

Fall 8-1-1999

## Senate Bill SB-99F-1277 Addresses Necessary Changes to Title IV

Student Government Association  
*University of North Florida*

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



# SENATE LEGISLATION

NUMBER SB-99F-1277

*SB-99F-1277 addresses necessary changes to Title IV.*

- Whereas: The University of North Florida Student Government Association was established to represent student concerns in all university matters and;
- Whereas: Title IV of the University of North Florida Constitution and Statutes is not consistent with federal and state political bodies in that it doesn't allow for the proper forms of legislation and;
- Whereas: Title IV contained numerous ambiguities and illusory contradictions which were rectified in the revised legislation and;
- Therefore: Let it be enacted that the Student Senate alter Title IV to be consistent with the attached revisions.

Respectfully submitted, Obi Umunna CSC Chair

Introduced by Sen. B. Michael Wright

Senate Action Passes 26 -- 2

Date November 3, 1999

Be it known that SB-99F-1277

is hereby PASSED / VETOED on NOV

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of OCT, 19 99

Signature Alexander Diaz

*Student Body President*

## TITLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

### Chapter 400 The Authority of the Legislative Branch

400.1 The powers and duties within the Legislative Branch are derived and defined from the Student Government Association Constitution and Statutes.

- A. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for composing and voting on Student Government Association Constitutional Amendments and Statutes.
- B. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible to represent students in all university matters while developing and promoting activities of practical value and interests to students.
- C. The Legislative Branch shall maintain communication with the student body and the Student Government Association President on matters of concern to students.

~~D. The Legislative Branch shall consider all legislation for the operation of the Student Government Association.~~

- D. The Legislative Branch shall override, when appropriate, a presidential veto of any legislation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members in attendance of the Senate meeting and voting.
- E. The Legislative Branch shall serve as the validating body for all Student Government Association elections.
- F. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for confirming, by a majority vote, any appointments made by the Student Government Association President for the Executive Cabinet.
- G. The Legislative Branch shall approve/disapprove, by a majority vote, all Senate appointments made by the Elections Selections and Appointments Committee.

~~H. The Legislative Cabinet shall make recommendations for Student Government Association standing committees of the Legislative Branch.~~

~~J. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for the Senate Policies and Procedures. The Senate Policies and Procedures is a living document which can only be changed through a standing rule which the student body has no authority.~~

## **Chapter 401 Senate Absences**

### 401.1 Absentee Policy

The Student Government Association Senate Policies and Procedures will dictate the guidelines and procedures for absences in the Student Senate.

## **Chapter 402 Organization of the Student Senate**

### 402.1 Senate Session

#### A. Fall Session

The Fall Session of the Senate shall begin on the first day of fall classes and terminate at the end of the Fall semester.

#### B. Spring Session

The Spring Session of the Senate shall begin on the first day of spring classes and terminate at the end of the Spring semester.

#### C. Summer Session

The Summer Session of the Senate shall begin on the first day of the first week of classes of the earliest academic term and shall terminate at the end of the summer academic term.

#### D. The Student Senate shall adopt its own Polices and Procedures in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and Statutes.

#### E. Except for summer leave of absences, no leave of absence may exceed one (1) week. No Senator may take more than three (3) leaves of absences in one semester. Absences accrued during any further leaves shall be considered unexcused absences. Special exceptions may be granted by the appropriate Senate committee by two-thirds (2/3) vote. Senators currently on leave of absences will be exempt.

## 402.2 Senate Officers

The Senate President shall be responsible for the duties of all vacant Senate Officers. Upon the availability, vacant offices must be filled within two weeks and are subject to confirmation by the Student Senate.

