in which instance the President shall appoint any other current Senator as the new Chairperson.
- b. Policy Committee meetings shall be called as required for the conduct of necessary business. A quorum is obtained when a simple majority of Policy Committee members are present.
- c. The Policy Committee shall be charged with the following tasks:
 - i. Reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws as necessary
 - ii. Interpreting judicial matters pertinent to the GSS or the graduate student body
 - iii. Advising University administration on graduate student handbook issues
 - iv. Addressing graduate student complaints regarding policy within a timely manner

5. Social Committee

- a. Membership of the Social Committee shall consist of the Secretary as Chair, plus any number of Senators and Junior Senators who choose to join the Social Committee. The Secretary reserves the right to decline serving as Chair, in which instance the President shall appoint any other current Senator as the new Chairperson.

b. Social Committee meetings shall be called as required for the conduct of necessary business. A quorum is obtained when a simple majority of Social Committee members are present. Social Committee meetings shall be open to all graduate students who wish to attend.

c. The Social Committee shall be charged with the following tasks:

i. To promote events that aim to create a unified graduate student body across all colleges of the University

ii. To plan, advertise for, and host all GSS-sponsored events, or work with the hosting organization to plan and advertise for GSS-sponsored or co-sponsored events as appropriate

iii. To create and present GSS event estimated budgets for discussion and/or voting during Senate Meetings

iii. To ensure that all GSS-sponsored and co-sponsored events are adequately advertised to all UMass Dartmouth graduate students to which the event is applicable

iv. To ensure that all events hosted solely by the GSS are open to all UMass Dartmouth graduate students

v. To regularly update all GSS social media outlets

D. Ad Hoc Committees

1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to establish ad hoc committees for specific purposes as the needs of the GSS require. Each ad hoc committee shall be responsible for electing its own Chairperson.

2. Ad hoc committees shall exist until fulfillment of the purpose for which it is established, or until otherwise dissolved by the Executive Committee.

3. An ad hoc committee may become a standing committee upon the passage of an Amendment to these Bylaws, as outlined in Article XI, establishing it as such.

Article VI. Meetings

A. Senate and Special Meetings (as defined in Article II Section C.2)

1. All Senate Meeting dates shall be set during the last Senate Meeting of the spring semester. The next Senate Meeting will be determined by the general availability of the Senators.

2. The President shall preside over all Senate and Special Meetings. In the absence of the President, or if the agenda includes a motion to recall the President, the Vice President shall preside.

3. Senate and Special Meeting minutes shall be recorded by the Secretary (or if the Secretary cannot be present, by another member of the GSS) and should be made available to the GSS within 24 hours.

4. All Senate and Special Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, unless superseded by these Bylaws.
5. The Vice President shall act as Parliamentarian during all Senate and Special Meetings. If the Vice President is unable to act in this role, the presiding President shall appoint a member of GSS to fulfill that obligation during that meeting.
6. Senate and Special Meeting agendas shall be prepared in accordance with the GSS Constitution and these Bylaws. Motions to be included on the Senate Meeting agenda shall be made available to the members of the GSS and publicly posted at least 48 hours before the meeting in accordance with the GSS Constitution.
7. All motions not on the Senate or Special Meeting agenda must be given to the Parliamentarian in writing upon presentation during the meeting.
8. All Senate and Special Meetings are open unless the GSS votes to continue the meeting in an Executive Session, as defined in Article VI Section B.
9. Quorum is required to start all Senate and Special Meetings. Quorum is defined as a simple majority of all Senators.
10. During Senate and Special Meetings, the President shall act as a non-voting member, and shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie.
11. Proxy voting may be requested upon written notification to the Executive Board prior to the start of the meeting, including the reason for their absence. Proxy voting will be approved at the discretion of the Executive Board. Upon approval, an absent Senator may proxy his or her vote to a Junior Senator from their college/school or another Senator who will be present at the meeting. Approved Senators may also submit a statement in writing to the Secretary to be read during open discussion on the GSS matter.

B. Executive Sessions

1. An Executive Session is hereinafter defined as a closed session of the GSS, where only current GSS members will be in attendance.
2. Executive Session shall be used in cases where the GSS needs to address sensitive issues.
3. Any Senator may request an Executive Session. A simple majority vote shall be required to enter into an Executive Session.
4. The President shall preside over all Executive Sessions. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside.

Article VII. GSS Code of Conduct

- A.** No member of the GSS shall participate in any private business or professional activity, or have any direct or indirect financial interest, which would place said member in a position of conflict between that private interest and the best interests of the GSS.

- B. No member of the GSS shall use or allow the use of any GSS property, facilities, or personnel of any kind for any activity not officially sanctioned by the Constitution of the GSS, the Bylaws of the GSS, or an Act of the GSS.
- C. No person shall corruptly give, offer, or promise to any GSS member any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by the Constitution or the Bylaws of the GSS, or by Act of the GSS, for the past, present, or future performance or non-performance of an act.
- D. No officer, staff or senator of the GSS shall aid, advise, procure or in any other way directly induce another to act in violation of the Constitution or the Bylaws of the GSS, or an act of the GSS.
- E. All members of GSS shall act in a professional and responsible manner and exhibit conduct befitting the University. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to termination.

