To Allow Committee Appointment of Regional Campus Student Representatives

Description: This legislation is to amend the constitution of the Utah State Student Association to allow for the appointment of Regional Campus Student Representatives, and to amend the bylaws to enumerate the processes, rules, and requirements to be used to do so should the amendment be approved by the Utah State University student body.

WHEREAS Student participation in student government on the Utah State University Regional Campus locations is extremely low;

WHEREAS Many students have expressed that the elections process is a determining factor in their decisions not to pursue student government positions;

WHEREAS It is necessary to have qualified and dedicated student officers to fulfill the mission statement of the Utah State University Student Association;

WHEREAS It is desirable to maintain some student government positions as directly elected to allow for student oversight of their student government;

WHEREAS It is vital for students to have a voice in selecting those who represent them;

WHEREAS The constitution of the Utah State University Student Association should therefore be amended to allow for the direct appointment of Regional Campus Student Representatives by a committee consisting of both administration and student members;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED THAT: Article IV, Section 1 of the USUSA Constitution shall be amended to include subsection B that shall read:

“B. Regional Campus Student Representatives shall be selected from a pool of qualified applicants by a committee made up of at least two staff/faculty representatives and three student representatives from the service region or campus the student will represent. The application process, committee make up, and rules of conduct for the applicants and committee shall be enumerated in and governed by the Election Bylaws (See Article III, Section 7).
a. Should the selection committee fail to choose a qualified candidate by April 1, the position shall be considered vacant and selection of an officer to fill that position shall occur per Article IV, Section 3.2 of this constitution by no later than 5 business days before the scheduled inauguration day.”

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT:** Article IV, Section 3 of the USUSA Constitution shall be amended to include subsection B that shall read:

“B. Vacancies of appointed Regional Campus Student Representatives shall be filled as determined by the Executive Vice-President for that service region with consultation from the RC President, Executive Director or Dean and USUSA Advisor for that service region, and approved by a majority vote of the Regional Campus Executive Council. Officers so appointed shall serve the remainder of the one-year term.”

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT** The Election Bylaws of the Utah State University Student Association be amended in order to govern the process for selecting committee members, managing the application process, selection of the appointed Student Representative, and procedures to take if a candidate is not selected in a timely manner, should the proposed constitutional amendment be approved by the student body, as follows:

Section I.A shall be amended to read “All candidates, including write-ins and applicants for appointment, shall qualify according to Article III, Section 3 of the USUSA Constitution (the following section related to eligibility is a summary from the constitution and should be automatically updated).”

Sections I.B.2 shall be amended to read: “If after election or appointment a USUSA officer does not maintain good standing in any sense, then the following terms of probation will apply.”

The current Section I.D shall be renamed as Section I.E

Section I shall be amended with a new subsection D that shall read:

“D. Candidates applying for a Regional Campus Student Representative position:

1. Applicants for Regional Campus Student Representative positions will not participate in any elections related events as a candidate unless running for an elected USUSA position in the same year, participating in a role discharging duties of a currently held USUSA office, or at the
request of the Regional Campus Council and with the approval of the appropriate Executive Director or Dean for that service region.

2. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements of an elected USUSA officer as enumerated in Article III, Section 3 of the USUSA Constitution.

3. Applicants must abide by the Election Bylaws.”

Section I.E shall be amended to read “E. Candidate/Applicant Requirement Appeals 1. Truly extenuating circumstances may be cause to appeal candidate/applicant eligibility. 2. The Student Hearing Board may grant exception to candidate/applicant requirements based on circumstance. Those wishing to appeal eligibility requirements, see TSC 326.”

Section II.A.2 shall be renumbered to subheading 3.

Section II.A shall be amended with a new subheading 2 to read: “A signed and completed Application for Consideration form is required to be an official candidate for a Regional Campus Student Representative position.”

Section II.A shall be amended with a new subheading 4 to read: “Applications for Regional Campus Student Representative positions shall open on the same day as those for elected positons, and close 5 business days following final elections.”

Section II.A shall be amended with a new subheading 5 to read: “If the selection committee fails to choose a Regional Campus Student Representative by April 1, the office shall be considered vacant and filled as outlined in the USUSA Constitution (See Article IV, Section 3.2) by the next meeting of the RC Executive Council to enable the officer to be inaugurated with the other officers.”

Section II subsection B shall be amended to add “Applicants for Regional Campus Student Representative positions are not required to attend the campaign meeting; however, they are highly encouraged to.”

Section III shall be amended to include subsection F to read “Applicants for a Regional Campus Student Representative positions are not subject to the requirements of Section III, but shall be subject to the rules established in Section VI.”