- A. There shall be a Senate President who shall be a Senator and shall be elected by majority vote of the Student Senate (~~i.e. NOT from the Executive or Judicial Branches~~). (S)he shall be the chief legislative officer of the Student Government Association and shall perform duties as provided by Senate Policies and Procedures. The term of this position is for one year (i.e. from the Summer of 1999 to the conclusion of the Spring of 2000).
- B. There shall be a Senate President Pro-Tempore who shall be a Senator elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate ~~and who shall be selected from within the Student Senate~~. (S)he shall assist the Senate President and perform duties as provided by Senate Policies and Procedures. . The term of this position is for one year (i.e. from the Summer of 1999 to the Spring of 2000).
- C. There shall be a Secretary of the Student Senate who shall be appointed by the Senate President, from inside the membership of the Student Senate, and who shall serve at his/her discretion. The Secretary of the Student Senate shall perform duties as provided by Senate Policies and Procedures and as directed by the Senate President.
- D. There shall be a Parliamentarian who shall be selected from within the Student Senate. The Parliamentarian shall, upon request, give advice on parliamentary procedure. (S)he shall maintain the Senate Policies and Procedures.
- E. There shall be a Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall be appointed by the Senate President, subject to confirmation by the Student Senate, from outside the membership of the Student Senate and who shall serve at his/her discretion. (S)he shall attend the Student Senate during its meeting and maintain order under the discretion of the Senate President or Presiding Officer. (S)he shall endorse strictly the rules relating to the privileges of the chamber.
- F. The Senate President and Senate President Pro-Tempore may be removed from those offices as provided by the Senate Policies and Procedures.

- G. Standing Committee Chairs shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate. Elections shall occur upon the convening of a new Senate after the Fall and Spring elections or upon the departure of the sitting Chair.
- H. Upon receipt of a proposed bill, constitutional amendment, or resolution, the Senate President must submit it to the Student Senate within a two (2) week period.

#### 402.3 Calling of Senate Meetings

The Senate President shall be empowered to call Student Senate meetings, and shall call a meeting if petitioned by a majority of the members of Senate holding office at the time the petition is presented with the exception of senators on leave of absence, or if requested by a majority vote of the Student Senate. The Senate President and Pro-Tempore ~~Secretary~~ shall notify Student Senators of all meetings.

#### 402.4 Quorum

A majority of the membership of the Student Senate shall constitute a quorum. Quorum shall be 40% + 1 of the membership of the Student Senate. Membership shall be defined as the total number of Student Senate seats filled on the roster with the exceptions of senators on leave available. Senate Committees shall follow the same guidelines as the Student Senate to establish quorum.

#### 402.5 "Majority" and "Two-Thirds" Votes

A majority vote shall be more than half of the votes cast by Senators entitled to vote, excluding blanks and abstentions, at any properly called meeting at which quorum is present. A two-thirds vote shall be at least two thirds of the votes cast by Senators entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at any properly called meeting at which quorum is present. In both cases "entitled to vote" refers to Senators actually voting, not all Senators formally eligible to vote.

#### 402.6 Proxy Voting

The power of attorney given by one senator to the Senate President to vote in his/her stead on any and all issues. It is allowed to be used in the Student Senate when Senators know they will be absent and (s)he would still like their vote to be counted on any and all issues. The proxy vote must state a vote of "Aye" or "Nay" transcribing the intent of their vote.

The proxy vote will be null and void if the legislation is amended to change the intent of the vote and is subject to discernment by the Senate President.

## **Chapter 403 Form of Legislation**

### 403.1 Bills

Bills shall be legislative proposals to appropriate monies, approve Constitutional amendments and revisions, adopt Statutory amendments and revision and other legislative proposals.

### 403.2 Joint Resolution

A resolution stating the will of the Student Government Association which has the same binding effect as a bill, subject to the veto power of the SGA President and/or two-thirds override by the Student Senate.

### 403.3 Simple Resolutions

- A. Simple resolutions shall be formal expressions of the opinion of the Student Senate. It shall be stated in the resolution that this is the opinion of the student senate only and not the Student Government Association. Simple resolutions shall be adopted by majority vote of the Student Senate and are not subject to Presidential veto.
- B. The Legislative Branch shall be responsible for the Senate Policies and Procedures. The Senate Policies and Procedures is a living document which can only be changed through a simple resolution. Simple resolutions addressing internal policies and procedures require two-thirds vote of the Student Senate and are not subject to the SGA Presidential veto.

### 403.4 Bills subject content; title

- A. The subject of each bill shall be briefly expressed in its title.
- B. If a bill embraces more than one subject, it shall be defined as an Omnibus Bill. A majority vote is required by the Senate committee

to accept an Omnibus Bill, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required by the Student Senate for final passage.

