

Student Government Association

Tennessee Technological University

SGA Bill S23-003

An Act to Rework SGA Senate Standing Committee Appointment Procedures and Membership

- Whereas,* the current system for appointing Senators to Senate Standing Committees (SSCs) is outdated and has not been followed in over four (4) years; and,
- Whereas,* under the current SGA Constitution (rev. 1/3/2023), the Speaker of the Senate can select the size, members, and chairperson of each Senate Standing Committee while only being required to listen to advice from Senators and chairpersons; and,
- Whereas,* allowing the Speaker Pro-tempore of the Senate to have a say in the process of SSC appointments would benefit the Senate greatly and aid in the balance of power in the process; and,
- Whereas,* in recent history, Speakers of the Senate have embraced the process in which chairpersons of SSCs are democratically elected by the voting membership of the respective committees, which makes more sense and is a more effective system than what is outlined in the current Constitution; and,
- Whereas,* past Senate Standing Committees have elected Executive Cabinet members as presiding officers of their respective SSCs, which is contrary to the SGA Constitution and the separation of powers; and,
- Whereas,* the involvement of Executive Cabinet members as officers or full members of Senate Standing Committees could compromise the impartiality of committee proceedings and the decision-making process; and,
- Whereas,* recognizing the value of expertise and insight from the Executive Cabinet, it is deemed appropriate to establish a mechanism for their advisory participation within Senate Standing Committees without impeding the committee's autonomy; and,
- Whereas,* the creation of an advisory role for Executive Cabinet members within Senate Standing Committees as "Executive Resource Officers" will foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and informed decision-making without infringing upon the committee's independent deliberative function; and,
- Whereas,* the reworking of the SSC appointment process, combined with the democratic election of chairpersons and the increased separation of powers will greatly

benefit current and future SSCs and provide a much more uninfluenced and collaborative environment for members and officers of SSCs.

**NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

- Section 1: This Bill shall be known as the “SGA Senate Standing Committee Revision Act of 2023”.
- Section 2: In the SGA Constitution, under Article V, Section 11, strike and replace Subsection C with, “The composition of each Senate Standing Committee shall be determined by the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker Pro-tempore, taking into account the preferences expressed by members of the Senate.”
- Section 3: In the SGA Constitution, under Article V, Section 11, add a new Subsection D that shall read, “The size of each Senate Standing Committee shall be determined in proportion to the total number of Senators in the SGA Senate. The allocation of seats for each committee must ensure equitable representation and facilitate effective deliberations on matters falling within the respective committee's jurisdiction.” and reorder further subsections logically.
- Section 4: In the SGA Constitution, under Article XI, Section 2, Subsection B, Clause 1, strike and replace with, “The Chairperson of SGA Senate Committees shall be appointed by a simple majority of the committee, subject to confirmation by the Senate.”
- Section 5: In order to preserve the separation of powers and prevent conflicts of interest, the Executive Resource Officer advisory role is hereby authorized.
- Section 5.1: Members of the Executive Cabinet are authorized to serve in an advisory capacity to Senate Standing Committees as "Executive Resource Officers."
- Section 5.2: In the SGA Constitution, add a new Clause 3 under Article IV, Section 2, Subsection F: General Duties of the Executive Cabinet that shall read, “Serve as an Executive Resource Officer to a Senate Standing Committee if requested or appointed.”
- Section 5.3: Under the new Clause 3 as detailed in Section 5.2 of this bill, add a new Subclause A that shall read, “Executive Resource Officer’ refers to an individual appointed by the Vice President from the Executive

Cabinet to serve as a non-voting, advisory member of a Senate Standing Committee that can provide expertise, advice, and insight to other committee members.”

Section 5.4: Under Clause 3 as detailed in Section 5.2 of this bill, add a new Subclause B that shall read, “Executive Resource Officers shall attend committee meetings at the invitation of the committee chairperson or by a simple majority vote of the committee, and they shall provide information, answer questions, and offer recommendations related to matters within the committee's jurisdiction.”

Section 5.5: Under Clause 3 as detailed in Section 5.2 of this bill, add a new Subclause C that shall read, “Executive Resource Officers shall not serve in any other capacity on a Senate Standing Committee besides their position as Executive Resource Officer.”

Section 6: This Bill shall take effect immediately following passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

Respectfully Submitted By:
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Senator, College of Engineering

Co-sponsor(s):
Tymothy Brandel
Senator, College of Graduate Studies

For SGA Officer Use Only

Senate Record

SGA Secretary:	Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:	Status
Jeb MacLennan	23	0	0	Approved

SGA President:


Chance Hale