



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. 2103

A Bill to Grant Inactive Members the Right to Vote in Executive Committee Elections

Legislative Executive Summary

Currently, only active members (who are not new members) are allowed to vote in Executive Committee elections, per the NSC Election Code. Inactive members who are not graduating at the end of their inactive semester are currently not allowed to vote. Some of these inactive members have expressed a desire to vote as all inactive members already have at least one full semester of active membership in NSC, and inactive members who are not graduating at the end of their inactive semester will have at least one full semester of active membership in NSC after the end of their inactive semester. This bill grants those inactive members the right to vote in executive committee elections, given that they meet any requirements set forth by the Election Committee. This is intended to grant greater representation to those individuals who will be active members under a newly-elected executive board but cannot currently vote for who will comprise that board.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is this bill necessary?

A: In order to ensure that all voices are heard in the executive board election process, it is imperative that everyone who is qualified to vote should be allowed to do so. Currently, inactive members are not considered eligible voting members. These members, except those who are inactive their graduating semester, have previously served at least one full semester in NSC and will continue to serve at least one more semester in NSC. As a result, these individuals will have the requisite experience in order to make informed decisions as to who to vote for in officer elections. These individuals will also serve in NSC under the newly elected executive committee, thus they deserve to make their opinions heard as well. These were all concerns brought to the executive committee by NSC members.

Q: How can we be sure that inactive members will be informed enough to vote in elections?

A: The bill grants the Election Committee the right to institute certain requirements of inactive members before they are allowed to vote in officer elections. These requirements could include attending the general meetings during which candidates present their platforms or demonstrating knowledge of the platforms themselves. However the election committee chooses to approach the issue, they will be allowed to institute whatever requirements they deem necessary for inactive members to show that they are adequately informed to vote in elections.

Q: Does this apply to all inactive members?

A: The extension of officer election voting rights to inactive members does not include inactive members who are graduating at the end of their inactive semester, provided that elections are being held in that semester. This is because these individuals will not be returning to NSC after their inactive semester, and thus may not necessarily have the need to express their opinion in the elections process.



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. 2103

A Bill to Grant Inactive Members the Right to Vote in Executive Committee Elections

February 8th, 2021

Introduced in The Natural Sciences Council on 2/8/2021 • Voted on in The Natural Sciences Council on 2/24/2021 • The Bill Passed with 60 votes in favor and 7 against and 0 abstentions

- WHEREAS,** inactive members are not currently given the right to vote in officer elections; and,
- WHEREAS,** all inactive members have served at least one full semester as an active member in NSC and have experience with and knowledge of the functions of NSC; and,
- WHEREAS,** inactive members who are not graduating at the end of their inactive semester may return to active status under a new executive committee for whom that member was not allowed to cast a vote; and,
- WHEREAS,** NSC members have expressed their desire to have a voice in the elections process of NSC even while inactive due to the fact that they will be returning to active status under the newly elected executive committee; and,
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative that all eligible voting members in NSC officer elections are adequately informed about the platform positions of all candidates seeking election to the NSC executive committee; and,
- WHEREAS,** when elections were conducted virtually in the Spring 2020 semester, a code word was provided in the middle of the recording in order to allow members who were not present at the meeting to vote in elections and to ensure their viewing of the recordings by ensuring the proper code word was entered in the voting form; and,



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

WHEREAS, the current NSC President and Vice President, who are both graduating seniors and will serve on the Elections Committee for the Spring 2021 elections have provided the following preliminary criteria for requirements for inactive members to vote in Spring 2021 elections:

Due to accommodations made for COVID-19 it will have been possible for a member to be inactive two semesters in a row. For Spring 2021 elections, only inactive members who were active during Fall 2020 will be eligible to vote. These members are highly encouraged to attend every General Meeting that includes a candidate presentation and/or subsequent discussion. If they cannot attend these meetings live and would like to vote, these members are required to prove that they have watched the recordings of candidate presentations by providing a code word stated at some point during the recording in order to verify their viewing of the presentations.

; and,

WHEREAS, the above criteria may serve as a model for potential future requirements set by the elections committee for inactive members to vote in executive committee elections; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Article III of the Natural Sciences Council Election Code is amended as follows:

3.2 Before each officer election can proceed, a quorum of fifty percent of eligible voting members must be established. For the purpose of officer elections, all active members are eligible voting members, except for the spring new member class.

3.2.1 Members who are inactive during an election, and who will not be graduating at the end of their inactive semester, are also considered eligible voting members if they complete the requirements



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

set forth by the Election Committee. The Election Committee may institute requirements for inactive members who intend to vote in officer elections in order to ensure that all eligible voting members are properly informed about the candidates seeking election.

RESOLVED, That this bill takes effect immediately.

AUTHORS, Rohit Prasad, Senate Representative, Natural Sciences Council (he/him/his)

SPONSORS, Eisha Rao, Vice President, Natural Sciences Council (she/her/hers)

Amogh Dambal, Technology Coordinator, Natural Sciences Council (he/him/his)

Brandon Curl, Financial Director, Natural Sciences Council (he/him/his)

Maria Henriquez, Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Natural Sciences Council (she/they)

Bunsri Patel, Professional Development Chair, Natural Sciences Council (she/her/hers)

Dylan Pfannenstiel, Community Involvement Chair, Natural Sciences Council (he/him/his)