

SGA Bill 2-22-S

**A Bill to Amend Article IV of the Constitution to Reconstitute the
Student Government Executive**

Abstract: A Bill to make definitive changes to the roles and composition of the Executive of the Student Government Association. The bill seeks to retain two elected Executive positions (i.e., President and Vice President). The bill also seeks to repurpose and establish new positions to create a more efficient, clearly defined team to meet the organization's current and future needs.

Whereas: The current structure of the Executive Branch as outlined in the constitution is often unclear, inefficient, and counterproductive.

Whereas: In the early 2010s, the former office of Election Commissioner was morphed into the current Vice President of Campus Relations, the former Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs was changed to Vice President of Marketing, and the Philanthropic Coordinator position was created to meet the needs at the time.

Whereas: The needs of the organization are not being realized given the ambiguity in positions and unrealistic burdens placed on specific officers.

Whereas: After a decade since its implementation, the Student Government Association stands to benefit from having most of its officers appointed by its elected representative to improve the quality of officers.

Whereas: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the deficiencies amongst the varying roles of the Executive and provides an opportunity to reset.

Whereas: The establishment of the proposed structure shall usher in a new more purpose-driven Executive Branch in anticipation of celebrating another anniversary year.

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

Section 1: Article IV shall be amended as outlined below:

Section 1: Generally.

- A. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the proper administration of the SGA, for the development of policy, and the implementation of legislation. It

shall be composed of elected officials and appointed officials. The elected officials include the President and the Executive Vice President; ~~the Vice President of Marketing, and the Vice President of Campus Relations~~. The appointed officials include the Attorney General, Election Commissioner, Homecoming Director, Events Director, and Communications Director, who must be confirmed by a simple majority of the Senate.

B. The members of the Executive Branch shall annually review the operations and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and its committees.

C. A candidate for an Executive Branch office must:

1. Be a full or part-time student;
 2. Have accumulated a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours from any accredited institution, or be a graduate student at the time of the candidacy;
 3. Have been enrolled at least two (2) consecutive spring and fall semesters as a full or part-time student at the University, and;
 4. Have at least a 2.75 undergraduate or 3.0 graduate cumulative grade point average at the time of the candidacy and maintain such average throughout the term of office.
 5. Has served for at least twenty (20) weeks as a Senate member or Executive Member appointed by the SGA President (as defined by the university semester calendar) for the positions of President and Executive Vice President ~~and eight (8) weeks (as defined by the university calendar) for the positions of Vice President of Marketing and Vice President of Campus Relations~~ and is in good standing with the MTSU SGA.
- D. In the event an executive officer fails to maintain the qualifications of his/her position, he/she shall be removed from office immediately.

Section 3: Duties and Responsibilities of the President. The President shall:

- A. ~~During the transition period between the certification of the election by the Vice President of Campus Relations and the first Monday of May the President-elect shall~~ work closely with the outgoing President to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency of service for the student body and may make appointments to his/her cabinet.
- B. ~~The President shall~~ see that all responsibilities delegated to the SGA are faithfully performed.
- C. ~~The President shall~~ be the official representative of the student body.
- D. ~~The President shall~~ be empowered to appoint all officials, assistants, and committees within the SGA necessary to discharge his/her duties with the approval of the Student Senate except as otherwise noted.

- E. ~~The President shall be required to attend at least four Senate meetings per semester.~~
- F. ~~The President shall convene all meetings of the Executive Branch.~~
- G. ~~The President shall be required to deliver a report concerning legislative updates and/or on the affairs of the SGA at Senate meetings that he/she attends.~~
- H. ~~The President shall appoint replacements for any Senate seat that may be vacant. Such appointments require Senate approval by a simple majority vote.~~
- I. ~~The President shall have the power of line-item veto over bills passed by the Senate. His/her veto may be overridden by two-thirds vote of the Senate.~~
- J. ~~Shall designate the head delegate for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. Shall coordinate the selection process of delegates, in addition to any other logistical organization.~~
- K. ~~Shall appoint, with the approval of the Senate, an Attorney General, a Communications Director, Election Commissioner, a Homecoming Director, an Events Director, a Chief of Staff and may appoint an Executive Assistant and any other position as deemed necessary in the execution of their duties.~~

Section 4: Policies and Procedures for the Executive Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall:

