ASG GSC Bill 6
2015-2016

A BILL TO STOP THE STANDING RULES OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS FROM EXPIRING BETWEEN TERMS

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§1 Purpose:
This Bill will amend section 1 of the standing rules of the Graduate Student Congress (GSC) to formally remove the requirement that the standing rules expire at the end of each legislative term.

§2 Motivation:
It is standard procedure for any legislative body to, at the beginning of its term, approve a set of standing rules which govern its operation. Currently, the standing rules of the GSC expire at the end of each term, and it is unofficially the responsibility of the newly elected leadership at the beginning of the new term to propose a set of standing rules for the body to approve. This is problematic for a few reasons.

The sections regarding the GSC in the Constitution and Code are unusually barren. Almost all rules regarding the operation of the GSC are in the standing rules, which expire annually. This leaves the GSC with very little permanent structure, and could keep it from operating effectively in future years.

Additionally, in the period of time between the end of the previous term and the start of the next term, no standing rules exist. This bestows unfair influence on the standing rules by the newly-elected leadership of the GSC. In this period of time, the standing rules are vulnerable, and can be freely altered by the newly-elected leadership. Even though the new representatives must approve the new set of rules at the first meeting of the new term, there is no guarantee that all new representatives will have read and fully understand the standing rules before approving them.

Furthermore, the high turnover rate of student government organizations means institutional memory is often low. Most representatives will not serve for longer than two years, meaning new representatives have no way to reference past operation of the GSC, and therefore may have trouble properly evaluating the appropriateness of the new set of standing rules.

§3 Effect:
This resolution will adopt the current set of standing rules as a permanent but living document that will carry over between legislative terms. Representatives agree to abide by the standing rules when they are elected, in the same manner that they agree to abide by the Constitution and Code. This scenario ensures the construction of the best possible set of standing rules by safeguarding the important amendments made by previous congresses while allowing their continued evolution via incremental changes by current and future congresses. The standing rules can still be changed or suspended at any time by majority vote.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE,

That section 1 of the standing rules of the GSC be amended with the following subsections:

(C) These standing rules can only be amended or suspended by a majority vote of the GSC.

(D) These standing rules will not expire.

Official Use Only

Amendments: ________________________________

Vote Count: Aye _______ Nay _______ Abstentions _______

Legislation Status: Passed _____ Failed ______ Other _______

___________________________ __________________
Scout Johnson, ASG GSC Speaker Date

___________________________ __________________
Tanner Bone, ASG President Date