Section IV shall be amended to include subsection B to read “Applicants for a Regional Campus Student Representative position to be selected by appointment are strictly
prohibited from spending on campaigning or lobbying committee members in any way
during the application and interview process.”
Section V.J.A.1.a shall be amended to read: “A.1.a Pursuant to Article V of the USUSA
Constitution, the USUSA Hearing Board will hear all election and application for
appointment grievances.”
Section V.J.A.1.a.1.b shall be amended to include subsection i to read: “i. During the
application period for a Regional Campus Student Representative position, any charges
of violations of the bylaws will be submitted in writing to the Hearing Board within 24
hours of the incident, but no later than the closing of the application period.”
Section V.J.A.1.a.1.c shall be amended to read: “c. If a violation to these bylaws comes to
light after the final election results or appointment selections have been announced, a
complainant may file a grievance until noon on the day of inauguration.”
Section V.J.A.1.a.1.e shall be amended to read: “e. Election or selection results for”
Section V.J.A.1.a.1.f shall be amended to read:
“f. Candidates and applicants will be responsible for submitting grievances for his/her
own campaign or application.

I. Any student must file a grievance who was affected by or a direct witness to a
violation of these bylaws by applicants, committee members, campaigns, or those
campaigning for ballot issues.
Section V.J.A.1.a.1.h shall be amended to read: “h. Explanation of how to file a
grievance will be discussed at the mandatory elections meeting, or for applicants for
Regional Campus Student Representative positions in their application packet.”
Section V.J.A.2.v shall be amended to read: “Disqualification of candidate(s) or
applicant(s);
Section V.J.A.2.vi shall be amended to read: “Fines to be paid”
Section V.J.A.2 shall be amended to include subsection vii to read: “vii. Invalidation of
all applications for a Regional Campus Student Representative position, and ordering a
new application period;”
Section V.J.A.2 shall be amended to include subsection viii to read: “viii. Removal of
Selection Committee member(s) and reconsideration of applications;”
Section V.J.A.2 shall be amended to include subsection ix to read: “ix. Or a declaration that due to extreme violations of the USUSA Bylaws/Constitution, that a Regional Campus Student Representative position is to be considered vacant and subject to appointment pursuant to Article IV, Section 3.2 of the USUSA Constitution.”

Section VI shall be added to the Bylaws and shall read:

Section VI. Appointment of Regional Campus Student Representatives

A. Regional Campus Student Representatives shall be filled through an application, interview, and selection process managed by a selection committee per the USUSA Constitution (see Article IV) and defined within these bylaws.

B. Eligibility
   a. Applicants for Regional Campus Student Representative positions must meet the eligibility requirements for USUSA officers as described in Article III, Section 3 of the USUSA Constitution.

C. Application
   a. The application for consideration to be a USUSA Regional Campus Student Representative will be created, and updated as needed, by the elections committee to maintain a standard application across all service regions.
   b. Section II of these bylaws governs the timeline for distributing and accepting applications.

D. Selection of Appointed Applicant
   a. The appointed applicant will be the applicant receiving the most votes from the selection committee members.

E. Duties and Responsibilities
   a. The duties of appointed USUSA Regional Campus Student Representative are outlined in the USUSA Constitution, Article II. Applicants are expected to be familiar with those duties prior to being selected to fill the office.

F. Probation and Removal from Office
a. Probation steps for all USUSA officers are outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the USUSA Constitution. Steps governing the removal of appointed USUSA officers are outlined in Article IV, Section 4 of the USUSA Constitution.

G. Selection Committee

a. Plurality to effect

i. All actions to be taken by the committee must be voted on, and will be passed if a majority of committee members vote in favor of the action.

b. Makeup

i. The Selection Committee will consist of the Executive Director or Dean for the service region, the USUSA Advisor for the service Region, the current USUSA Executive Vice-President for the service region, and two additional students enrolled in a majority of their classes at a campus in that service region.

ii. Student Selection Committee members will be selected by the chairperson with consultation from the Executive Director/Dean and USUSA Advisor of the service region the committee is formed within, however final selection of student members is the prerogative of the chairperson. The committee is encouraged to include the incoming USUSA VP.

iii. The Selection Committee will be chaired by the current USUSA Executive Vice-President for the service region, unless that individual is precluded from serving on the committee due to a conflict of interest or due to hardship. In this event, the chair shall be the USUSA officer appointed in their stead per subheading iv.

iv. Selection Committee members may be replaced in case of hardship or conflict of interest as long as the staff to student balance is maintained with approval of the RC Executive Council. The exception to this policy is the committee spot
held by the USUSA Executive Vice-President, who must be
replaced by another current USUSA elected officer to be
appointed by the current RC President.

c. Responsibilities of Selection Committee Members
   i. It is the responsibility of Selection Committee members to
      report conflicts of interest to the chairperson, or in the case of
      the chairperson to the RC Executive Council, in a timely
      manner.
   ii. Selection Committee members must be present at all meetings
       of the committee, or request a discharge from the committee
       due to hardship.

