

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA Bill No. HB-2-99S

PASSED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Eric A Spear
Speaker of the House

2-8-99
Date

PASSED SENATE:

Jennifer Ydyora
Speaker of the Senate

2-17-99
Date

APPROVED:

VETOED:

Sara Lawson
SGA President

2-18-99
Date

APPROVED:

VETOED:

Harold Smith
Vice President for Student
Affairs

2/7/99
Date

HB-2-99S

**A BILL TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDING A SEAT IN THE SGA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

Sponsored by: Jerome Hruska, House
Tyson McClannahan, Senate

Whereas: The House of Representatives is designed to be a reference, support, and information source for every organization at MTSU, while continually trying to better the campus community for the immediate students as well as the students of the future.

Whereas: Generally, incoming freshmen and transfer students, in their first semester, are not familiar with the campus of MTSU as a whole or the general concerns of their organization, dealing with the welfare of the student body.

Whereas: Representatives in the House are there to represent their organizations, not their class.

Whereas: There are freshmen senators set up to represent the "freshman class."

Whereas: Generally, incoming freshmen and transfer students, in their first semester, have not had time to develop their own personal opinion dealing with specific issues on the campus of MTSU.

Whereas: The hopes of the SGA are that the students taking part in the House of Representatives are doing so because they are interested in making a difference at MTSU and not because they simply "have to be involved."

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE ENACTED BY THE 61ST CONGRESS OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:**

Section 1: The by-laws of the House of Representatives will be amended to say that "Representatives in the House must have completed at least one semester of classes at MTSU."

Section 2: This bill will take effect in the fall semester of 1999, the student welfare requiring it.

on-campus memo:

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Jason Lawson
Mr. Eric Spear
Ms. Jennifer Sykora

From: Harold C. Smith
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Re: SGA Bill 3-99-S

Date: March 2, 1999

I have reviewed the referenced legislation and express my general support for the notion that student organizations should be involved in the SGA House of Representatives as a condition of eligibility for receipt of awards from the Student Activity Fee. As a practical matter however, I am uncertain as to the viability of such a requirement. Nevertheless, I am forwarding SGA Bill 3-99-S to the Student Activity Fee Committee with the request to consider inclusion of this concept in any future revisions of the Activity Fee Guidelines.

By referring this legislation to another entity on-campus for consideration, you will note that I have treated this legislation as a "resolution", and not a "bill," as designated by the SGA Congress. I believe there is a good deal of confusion concerning the two formats and my respective duty to exercise the approval/veto authority as delegated to the Vice President for Student Affairs by Article V, Section 10, of the SGA Constitution.

A "bill" is legislation that affects the internal structure or processes of the SGA. Examples include the recent amendments to the Comprehensive Electoral Act and the bill establishing the Senate Judiciary and Governmental Affairs Committee as a standing committee within the SGA. The SGA Constitution requires that the VPSA either approve or veto bills. A "resolution", on the other hand, concerns itself with issues over which the SGA has no direct control. For example, the SGA Congress is not responsible for development of Activity Fee Guidelines and has no authority to unilaterally change the institution's promulgated rules involving traffic and parking. These matters must be referred for review and appropriate action to the University department or entity that does have the authority to implement the changes and/or proposals requested. I am not required by the SGA Constitution to approve or veto a resolution.

Mr. Jason Lawson
Mr. Eric Spear
Ms. Jennifer Sykora
March 2, 1999
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I trust that this clarification is helpful to you in understanding the roles of the SGA and the VPSA in dealing with bills and resolutions. Please feel free to consult Dr. Burke, Dr. Hays, or myself should you have questions with regard to the proper format of future proposed legislation.

attachment

cc: Dr. Tom Burke
Dr. Gene Fitch
Mr. Jerome Hruska
Mr. Tyson McClannahan
Mr. Aaron Tallent
Mr. Josh Pounders