- A. ~~The Executive Vice President shall work closely with the outgoing Executive Vice President to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency of service for the student body.~~
- B. ~~Shall preside over the Student Senate.~~
- C. ~~In the event of a tie in the Senate, he/she shall have the power to cast the deciding vote.~~
- D. ~~Shall assume responsibility for such other duties as may be assigned, or by the President of the SGA.~~
- E. ~~Shall preside in the absence of the President at SGA meetings or functions.~~
- F. ~~Shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall report to the President any information regarding their activities.~~
- G. ~~Shall serve as the Director of Freshman Council in the selection process and throughout the year.~~

Section 5: Policies and Procedures for Vice President the Communications Director. The Communications Director shall:

- A. ~~The Vice President shall oversee all public relations for the SGA and will direct the marketing of SGA programs.~~
- B. ~~Help keep all students informed of important issues concerning them.~~

- ~~C. Work closely with the Office of Student Organizations and Services to serve as the liaison between student organizations, the Senate, and President of the SGA.~~
- ~~D. Responsible for assisting the President with coordinating and organizing all SGA Ad Hoc committees, and University Standing committee assignments.~~
- E. Oversee regular updates of the SGA website to keep students informed and interested in SGA.
- ~~F. Publicize all events sponsored by SGA. Coordinate advertising for events with officers as necessary. senators or committee chairs.~~
- ~~G. Create marketing materials for the SGA. Sponsored marketing activities may be included, as well, such as, but not exclusive to, Meet and Greets and promotional weeks.~~
- H. Perform other duties assigned to them by the President of the SGA.
- I. Work closely with the Executive Vice President and President to provide a strong voice to publicize SGA initiatives for all students.
- ~~J. Must appoint a Legislative Liaison from within the Senate to serve on the Public Relations Committee to advocate Senate progress to the student body.~~
- K. Produce semesterly survey opportunities for the general student body.

Section 6: Policies and Procedures for the Vice President of Campus Relations Election
Commissioner. The Election Commissioner shall:

- A. ~~The Vice President of Campus Relations shall preside over the Election Commission and oversee all SGA elections.~~
- B. Appoint members of the Election Commission and present nominees to the Senate for approval. Appointees must receive Senate approval by a simple majority.
- C. Schedule all SGA Elections, referenda, Homecoming elections, and special elections. The Election Commissioner shall also be responsible for coordinating the annual banquet ceremonies where new officers and members are sworn into office.

~~A. Programming events pertaining to the SGA shall be coordinated by the Vice President of Campus Relations. These events may be the annual banquet, athletic spirit trips, and others as deemed appropriate.~~

Section 7: Policies and Procedures for the Attorney General on traffic citations.

~~A. No citation appeal shall be heard by the Attorney General or the Student Judicial Board if the appeal is not submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days of the given citation date. Exceptions of extenuating circumstances conflicting with this time limit will be taken into consideration and determined by the Attorney General and/or the Student Judicial Board on a case-by-case basis.~~

- ~~B. Citations shall only be voided if the reason for appeal falls under one of three categories:~~
- ~~1. An emergency situation occurred hindering proper parking and resulting in a citation.~~
 - ~~2. An erroneous citation was given to the student.~~
 - ~~3. A student receives a "No Campus Permit" violation and was parked in the appropriate lot according to the student's MTSU issued deal.~~
- ~~C. A student can have up to three (3) citations voided for an alleged violation of "No Campus Permit" and parked in a lot denoted for students (Green) per semester by the Parking Services Office. If the citation is taken to the Parking Services Office within seven (7) days of receiving the citation, the citation will be taken off of the student's account and an appeal is not necessary. However, if the student is unable to take the citation(s) to Parking Services within the seven (7) day time frame, an appeal to the Attorney General within fifteen (15) calendar days of the citation issuance will be necessary in order for the citation(s) to be taken off of the student's account. Parking Services will void three (3) "No Campus Permit" citations (as long as the citations were given in a "Green" lot and taken to the Parking Services Office within 7 days), and the Attorney General/Student Judicial Board will void an additional three (3) citations (as long as the citations were given in a "Green" lot and the appeal was submitted within 15 calendar days of the citation issuance) with a total of six (6) "No Campus Permit" citation (parked in Green) voids per semester.~~
- ~~D. Only citations issued to currently enrolled students with red or green parking passes shall be heard by the Attorney General and/or the Student Judicial Board. Appeals made by faculty, staff, students with white passes, former students, or visitors shall be heard by the University Traffic Committee.~~
- ~~E. Once a decision on a citation appeal is made by the Attorney General or the Student Judicial Board, the decision is final and cannot be repeatedly appealed. Students are not required to attend a hearing for their appeal to be processed. The same standards and decision-making requirements are applied with or without a hearing. If the hearing is waived, the decision is made solely by the Attorney General based off the information provided by the student in the online appeal.~~
- ~~G. Students may provide pictures or other documentation as evidence of an emergency or erroneous citation to further prove their case.~~
- ~~H. Students may pay their citations in order to remove the hold from their account before the appeal is made or before an appeal decision is made. Paying the citation is not an admittance of guilt, and if the student is found to not be responsible for the citation, the student's account will be reimbursed the amount of the citation.~~
- ~~I. The Attorney General may refer any appeal to the Student Judicial Board for any reason, even if the student chose to waive their hearing. However, the student is not required to attend the hearing.~~
- ~~J. If a student chooses to have a hearing and fails to appear for that hearing, then the appeal is automatically denied.~~
- ~~K. The Attorney General and the Student Judicial Board retain the right to receive additional information about a case from the Parking Services Office.~~

