

113th STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Executive Summary

A.B. 7: Amending The Constitution to Establish International Student Representative

According to the Fall 2018 Report done by Texas Global, 5,454 students at the University of Texas at Austin identify as international students¹. At the moment, there are no representatives for this population. As a result, their concerns and needs are overlooked and potentially left unnoticed. Therefore, the establishment of International Student Representatives will resolve this issue. The International Student Representatives will speak on behalf of international students in the Assembly and serve as a platform for international students to address their concerns.

Since international students consist of undergraduate and graduate students, both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to run for the positions. In accordance to the proposed plan, international students who express an interest in running for the positions will have to meet the requirements of completing at least 12 credit hours in-residence for undergraduate students and at least 9 credit hours in-residence for graduate students.

In order to add international student representatives into the Constitution and the Assembly, it requires a referendum vote during the Campus-Wide Spring 2020 Election.

Frequently asked questions:

1. How does the university identify international students?

According to ISSS (International Student Scholar Service) at the University, an international student is “someone who is not a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Texas residency is not a factor in determining whether someone is an international student.”

The Office of Admissions defines students based on three categories, resident of Texas, nonresident, or foreign (international) student². Through the residency status, the Dean of Students office will be able to identify who is eligible to run and to vote for the international student representative.

2. Why are we holding a referendum to add an international student representative to the assembly?

To add international student representatives to the assembly, we need to have a referendum vote to add a position on the UTSG constitution.

3. Who can vote on the referendum?

Based on the Student Government Constitution, all students can vote for the referendum.

4. Who will be eligible to run to be an international student representative?

Student who fulfills UTSG minimum requirements and is not a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

¹ Texas Global. (n.d.). International Students and Scholars by Geographical Region Fall 2018. Retrieved December 2, 2019, from <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/20189snapshot>.

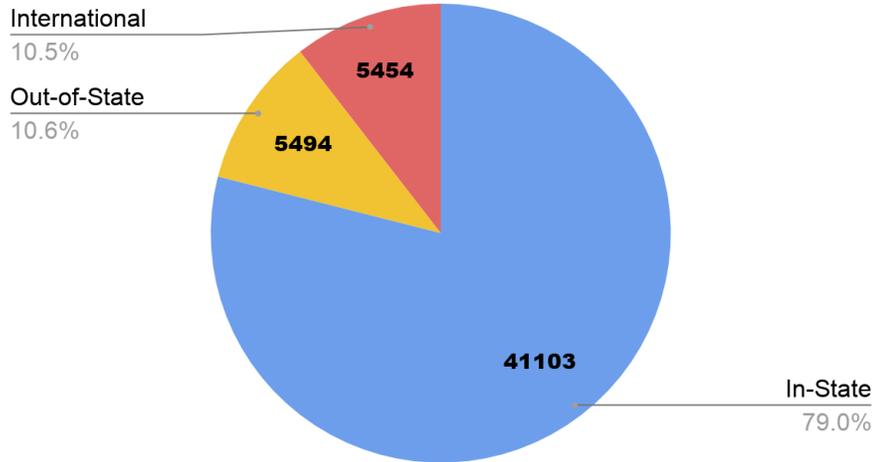
² <https://admissions.utexas.edu/residency#fndtn-residency-establishing-domicile-requirements>

5. What are student's response to adding a new representative to the Student Government Assembly?

6. How many international student representatives will be added?

One international student representative will be added to the Assembly. Based on the number of international students who attend the university, each representative will represent 1: (more or less) 2500 students.

