



NATURAL SCIENCES COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN - COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

T.S. Painter Hall (PAI 2.44), 103 W 24th St, Austin, TX 78712 • utnsc.org

N.S.C.B. 2301

A Bill to Split the Role of the Senate Representative and the Legislative Committee Chair Into Two Positions

Legislative Executive Summary

Currently in NSC, the Senate Representative also serves as the Legislative Committee Chair. This not only imposes a burden on the role itself, but hinders advocacy within council as committee, council, and external legislative initiatives are managed by one member. This has come across as a concern from the previous Senate Representatives who have served in this position.

The purpose of this bill is to separate the role of the Senate Representative and the Legislative Committee Chair into two positions, to strengthen the advocacy efforts in CNS. The main benefit of separating these positions is to place a greater emphasis on the implementation of legislation, which would be the primary role of the Senate Representative. The Legislative Committee Chair would be in charge of primarily working with members of the Legislative Committee to write pieces of legislation based on issues within the college.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will be the role of the Senate Representative?

A: The Senate Representative will be an elected position that serves as an external role (outside the scope of the Legislative Committee). This position will be responsible for advocating for NSC at Senate General Assemblies, oversee implementation of passed resolutions in collaboration with college administration, and work with general members on their initiatives.

Q: What will be the role of the Legislative Committee Chair?

A: The Legislative Committee Chair will be an application-based position that serves as an internal role (focusing on members within the Legislative Committee). This position will ensure that members in the Legislative Committee are well equipped with the resources to work on initiatives and write pieces of legislation, based on problems with the college. In addition, this position will attend all Legislative Committee-based initiative meetings in coordination with college administration during the drafting stage of the legislative process.

Q: How will the election procedure change?

A: The election procedure will not change. If this bill is passed, the election process for the Senate Representative will remain a nomination and voting procedure, as stated in Articles 1 and 2 of the NSC Election Code. The only change will be for members interested in applying for the Legislative Committee Chair position. As outlined in Article 3 of the NSC Election Code, the Legislative Committee Chair must submit the chair application and be appointed by the Elected Executive Board, as with all other committee chairs in NSC.

Q: When will this bill take effect?

A: This bill will take effect immediately. If passed, the elections for the 2023-2024 academic year will separate the role of the Senate Representative and the Legislative Committee Chair.



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N.S.C.B. 2301

A Bill to Separate the Role of the Senate Representative and the Legislative Committee Chair Into Two Separate Positions

February 2nd, 2023

Introduced in The Natural Sciences Council on 6th of February, 2023 • Voted on in The Natural Sciences Council on 13th of February, 2023 • The Bill (Passed/Failed) with (#) votes in favor and (#) against and (#) abstentions

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- WHEREAS,** as of February 2nd, 2022, the Senate Representative also serves as the Legislative Committee Chair for the Natural Sciences Council; and,
- WHEREAS,** this not only imposes a burden on the role itself, but hinders advocacy within council as committee, council, and external initiatives are managed by one member; and,
- WHEREAS,** Natural Sciences Council Executive Board is made up of 14 members, as of February 2nd, 2022; and,
- WHEREAS,** separating the positions of the Senate Representative and Legislative Committee Chair to create a 15-member Executive Board will strengthen the advocacy agenda of the college to better serve the needs of the CNS student body; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Senate Representative would work on implementation of legislation that has been passed by council, present Senate legislation at NSC meetings, and oversee the NSC general member voting process; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Legislative Committee Chair would work with the Legislative Committee on specific initiatives and draft legislation that tackles problems within CNS; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Senate Representative coordinate and present a Legislative Workshop for the New Members with assistance from the Legislative Committee Chair; therefore, be it,



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RESOLVED, Article 3 of the Natural Sciences Council (Section 3) is amended as follows:

3.5.5 Senate Representative shall:

- a) Attend all Senate of College Councils meetings and NSC meetings.
- b) Serve on the Senate of College Councils Senate Representative Committee
- c) Report Senate activities to the Council, and Council activities to the Senate
- d) Collaborate with Internal Senate, Other Councils, UT Student Government, and the UT Graduate Student Assembly.
- e) Present Senate legislation to Council, conduct discussion and debate, and vote on behalf of Council at Senate meetings.
- ~~f) Chair the Legislative Committee.~~
- g) Send all NSC Resolutions to the listed recipients, **oversee the implementation of passed resolutions in collaboration with college or university administration**
- h) Update the Executive Board and the Council At-Large on the implementation of any piece of Legislation with an NSC-associated author or sponsor passed in the two preceding semester. This must occur prior to the end of each semester.
- i) Update the NSC Constitution during the annual transition period between Executive Committees.
- j) **Coordinate** ~~Serve on~~ the Dean's Student Advisory Committee **in conjunction with the NSC President**
- k) Meet with the Editor-In-Chief of the Daily Texan and Equity and Inclusion Director of the Senate of College Councils in order to update and maintain the UT Austin Sexual Misconduct Database



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RESOLVED, Article 4 of the Natural Sciences Council (Section 2) is amended as follows:

4.2.5 Legislative Committee Chair shall:

- a) ~~Be filled by the current Senate Representative.~~
- b) Create Resolutions relevant to the academic interests of the CNS student body.
- c) Create Bills pertaining to modifying the structure of NSC.
- d) **Assist in** ~~Oversee~~ the implementation of passed resolutions.
- e) Work with the Legislative Committee and the Executive Committee to set topics for and manage bi-weekly Policy Sub-Committee meetings.
- f) Ensure that legislation written by NSC advances the principles of equity and inclusion and does not disproportionately harm any groups.

RESOLVED, That this bill takes effect immediately.

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