- ~~L. The Attorney General and the Student Judicial Board retain the right to make exceptions to any of the above policies due to extenuating circumstances and exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.~~
- ~~M. Additional parking rules and regulations can be found in the "Traffic and Parking Regulations" handbook provided by the Parking Services Office.~~
- ~~N. Student appeals are to be submitted online at www.mtsu.edu/sga under "Court of Traffic Appeals."~~

Section 8: Policies and Procedures Duties and Responsibilities of the Attorney General.
The Attorney General shall:

- A. ~~The Attorney General will be the adviser to the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of the SGA on the SGA Constitution and Laws.~~
The Attorney General will have the power to investigate any alleged violations of the SGA Constitution and Laws by any SGA member.
- B. **Act as the chair of the Traffic Court of Appeals with responsibilities for selecting members and determining hearing dates.**
 - 1. ~~The Attorney General must have probable cause that an SGA member is violating the SGA Constitution and Laws or a complaint is filed to the Attorney General.~~
 - 2. ~~The Attorney General must submit a letter requesting to investigate the member to the SGA Advisor.~~
 - 3. ~~The SGA Advisor must sign the letter granting permission to investigate.~~
 - 4. ~~During the investigation, the Attorney General will have access to MTSU and/or SGA materials of the individual including documents, testimony, and any other relevant forms of evidence.~~
 - 5. ~~At the completion of the investigation, the Attorney General will turn all evidence over to the Senate Internal Affairs Committee with a recommendation of whether disciplinary action should take place.~~
Should the Attorney General be the subject of an alleged violation of the SGA Constitution and /or Laws or a complaint of the previously stated, the **Senate Chair of Internal Affairs** will follow the guidelines in **Article IX Section 5 outlined in the Bylaws.**
- C. ~~While any SGA member is under investigation, he or she will be suspended (not exceeding five (5) school days) from his or her duties until the completion of the investigation and decision by the Senate Internal Affairs Committee on discipline.~~

Section 9: Duties and Responsibilities of the Events Director. The Events Director shall:

- A. Coordinate activities such as, but not exclusive to, spirit initiatives, giveaways, tablings, and any other traditional programming activities or events.
- B. Coordinate all philanthropic programs sponsored by the SGA.
- C. Work closely with a representative from the Office of Leadership and Service to coordinate community service and engagement initiatives.

D. Work alongside the Communications Director to coordinate marketing efforts for all events and/or activities

Section 10: Duties and Responsibilities of the Homecoming Director. The Homecoming Director shall:

- A. Shall work with university entities ~~Director of Student Organizations and Services and other necessary offices~~ to coordinate MTSU Homecoming activities.
- B. Shall fulfill the duties of **Assistant Events Director** post completion of their homecoming duties.
- C. At their discretion, shall appoint a homecoming committee to assist in performing the duties of the office.
- D. Coordinate marketing efforts with the ~~Vice-President of Marketing~~ **Communications Director** for all events and affiliated promotional material.