#### 403.5 Enacting Clause - Bills

There shall be an enacting clause on every bill proposed by the Student Senate. It shall read, "Be it enacted by the Student Senate that:"

#### 403.6 Enacting Clause – Joint Resolutions

There shall be an enacting clause on every joint resolution adopted by the Student Government Association. It shall read, "Be it resolved by the Student Government Association that:"

#### 403.7 Enacting Clause – Simple Resolutions

There shall be an enacting clause on every simple resolution adopted by the Student Senate. It shall read, "Be it resolved by the Student Senate only, and not the Student Government Association, that:"

#### ~~403.8 Legislative Intent~~

~~All statutory Bills, upon passage from Senate shall have documentation written by the bills primary sponsor stating the purpose and intent of that Bills.~~

~~A. This documentation of "legislative intent" shall be attached to the Bill when delivered to the Student Government Association President for approval or veto.~~

~~B. A file shall be kept of the statute affected by the primary sponsor and the Senate Secretary.~~

403.9 In cases of spelling errors passed into statutes the Office of the Judiciary is authorized to make such changes in statutes as is necessary to correct such mistakes. In all cases, the substantive intent of the statute must be preserved.

### **Chapter 404 Procedure for Approval of Bills**

#### 404.1 Summation of Bills



- A. The Senate President has five working days, excluding university recognized holidays, to forward all legislation, requiring SGA President signature, to the SGA President.
- B. Failure to comply with this statute will be grounds for a charge of nonfeasance consistent with the impeachment statutes.
- C. Any legislation providing for a proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted directly from the Senate President to the Attorney General.

~~A. The Senate Secretary shall transmit any legislation passed by the Student Senate to the Senate President within two (2) school days after passage.~~

~~B. The Senate President shall transmit any legislation passed by the Student Senate to the Attorney General within two (2) school days after receiving it from the Senate Secretary.~~

~~C. Any legislation providing for a proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted directly from the Senate Secretary to the Attorney General.~~

~~D. All legislation that is not transmitted to the Attorney General within the allotted four (4) days will be referred back to the Student Senate.~~

#### 404.2 Action by the President

- A. Upon receipt of a bill or a joint resolution, the Student Government Association President shall have five (5) days to approve or veto. The Student Government Association President shall then submit the Bill to the Secretary to be posted if approved or sent back to the Student Senate if vetoed.
- B. If the SGA President fails to approve or veto a bill/joint resolution upon the conclusion of five working days, the bill/ joint resolution shall be considered passed without Presidential signature.
- C. In cases where a bill /joint resolution is vetoed by the Student Government Association President, the bill/joint resolution may be amended and sent back to the Student Government Association President as an alternative action on the veto. In this case, amended bills/joint resolutions may be vetoed again by the Student Government Association President.

#### 404.3 Progress Report to Senate

The Senate Secretary shall, before each meeting, confer with the appropriate source ~~the Attorney General~~ to determine what action has been taken by the Student Government Association President on passed bills/joint resolutions and notify the Student Senate during meetings. ~~The Senate Secretary shall report to the Senate President the action taken upon bills. The Senate President shall report to the Student Senate the action taken on the Bill.~~

### **Chapter 405 Publications of Senate Notices**

- 405.1 The Senate shall make available to any UNF student who so requests, copies of any and all proposed Senate Resolutions and Legislation, all enacted Resolutions and Legislation, proposed amendments to the Constitution, and minutes of Senate.
- 405.2 A Senate newsletter may also be published by the Senate to manifest Senate legislative actions.

### **Chapter 406 Terms of Office**

#### 406.1 Term of Office

- A. Student Senate members shall take office upon installation. The term of office shall last from the election from respective Fall/Spring semester to the following respective Fall/Spring semester elections.
- B. Senators shall terminate office at the installation of their successors or when they are no longer qualified to hold office. Senators that are graduating or that are not seeking reelection for the Spring Term will carry their term until the end of the Spring Semester. Those Senators who run in the election and do not get re-elected will have their term expire upon installation and validation of the new Student Senators. If Student Senators are re-elected, he/she must abstain from the installation and validation vote.

HISTORY: SB-96F-961 (November 25, 1996)  
HISTORY: SB-97S-982 (March 13, 1997)  
HISTORY: SB-97S-988 (March 27, 1997)  
HISTORY: SB-99F-1277 (October 20, 1999)