Article VIII. Grievance Procedure

- A. Failure to Perform Duties and/or Violation of the GSS Code of Conduct
 1. Upon the substantial failure of any GSS member to perform the duties assigned or violation of the GSS Code of Conduct, the GSS, by simple majority vote, may open a disciplinary or recall procedure by issuing a formal written warning to the offending member. A motion for opening the disciplinary recall procedure shall be added to the Senate or Special Meeting agenda either upon submission of a letter written by the Executive Committee, or a petition signed by no fewer than 1/3 of the Senators in good standing.
 2. If the offending member fails to correct the mistakes or improve his/her performance, the GSS may vote to impeach and/or remove the member by a two-thirds vote of the GSS in the subsequent Senate Meeting.
 3. If the violation of the GSS Code of Conduct is deemed as an extreme case as defined by the GSS body and/or the faculty advisor, disciplinary and/or judicial actions will be taken by the appropriate authority outside of the GSS.
 - a. The GSS reserves the right to impeach said offending member and/or to remove them from the GSS.
 - b. The removed member will sever all ties with GSS and be required to return all GSS properties, both tangible and intangible, within 24 hours.

Article IX. Finance Procedures

A. Ad Hoc Funding

1. The GSS may grant ad hoc funding to groups who are not SGA Recognized Organizations (SROs) and are hosting events which benefit the graduate student community.
2. Ad hoc funding is intended to provide monetary support for specific events throughout the fiscal year to provide monetary aid for non-SROs and individuals.
3. Non-SROs may apply for ad hoc funding as many times as needed throughout the fiscal year, but only once per event. Multiple applications for ad hoc funding for the same event will be denied.
4. Any approved ad hoc funds are only good for the event for which they were approved. Any unused portion of ad hoc funding for that specific event may be re-appropriated and placed back into the GSS account.
5. All monetary allocations given by GSS must comply with all University regulations.
6. Procedure
 - a. The ad hoc funding request must be submitted to the GSS at least one month prior to the event. However, the GSS reserves the right to review ad hoc funding requests that do not comply with the previously stated deadline as necessary.
 - b. The ad hoc funding request must be accompanied by the appropriate funding request form(s) and supporting documentation available on the GSS website. The request may include the following:
 - i. A brief explanation of the nature and purpose of the requesting organization with specific attention to graduate student participation
 - ii. A brief explanation of the event or purpose for which the funds are requested
 - iii. The specific amount of total funds requested
 - iv. An itemized budget for the event or purpose detailing anticipated expenses for the proposed event
 - v. All other committed and requested funding sources for the event
 - vi. Estimates of any funds to be raised by the event

B. Discretionary Funding

1. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to use discretionary funds not to exceed \$500 per calendar month on any expenses deemed necessary for the operation and function of the GSS.
2. The Finance Committee shall have the authority to use discretionary funds not to exceed \$250 per calendar month on any expenses deemed necessary for the operation and function of the GSS.

- C. GSS Expenses
 - 1. Before the GSS spends funds outside the scope of Article IX Section B, including GSS-hosted events, a vote of the GSS is required. A simple majority is required to pass said vote.

Article X. Junior Senators

- A.
 - 1. See Article III Section H for procedures on the election and number of Junior Senator seats.
 - 2. Junior Senators are non-voting members of the GSS.
 - 3. Junior Senators can be non-voting members of GSS committees.
 - 4. If a Senator is unable to attend a meeting, that Senator may proxy their vote to a Junior Senator. In such case, the Vice President must be informed prior to the meeting.
 - a. A Junior Senator serving as a proxy will count toward the quorum for that meeting.
 - 5. If a Senator resigns or leaves office, their Junior Senator shall have the first right of refusal to fill that Senate seat.
 - a. If there are multiple Junior Senators, the first right of refusal will go to the Junior Senator who received the most votes in the Spring election, and will proceed in order of next highest number of votes.
 - b. If all Junior Senators were appointed, the first right of refusal will go to the Junior Senator who was appointed first, and will proceed in order of next earliest date of appointment.

Article XI. Amendment Procedure

- A.
 - 1. Any Senator may propose an amendment to these Bylaws.
 - 2. The proposal for an amendment shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at least one week before the Senate or Special Meeting where it will be presented. Amendment proposals shall include:
 - a. Reason for the proposed amendment
 - b. The original article (if applicable)
 - c. The proposed amendment
 - 3. The proposed amendment(s) shall be presented at a Senate or Special Meeting and voted on at the subsequent Senate Meeting.
 - 4. The final vote on all Bylaws amendments shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.
 - 5. No Bylaw may violate any portion of the GSS Constitution.