Section 10: Policies and Procedures for the Philanthropic Coordinator:

- A. Shall coordinate all philanthropic programs sponsored by the SGA.
- B. Shall work closely with a representative from the office of Leadership and Service in order to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity Blitz-Build efforts.
- C. Shall coordinate "Make A Difference Week."
- D. Shall coordinate marketing efforts with the Vice-President of Marketing to promote all events and/or activities

Section 11: Duties and Responsibilities of the ~~Executive Assistant~~ **Chief of Staff**. The **Chief of Staff** shall:

- A. assist the President and Vice Presidents in communicating with SGA or with outside organizations as delegated.
- B. attend campus meetings on behalf of the SGA as delegated by the President.
- C. transfer all notes and legislation, and all SGA related material ~~passed to the Albert Gore Research Center~~ the University archivist at the end of a congressional year.
- D. Be responsible for assisting the President with coordinating and organizing all SGA Ad Hoc committees, University Standing committees, and any other committee as deemed necessary.
- E. Assist the President with following up on feedback on legislation sent to university departments/officials for official response.
- F. Responsible for all general SGA training and any other professional training necessary.
- G. Responsible for the preservations of artifacts and coordinate efforts to maintain institutional memory
- H. Manage and disseminate all survey data collected by the Communications Director.

Section 2: The Senate by virtue of the passage of this bill, shall henceforth replace all references to the following in all acts, statutes, and/or governing documents upon the passage of the aforementioned:

1. All mentions of Executive Vice President shall be replaced with Vice President.
2. All mentions of the Vice President of Marketing shall be replaced with Communications Director.
3. All mentions of the Vice President of Campus Relations shall be replaced with Election Commissioner. All existing references to the Election Commissioner shall remain.
4. All mentions of Executive Vice President shall be replaced with Vice President.
5. All mentions of the Philanthropic Coordinator shall be struck and replaced with Events Director.

Section 3: Provisions for scholarships and compensation of future Executive Officers shall be put forth in a future bill after consultation with the President and SGA advisors.

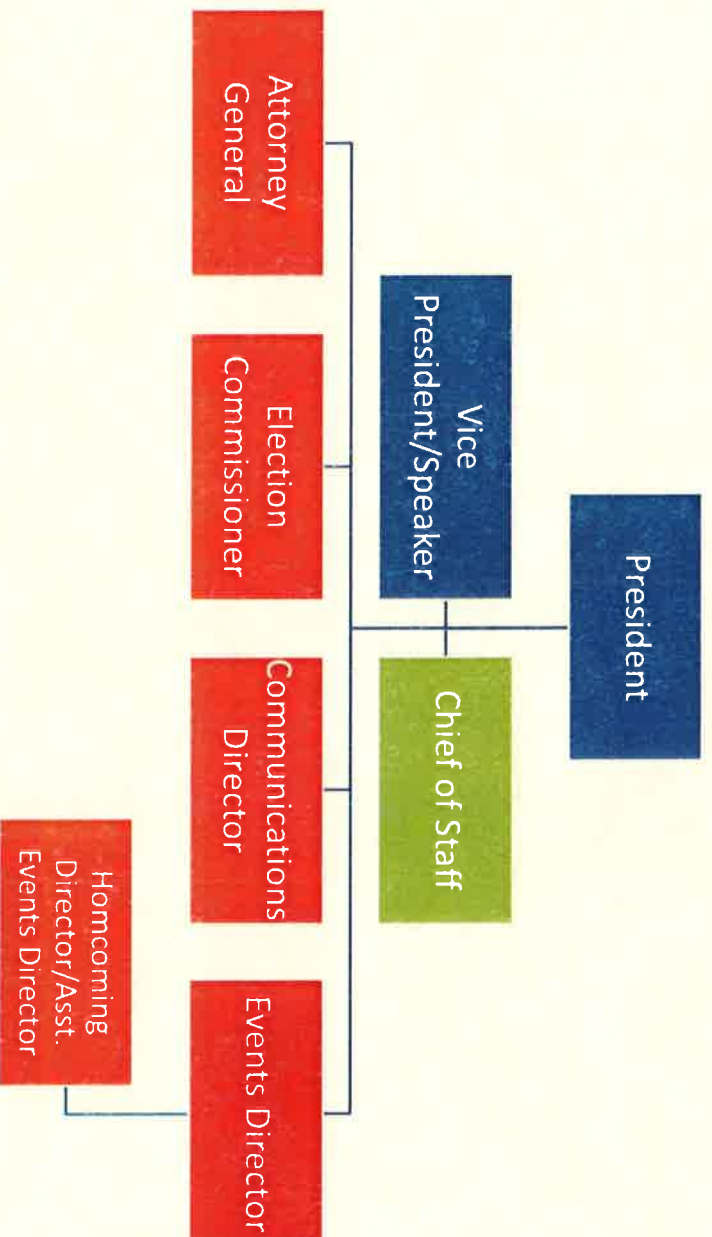
Section 4: All procedural/process related sections/subsections removed from the Constitution shall be transferred to an amended bylaws document upon successful passage of this constitutional amendment.

