

**SCA Bill 5-22-S**

**A Bill to Implement Speaker Pro Tempore and Committee Chair Elections in the Bylaws**

**Whereas:** The current selection of the Speaker Pro Tempore and Committee Chairs are at the unilateral discretion of the Speaker of the Senate.

**Whereas:** The selection of the Speaker Pro Tempore and Committee Chairs can be subject to bias and favoritism.

**Whereas:** New members at the start of a congress year are unlikely to oppose a nominee for Speaker Pro Tempore or a Committee Chair due to lack of familiarity.

**Whereas:** The implementation of an application system is not appropriate for Senate level positions.

**Whereas:** In the spirit of greater transparency, the Senate should be afforded the opportunity to select its own officers and leaders for the most competent leadership possible.

**Whereas:** The Senate shall execute its democratic right to select its leadership by elections of its officers.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 84<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:**

**Section 1:** Article III shall be amended as follows:

**Section 1:** The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall serve as the Speaker of the Senate and preside over its meetings.

**Section 2:** The Speaker of the Senate shall appoint, from within the Senate, a Speaker Pro Tempore. The Speaker Pro Tempore will serve as the Speaker and preside over senate meetings of the Senate in the absence of the Speaker of the Senate. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall retain his/her privilege of voting except when he/she is presiding over senate meetings. The Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate. The Speaker shall allow equal speaking time amongst candidates. In the rare event of a tie, the Speaker may exercise their power to cast a deciding vote.

~~**Section 3:** The Speaker of the Senate, with approval from the Senate, shall also appoint chairpersons to the five standing committees (See Article 4, Committees).~~

**Section 4:** The Secretary of the Senate shall record the minutes of each meeting and keep a file of them, and shall be in charge of recording the roll. The Secretary shall have the same attendance requirements as a Senator. The Secretary shall also maintain a list of each Senator's absences. If a Senator reaches the maximum number of unexcused absences, the Secretary shall report this matter to the Speaker of the Senate and Internal

Affairs Chairman and the impeachment proceedings shall start in accordance with the SGA Constitution. This person shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and shall not be a senator. The Secretary of the Senate shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

**Section 5:** The Parliamentarian position for the Senate shall see that Senate meetings are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order whenever protocol is not addressed in the SGA Constitution or Senate Bylaws. This person shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate. The Parliamentarian shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

**Section 2:** Article V shall be amended as follows:

**Section 1:** There shall be five (5) standing committees of the Senate consisting of Academic Affairs, Internal Affairs (also referred to as the Judiciary Committee), External Affairs, Student Life, and Public Relations.

A. Elections. All committee members present at the time of voting shall have the right to exercise their vote. Committee chairpersons shall be approved by a simple majority via a secret ballot within their respective committees. In the rare event of a tie, the Speaker of the Senate shall be given the rights of a voting member to cast the deciding vote. Chair elects will officially be appointed chair by all present members of the senate at the time of their appointments.

**Section 2:** Legislation shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate ~~which~~ who will then distribute legislation to the appropriate committee. The legislation must find a favorable majority vote in order to reach the Senate floor. It is the responsibility of the appropriate committee to fix all typographical mistakes, so as not to alter the intent of the legislation. The Legislation must be returned to the Speaker of the Senate within five (5) workdays in order to be placed on the following week's agenda.

**Section 3:** This bill shall take effect immediately after favorable passage of the Senate. Its first implementation shall be following the election of the 85<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Sponsors:** *Senator Kap Paul (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)*

**Co-Sponsors:** *Senator Ashton Beatty (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)*

*Senator Christine Adalikuwu (At Large)*

*Senator Zoe Haub (University College)*

*Senator Trinity Henderson (College of Liberal Arts)*

*Senator Rosemary Gutierrez (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)*

*Senator Silas Freeze (College of Business)*

Senator Zoe Spikner (At Large)

  
Speaker of the Senate

  
SGA President

  
VP of Student Affairs