Amendment 26-2-A

Sponsors:

1. *Lydia Stein – At-Large
2. Sophie Spier- President
3. Andrew Sharples-Schmidt – Chief of Staff
4. Dominic Delahoyde – Finance Chair
5. Jacki Mollison – Government Affairs Chair
6. Noah Johnson – Communications Chair
7. Brenda Khatthanam – Diversity Liaison
8. Noelle Dunn – Senator of CNS
9. Kailee Loofe - Senator At-Large
10. Elena Andrews – Senator At-Large
11. Megan Christoffels - Vice President
12. Savannah Kloster - Senator At-Large

Title of Amendment: The SDSU Students' Association Amends Article V, Section 2 of its Bylaws to Reform College Senator Petition Requirements.

WHEREAS: The South Dakota State University Students' Association conducts annual elections to select student representatives; and,

WHEREAS: These elections provide students with the opportunity to elect representatives who advocate for their interests within the university; and,

WHEREAS: College-based representation is an important component of ensuring that students across SDSU's academic colleges have a voice in student governance; and,

WHEREAS: Current election bylaws require College Senator candidates to obtain 50 signatures or 3.5% of their respective college's population, whichever is less, exclusively from students within their college, with a separate requirement of 25 signatures for Graduate School candidates; and,

WHEREAS: The current petition requirements can present a barrier for interested students who wish to pursue candidacy but experience difficulty obtaining the required signatures from within their respective colleges; and,

WHEREAS: The primary challenge of seeking elected office should be earning the support of students through an effective campaign rather than overcoming unnecessary barriers to ballot access; and,

WHEREAS: Allowing candidates to obtain a portion of their required signatures from the broader student body would simplify the nomination process while maintaining a requirement for support from within their respective colleges; and,

WHEREAS: Simplifying the nomination process could encourage greater interest in College Senator positions, increase the number of candidates completing petitions, and promote more competitive elections; therefore,

BE IT AMENDED: that Article V Section 2 of the SDSU Student's Association will read as follows:

Section 2. Elections

1. Nominating procedures
    a. Candidates shall be nominated by petition to be available for distribution not later than the fifth week preceding the corporation elections.
    b. Petitions shall be signed by 50 corporation members ~~in the candidate's college or division,~~ or 3.5% of the college population, whichever is less, with the exception of the Graduate School, where candidates need 25 signatures. A minimum of 50% of the required signatures shall come from the candidate's respective college.
    c. Petitions must be filed in the corporation office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the second week preceding the corporation elections.
    d. The Office of Student Affairs will check for the validity of the petitions.
    e. The names of the candidates shall be published in the issue of the corporation newspaper following the filing deadline.