Sponsors: The Constitutional Revision Special Committee:

Christine Adalikwu (Chair, Senator At-Large)
Katelynn Pricer (Secretary, Freshman Council)
Logan Mcvey (College of Liberal Arts)
Trinity Henderson (College of Liberal Arts)
Zoe Haub (College of Basic and Applied Science)
Jonathan Allen (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)
Blaze Harrison (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)
Marym Elaarag (College of Behavioral and Health Sciences)

Bill 2-22-S Appendix

Figure 1. Figure 1 depicts a representation of the proposed organizational structure.



Blue - Elected

Red - Appointed

Green - Appointed - at President's discretion

Frequently Asked Questions?

1. What happened to the Philanthropic Coordinator?

The PC (a programming specific position) was consumed by the Director of Programming. The responsibilities of the PC will be absorbed by the Director of Programming and broadened in scope beyond 'philanthropy'

2. Why return the Vice President of Campus Relations position to Election Commissioner?

The primary focus of the VP/CR has always been running elections. Having this officer's roles/responsibilities including programming takes away from the useful work of the election commission.

a. What will the Election Commissioner do between Fall and Spring elections?

- i. Host election trainings, meetings, informationals for students.
- ii. Train and recruit candidates to run in Student Government elections, especially Executive and Legislative elections.
- iii. Work with the Director of Marketing to promote and coordinate materials to publicize elections.
- iv. Work with the Director of Programming to coordinate election related events and the inauguration of officers at the annual banquet.

3. Why have a dedicated person for Events?

Currently, the officer most directly responsible (this is a gray area in the constitution) for all Student Government programming (i.e. events) is the Vice President of Campus Relations. Given the breadth of responsibility and nature of this office, it is inefficient and unclear how the duties of an event planner and elections commissioner can be faithfully executed. As such, the Vice President of Marketing in most instances assumes this role, preventing them from fully executing the duties of their elected office to market and promote the organization. Simply put, having a dedicated officer responsible for all event/program planning and arranging allows their executive counterparts to more truthfully fulfill their constitutional obligations.

4. What is the Chief of Staff? Did they exist before?

No, this position did not exist before. The Executive Assistant is the current precursor to the proposed Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff is a managerial/operations type role. The Chief of Staff should be organized to schedule meetings, determine the feasibility of projects and enforce executive deadlines. The Chief of Staff should also be a clear communicator who can ensure efficiency within the Student Government Association. Ultimately, the planning, directing, and coordinating of SGA operational activities rest with the Chief of Staff. This individual is expected to maintain a current knowledge of organizational policies and procedures while adhering to SGA Constitution. The Chief of Staff reports directly to the Student Body President and Vice President and directly manages the Cabinet for the proper execution of the goals and agendas set by the Executive is carried out.

5. Why make the Homecoming Director an Assistant Events Director? Why have an officer dedicated to homecoming?

Given the nature of homecoming, current Homecoming directors serve a term beginning in the Spring and ending in the October following the commencement of the week of Homecoming activities. As such, this person (and their skillset) is often lost as they cease to actively participate in the day-to-day operations of the organization. Having an officer dedicated to homecoming is essential given the amount of time coordinating homecoming requires. Additionally, having a Director of Programming absorb service-related activities, traditional Student Government programming, and homecoming would be unfeasible for one individual, even if supported by a committee. Such a position would become a full-time job and ultimately impact a student's academic pursuits.

6. *What's up with the name changes? VP? Directors?*

One word: simplification. In lieu of maintaining a vice presidency for marketing or creating one for programming, we think it prudent to simplify these titles for general understanding amongst students. Referring to an unelected vice president when they were once elected is a barrier to reforming the current regime. Additionally, having an 'Executive' Vice President typically denotes that they are the most senior amongst a group of vice presidents.

7. *Is appointing a Chief of Staff mandatory?*

No, the President may decide (like any other position) using their best judgment not to appoint a Chief of Staff. In doing so, the President shall assume all duties assigned to the Chief of Staff amongst their roles and responsibilities for the proper management of the organization.

8. *Who's elected?*

The new model proposes that only the President and Vice President shall be elected by the general student body.



Speaker of the Senate



SGA President



VP of Student Affairs

