

B F2020.11

An Amendment to the Fifteenth Chapter Bylaws Creating the Election Code Review and Amendment Formation Task Force and the Internal Affairs Bloc

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function; and,

Whereas, a holistic review of the Election Code would be beneficial to LSA SG in the future; and,

Whereas, it is a widely recognized belief that there are many elements of the Election Code that need to be amended; and,

Whereas, the elections held by LSA SG encompass voter participation numbering in the hundreds or thousands of LSA students; and,

Whereas, dedicating a task force to devote itself to studying the election code and recommending changes (if any should be needed) would be beneficial to LSA SG and the student body as a whole.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Election Code Review and Amendment Formation Task Force (hereafter ECRAFTF) be established; and,

Be it further resolved, that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with Appendix A; and,

Be it further resolved, that the ECRAFTF be located under the Internal Review Committee in its bloc.

Be it further resolved, that the Bylaws be renumbered in a subsequent Minor Bylaw Edit action, to be undertaken by the Counsel; and,

Be it further resolved, that the ECRAFTF report weekly to the General Assembly; and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

Be it further resolved, that a chair and vice-chair be internally elected to lead the ECRAFTF; and,

Be it further resolved, that the purpose of ECRAFTF shall be “to review and suggest amendments to the Election Code of College of Literature, Science, and the Arts”; and,

Be it further resolved, that the membership of the ECRAFTF shall be open to all members of the government; and,

Be it finally resolved, that the Counsel shall advise the ECRAFTF on matters related to the Bylaws, Constitution, history, and traditions of LSA SG and shall attend its meetings.

**THE COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BYLAWS**

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Chapter 15

Internal Affairs Bloc

15.00.00 Purpose. *The Internal Affairs Bloc shall work to improve the functioning of the government.*

15.00.01 Head Committee. *The Head Committee of the Internal Affairs Committee Bloc shall be the Internal Review Committee.*

Internal Review Committee

15.001.00 Purpose. The purpose of the Internal Review Committee (hereafter IRC) shall be to review changes to bylaws, resolutions and constitutional amendments concerning the content, grammar and structure. The IRC shall also promote our connection with LSA students by reviewing constituent complaints brought against any action of the Government. Additionally the IRC shall work with each individual committee to maintain the institutional integrity and strength of the committees. Furthermore, IRC shall work to promote a comprehensive history of the Government using data compiled by previous Historians to inform those who are interested in the traditions and practices of the Government.

15.001.01 Composition. The Chair of the Internal Review Committee shall be the Counsel.

Duties of the Internal Review Committee

15.002.00 Complaints against Government Actions. In order that our constituents have a greater sense of connection with their government, this shall be the system that the Government shall follow.

(a) **Motion.** Any constituent of the College may bring up a complaint against the Government. The complaint must be sent in writing and through a form made available on the LSA SG Website. The form shall include details such as the constituent(s) name(s), specific government action, justification for the complaint, and requests from the government.

(b) **Internal Review Committee.** The Committee shall ascertain what action should be taken because of the motion. Should the constituent request be unclear or misunderstood, the Committee shall refer back to the constituent(s) for further information. Based on information given by the constituents, the Committee may decide by majority whether to give this motion to the committee or Government, to reject or to abstain from the motion.

(c) **Seeking Committee and Government Action.** The Committee shall inform and recommend to the Steering Committee any actions that should be taken concerning the constituent's plea. Should the constituent's complaint concern a bylaw, constitutional amendment or resolution, the IRC must report any recommendations and actions taken to all committees and representatives concerned. The IRC may mediate a discussion between the constituent and the Government to

understand what can be done. The Government and concerned committee(s) shall then respond to the constituent's request.

(d) **Information.** At each stage, the IRC shall remain in contact with the constituent(s) until the matter has been settled by the Government.

(e) **Appeal.** In recognition of the fact that an appeals process is integral to ensuring a fair process, the IRC acknowledges that there is no internal mechanism for appealing Government decisions and as such designates the Central Student Judiciary as the Court of Appeals for all Government decisions. This appeals process will follow the procedures set forth in the Central Student Judiciary Manual of Procedure for appeals.

15.0#2.01 **Bylaw, Resolution and Constitutional Changes.** The IRC is able to help any member of the Government with the drafting, revising and editing of bylaws, resolutions and constitutional changes. The IRC's main task in this duty is to anticipate potential friendly and unfriendly amendments by reducing the number of friendly amendments and discussing potential problems within constitutional amendment, bylaw and resolution changes. This is done to encourage fruitful discussion of amendments, bylaws and resolutions in Steering Committee and General Government meetings.

15.0#2.02 **Committee Review.** The IRC shall work with each committee to create an action plan for committees to retain and find new members, develop their institutional memory and produce government projects. The IRC shall encourage committees to use the reports of previous administrations to review current practices and update their bylaws accordingly.

Election Code Improvement Task Force

15.03.00 Purpose. The Election Code Review and Amendment Task Force (hereafter ECRAFTF) shall review and suggest amendments to the Election Code of College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

15.03.01 Scope. The ECRAFTF shall meet weekly to discuss matters related to the Election Code of College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The ECRAFTF shall suggest amendments to the Election Code of College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to the government.

15.03.02 Task. The task of the ECRAFTF shall be to determine the best set of guidelines by which the government should conduct its elections, and offer amendments to bring these suggestions to fruition.

15.03.03 Leadership. The ECRAFTF shall be led by a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by the government.

15.03.04 Expiration. The ECRAFTF shall be dissolved, and the relevant chapters in the Bylaws eliminated, once:

- (a) It is the opinion of the leadership of the ECRAFTF that no further changes need to be made to the Election Code; or,*
- (b) An amendment is adopted by the government that repeals and replaces the Election Code; or,*
- (c) The government votes to dissolve the ECRAFTF; or,*
- (d) If none of the above conditions are met by January 1, 2021, the ECRAFTF shall be automatically dissolved.*

15.03.05 Membership. All government members may attend and participate in meetings of the ECRAFTF. Any Election Director hired by the government is welcome to attend meetings of the ECRAFTF and provide their input on the Election Code, though this is not required.

15.03.06 Meetings. The weekly meetings of the ECRAFTF shall be held on the same day as IRC.