d. Meeting Requirements
   i. All meetings of the selection committee must be open
      meetings, except those in which candidate interviews are
      conducted.

e. Mandatory Meetings
   i. Pre-Application Period Meeting
      1. The committee must meet once prior to the opening of
         applications in order to establish the committee
         membership and to review the application and bylaws.
         If the committee determines any changes are needed,
         then the proposed changes shall be submitted to the
         Elections Committee in a timely manner. Proposed
         changes should be submitted no later than November 16
         to allow time for consideration. Should this be
         necessary, a second meeting of the selection committee,
         prior to the opening of the application period, is
         required to vote to accept the bylaws and application.
   ii. Interviews
      1. The committee must meet after the application deadline
         to conduct interviews of the applicants.
iii. Selection Meeting
   1. The committee must meet a final time to select the final candidate(s) to be named Regional Campus Student Representative(s)

f. Interviewing Candidates
   i. Candidates must be interviewed in an impartial manner conforming to university human resource standards (e.g. all candidates must be asked the same questions as other candidates, questions may not violate sexual harassment or equal opportunity policies, etc.).
   ii. The exact interview process is left to the individual service regions, but must conform to university human resource standards. The chosen process must be documented and kept on file in case needed for Hearing Board proceedings.
   iii. Any ranking forms, notes, or other materials must be retained in case of their need in Hearing Board proceedings as outlined in the USUSA Constitution (See Article V).

g. Selecting Candidates
   i. The applicant receiving the majority of votes from committee members during the Selection Meeting shall be appointed to the position.
   ii. Official notification of the appointed applicant for a position must be made within 24 hours of the committee vote to select an appointed applicant.

h. Conflicts of Interest
   i. Family members or spouses of applicants may not serve as selection committee members in any role.
   ii. Applicants for Regional Campus Student Representative positions are ineligible to serve as selection committee members in any role.
iii. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest is considered grounds for a grievance to be filed with the USUSA Hearing Board.

iv. If the conflict of interest is not disclosed or discovered prior to inauguration, and may have resulted in the applicant being selected for the position, steps to remove the officer may be taken pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the USUSA Constitution.

H. Deviations
   a. Any deviations from the bylaws set forth in Section IV must be submitted in writing to the RC Executive Council, and be approved by a majority vote prior to being put into effect.

I. Grievances
   a. Any grievances regarding the application process, conduct of the selection committee, or final results will be heard by the USUSA Hearing Board pursuant to Article V of the USUSA Constitution using the process enumerated in Section V, subsection J of these bylaws.

Tags: 
Sponsor: Michael Booth
Co-Sponsors: Bobbie Booth
ECR 2017-01

To Allow Committee Appointment of Regional Campus Student Representatives

Policy Paper

Committee: Executive Council


Absent: None

History:

This issue was first brought to the 2016-2017 Regional Campus Executive Council during our November 17, 2016 meeting by Taylor Adams, Project Coordinator SR. During discussions at that meeting, it was brought up that under the current form of student government we are not having a lot of participation on the regional campus locations. Ms. Adams relayed that an idea was proposed after last year’s fee board meeting that some of the officers be appointed rather than elected. Several of our current officers spoke in support of the idea. With Cassie Earl, the Salt Lake Campus Executive Vice-President, pointing out that when open for election there was limited interest in the position, but when they had to appoint to fill a vacancy there were twelve applicants.

The consensus was that an application process with final officer selection by committee appointment would be preferable to the current election method. While a majority of the council was in favor of exploring the issue, it was decided to postpone any further discussion at that time due to the approved absence of some council members. In the December 8, 2016 executive council meeting, the issue was brought up again. After explaining the issue and receiving input from the individuals absent from the November meeting, it was decided to pursue legislation on the issue to bring the question to the student body. The writing of the legislation was assigned to the Tooele Regional Campus Council.

Purpose:
This legislation is intended to address the low numbers of interested and qualified applicants for student representative positions for the Regional Campus Student Government. By changing the current election system to one of application, interview, and appointment, the Regional Campus Executive Council hopes to encourage more student interest in serving as a Student Representative for the regional campus sites.

The legislation will amend the USUSA Constitution to allow Student Representatives to be appointed by a committee after an application and interview process. The committee will be made up of at least two administrators and three students from the campus location or service region that representative is serving. The process will be designed to ensure fairness and openness in the process and selection, while ensuring that the candidates understand the qualifications and responsibilities required of them. Provisions for retaining the current eligibility requirements, probation system, officer removal proceedings, and a procedure for appointing an officer if the committee fails to make a selection in a timely manner will be included.

Pros:

- Increased participation in student government positions
- More control over ensuring student representatives are qualified for the position

Cons:

- Less control for students to choose who represents them
- The possibility of a perception of favoritism for the representatives selected by committee
- Does not guarantee increased participation in student government