Student Population



A.B. 7

Amending The Constitution to Establish International Student Representatives

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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Sponsors: REPRESENTATIVE HOLLY AINSWORTH (*School of Nursing*), REPRESENTATIVE NORA BALLI (*University-Wide*), REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS FILE (*College of Natural Sciences*), REPRESENTATIVE CAROLINE PEASE (*College of Liberal Arts*), REPRESENTATIVE LAURA PIKE (*Moody College of Communication*), REPRESENTATIVE MARK STEPHENS (*College of Liberal Arts*), SPEAKER JAKOB LUCAS (*Student Government Assembly*), CHAIR KERRY MACKENZIE (*Ethics and Oversight*), REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN COPE (*School of Law*), PRESIDENT CAMRON GOODMAN (*Student Government*)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Sec. 1: Amend Article IV, Section 4 in the Student Government Constitution as follows shown on the addendum below.
- Sec. 2: This bill shall be sent to the Dean of Students, the Deputy Advisory to the Dean of Students and the Vice President of Student Affairs. The ballot for the Fall 2020 Campus-Wide elections shall include this constitutional change so that students may vote on this question: "Do you approve of Constitution Amendment #: Amending the Constitution of Student Government to Create an International Student Representative?"
- Sec. 3: The Speaker shall update the Student Government Constitution and provide an electronic copy to the Communications Director, who shall update the SG website accordingly.
- Sec. 4.1 VESTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE POWER. All legislative powers and authority shall be vested in the legislative branch of Student Government.

- Sec 4.2 COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY. The legislative branch shall be comprised of the Student Government Assembly which shall be made up of college and school, University-wide, at-large graduate, first-year, and International Student representatives.
- Sec. 4.3 SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY. The Assembly shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Assembly, elected from the membership of the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.4 LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE OF THE ASSEMBLY. The Assembly Board shall serve as the leadership committee of the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.5 COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY BOARD. Standing members of the Assembly Board shall include the Speaker of the Assembly, who shall chair the board, and the chairs of the standing committees of the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.6 DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. The total number of college and school representatives shall be annually determined proportionally to the total number of students enrolled in each college at The University of Texas at Austin.
- (a) The total number of college and school representatives shall be determined by the Speaker of the Assembly based upon the enrollment data available from the enrollment figures from the previous fall semester of each school year as published in the annual *Statistical Handbook* by the University's Office of Information Management and Analysis.
- (b) The total number of college and school representatives shall be determined based upon a 1:1500 ration of college and school representatives at-large to students.
- Sec. 4.7 STATISTICALLY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF COLLEGE AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. Each college and school shall have a number of apportioned representatives to be elected by and charged with representing the students of that college or school. The representatives will serve for one-year terms based upon the proportion of the student body enrolled in the respective college or school. The proportion of representation among the college and school representatives of the Assembly for the respective college or school should be as equal as possible to the proportion of the student body enrolled in the respective college or school (including graduate-only, undergraduate-only, or mixed colleges).
- Sec. 4.8 MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS IN-RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLEGE AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. Representatives from the colleges and schools must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours if an undergraduate student or

nine (9) hours if a graduate student in-residence at the University.

- Sec. 4.9 ENROLLMENT IN COLLEGE OR SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLEGE AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. Representatives must be enrolled in the college or school that they represent while filing and while holding office.
- Sec. 4.10 DETERMINING APPORTIONMENT OF COLLEGE AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. The Speaker of the Assembly shall determine the number of electable seats for each college and school based upon the enrollment data available from the enrollment figures from the previous year of each school year as published in the annual *Statistical Handbook* by the University's Office of Information Management and Analysis.
- Sec. 4.11 UNIVERSITY-WIDE REPRESENTATIVES. Eight (8) University-wide representatives shall be elected at-large by the student body and serve one-year terms in the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.12 MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS IN-RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR UNIVERSITY-WIDE REPRESENTATIVES. University-wide representatives must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours if an undergraduate student or nine (9) hours if a graduate student in-residence at the University.
- Sec. 4.13 AT-LARGE GRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. Two (2) representatives shall be elected from the entire graduate school class at-large and serve one year terms in the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.14 MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS IN-RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR AT-LARGE GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES. At-large graduate representatives must have completed a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in-residence at the University.
- Sec. 4.15 FIRST-YEAR REPRESENTATIVES. Two (2) representatives shall be elected from the incoming class of undergraduate first-year students (including first-year freshmen and undergraduate transfer students to the University as so defined by the Office of the Registrar) and serve one year terms in the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.16 INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. One (1) International student representative shall be elected from the entire (foreign) international student body, as defined by the Office of the Registrar, and serve one-year terms in the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.17 MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS IN-RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL

REPRESENTATIVE. International student representatives must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours if an undergraduate student or nine (9) hours if a graduate student in-residence at the University.

