

SR 17/18-03

Sponsored by: Claire Rowland, Senior Senator
Oliver Dozier, CSM Senator
Lindi Miller, Senator at Large

Presented by: Claire Rowland, Senior Senator

Date: February 20, 2018

Amendment to the SGA Constitution and Bylaws

SHORT TITLE: A resolution that requests an amendment to the current SGA Constitution and Bylaws stating candidates running for President and Vice President cannot select a staff before the election and must offer a formal application process to all interested students once elected.

Whereas, Article 8 Section 1 of the SGA Constitution states that amendments can be presented to the Senate at anytime

Whereas, Article 4 Section 1 of the SGA Constitution states that the President “has the power to appoint persons to serve on staff in the capacities of Chief of Staff, Secretary, Public Relations Director, Cultural Diversity Director, and Parliamentarian, subject to the approval of the Senate by a simple Majority”

Whereas, candidates campaigning for the office of SGA President do not yet have the authority of the SGA President to appoint a staff

Whereas, by candidates campaigning with a predetermined staff, it forces the student body to vote on a Staff which, in turn, contradicts with Article 4 Section 1 of the Constitution that states the SGA President appoints a Staff

Whereas, the existing process for selecting a staff is through an application process where any and all students can apply

Whereas, the idea of candidates campaigning with a predetermined staff diminishes the integrity of this institution by not allowing for a fair opportunity for any student interested in a staff position to advocate for themselves by way of application

Whereas, staff positions are traditionally well-paid positions that all interested students should have the opportunity to apply for

Whereas, it is premature to promise someone a paid position when one does not have the authority to do so

Whereas, a student body vote of Staff contradicts the authority of the Senate to pass or fail the appointed positions as seen in Article 4 Section 2 of the Bylaws

Whereas, the idea of candidates campaigning with a predetermined staff allows for potential abuse of the electoral system, such as candidates strategically choosing a staff in order to gain votes from different student groups

Whereas, there should be clarification on this matter for future elections to ensure accountability and fairness

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:**

An amendment shall be added to the Arkansas State University SGA Constitution and Bylaws that states candidates running for President and Vice President cannot select a staff before the election and must offer a formal application process to all interested students once elected.

Emergency Clause:

If passed through the Senate, the student body will need to vote on this. We propose this being on the ballot alongside the 2018 President and Vice President election. In order to give enough time to educate students on what they are voting on, this resolution will need to be voted on in the same meeting as it is presented.

_____ **Pass** _____ **Fail**

Jon Mark Horton, Vice President

Haley Stotts, President