- Sec. 4.1846 PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTABLE SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY. The Speaker of the Assembly shall submit the number of electable seats within the Assembly (including University at-large seats) to the Editor of *The Daily Texan* at least four (4) weeks prior to the spring election.
- Sec. 4.1947—SPRING-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES' TERMS OF OFFICE. Representatives from the colleges and schools, University-wide representatives, and International Student representatives shall begin their terms at noon on the first Tuesday of April and end the following first Tuesday of April.
- Sec. 4.2048 FIRST-YEAR REPRESENTATIVES' TERMS OF OFFICE. First-year representatives shall begin their terms at noon on the first Tuesday of October and end the following first Tuesday of April.
- Sec. 4.2149—EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSEMBLY. Ex-officio members of the Assembly include all members of the executive branch, judicial branch, and external appointments. Ex-officio members also include the presidents of the Senate of College Councils, the Graduate Student Assembly, and the Campus Events and Entertainment.
- Sec. 4.2220 NAMING OF ADDITIONAL EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY. The Assembly may also name additional ex-officio members outside of those listed within this Constitution.
- Sec. 4.2324 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSEMBLY TERMS' OF OFFICE. Ex-officio members of the Assembly shall serve one-year terms, to begin from the time they are officially recognized as such, and shall serve without a vote in the Assembly.
- Sec. 4.2422 DUTIES, POWERS, AND AUTHORITY OF THE ASSEMBLY. The Student Government Assembly shall possess the following duties, powers, and authorities:
- (a) The Assembly shall pass legislation to represent the official voice of the student body and define official Student Government policies, positions, and stances.
 - (b) The Assembly, as a whole, shall represent and advocate on behalf of all students at the University before any and all audiences including, but not limited to, the administration of The University of Texas at Austin, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, the City of Austin, and the Texas Legislature.
 - (c) The budget of the Student Government must be presented to and approved by

the Assembly.

- (d) The Assembly shall be responsible for the proper and prudent distribution of Student Government funds.
- (e) The Assembly shall maintain funds for distribution to student organizations, to Student Government Agencies, and for special Student Government projects.
- (f) The Assembly shall be responsible for approval of all appointments by the President, unless specified otherwise. The Assembly will vote on each Presidential appointment within fifteen (15) days of appointment by the President. The Assembly may deny approval of a Presidential appointment for good cause shown.
- (g) Any appointment approved by the Assembly may be reversed for good cause shown by a two-thirds majority of total sitting members of the Assembly.
- (h) The Assembly shall have the power to create special agencies to conduct the business of Student Government.
- (i) The Assembly shall have the power to create any appointive office or committee deemed necessary and proper.
- (j) No formal action can be taken by the Assembly without a quorum present, which shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the total sitting representatives.
- (k) The Assembly shall have the power to convene itself by written request of one-third (1/3) of the total sitting representatives and to not convene itself by written request of two-thirds (2/3) of the total sitting representatives.
- (l) The Assembly shall meet at least bi-weekly during the fall and spring semesters, on a specific day and time to be set by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Sec. 4.2523 COLLEGE OR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES. Vacancies of a representative seat of a college or school shall be filled by the respective college council, within a period of thirty (30) days after the seat becomes vacant.

Sec. 4.2624 UNFILLED VACANCIES, UNIVERSITY-WIDE, FIRST-YEAR, AT-LARGE GRADUATE, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VACANCIES. If a vacancy longer than thirty (30) days cannot be filled by the appropriate college council; or if the vacancy is in a University-wide, at-large graduate, first-year representative, or international representative seat; the Assembly Board shall fill the vacancy by appointment, subject to the approval of the Assembly.

Sec. 4.2725 APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS. All appointed representatives must meet the same requirements as the elected representatives.

Sec. 4.2826 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. The Assembly may determine the rules of its proceedings and parliamentary procedure.

Sec. 4.2927 ASSEMBLY ELECTION OF UNSPECIFIED OFFICERS. The Assembly may elect officers not specified in this Constitution.

Sec. 4.3028 ONE VOTE PER REPRESENTATIVE. Each representative shall have one vote.

Sec. 4.3129 NO SECRET BALLOTS. No secret ballots shall be taken by the Student Government Assembly nor any of its sub-entities and committees.