Spring 2011

S11RS SGB No. 8 (Caucuses)

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A BILL

TO AMEND THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT BYLAWS TO ADD AN ARTICLE ADDRESSING LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAUCUSES AND TO ESTABLISH RULES CONCERNING AND DEFINING THE FOUNDOING PROCESS, GOVERNING, PROTECTION AND LIMITATIONS OF CAUCUSES FORMED WITHIN LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND ALSO TO AMEND RULES 4.1, 6.4E, AND 6.4F OF THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT RULES OF ORDER

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A SET OF LAWS BY WHICH LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAUCUSES WILL BE FOUNDED, GOVERNED, PROTECTED, AND LIMITED BY THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND ITS MEMBERSHIP, AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND MANY STATE LEGISLATURES UTILIZE CAUCUSES TO ADDRESS VARIOUS FORMS OF REPRESENTATION, AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE APPROVED THE CREATION OF THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT BLACK CAUCUS BY PASSING STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 25 ON MARCH 2, 2011, THEREBY CREATING LEGISLATIVE PRECEDENT FOR LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAUCUSES, AND

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, THERE IS CURRENTLY NO ARTICLE ADDRESSING THE FORMATION PROCESS, GOVERNANCE, PROTECTION, OR LIMITATIONS OF CAUCUSES IN LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT, AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED ARTICLE SHALL BE INSERTED AFTER ARTICLE XI, MAKING THE PROPOSED ARTICLE ON CAUCUSES ARTICLE XII AND ADJUSTING THE NUMBERING OF EACH SUBSEQUENT ARTICLE BY ONE, CHANGING THE CURRENT ARTICLE XII TO ARTICLE XIII, ETC., FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINUITY AND CLARITY WITHIN THE BYLAWS, AND

PARAGRAPH 6: WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED ARTICLE SHALL READ:

ARTICLE XII
CAUCUS AFFAIRS

SECTION 1. THE DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF A CAUCUS

A CAUCUS IS DEFINED AS A BODY THAT MEETS TO PURSUE COMMON LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES, GENERALLY REPRESENTING A GROUP THAT SHARES SOME COMMON IDEOLOGY, RELIGION, RACE, ETHNICITY, CULTURE, GENDER, OR SPECIAL INTEREST. CAUCUSES

...
ARE USED TO PROMOTE ORGANIZED REPRESENTATION OF GROUPS
AND THEIR NEEDS BY HELPING FORMULATE CONCEPTS FOR
LEGISLATION OR ENGAGING THEIR MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES THAT
HELP TO FURTHER THE CAUSES CENTRAL TO THE CAUCUS’
STATED PURPOSE.

SECTION 2. DEFINING THE MEMBERSHIP OF CAUCUSES

A. ANY FULL OR PART-TIME STUDENTS WHO ATTEND MEETINGS
AND PARTICIPATE IN CAUCUS ACTIVITIES MAY BE CONSIDERED
A MEMBER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAUCUS’ LEGISLATIVE
FRAMEWORK AND MISSION STATEMENT.

SECTION 3. LEADERSHIP OF CAUCUSES AND THEIR DUTIES

A. THE FORMAL LEADERSHIP OF ALL CAUCUSES SHALL BE MADE
UP OF A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON. CANDIDATES
FOR BOTH POSITIONS MUST BE APPROVED THROUGH
CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, PASSED BY A TWO THIRDS (2/3)
VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE;
NOMINEES FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS MUST BE
SELECTED FROM WITHIN THE CAUCUS ACCORDING TO THE
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
OF SAID CAUCUS AND ITS AMENDMENTS.

B. BOTH CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS WILL BE SEMESTER-
LONG TERMS AND ARE CONSIDERED SUBJECT TO ARTICLE VI,
SECTION 2.A OF THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT
CONSTITUTION, CONCERNING THE PROCESS OF
IMPEACHMENT.

C. NEITHER OF THESE PRESIDING OFFICERS MAY HOLD THESE
POSITIONS WHILE SEEKING THE OFFICE OF LSU STUDENT
GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT, OR WHILE
HOLDING A SENATE COMMITTEE HEAD POSITION.

D. DUTIES OF THE CHAIR:
   1. THE CHAIR MUST ACT AS THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF
      CAUCUS MEETINGS; THEY SHALL FACILITATE THE
      ORDER OF MEETINGS.
   2. HE OR SHE SHALL ESTABLISH THE MEETING AGENDAS
      THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE VICE CHAIR.
   3. HE OR SHE SHALL MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH
      ALL BRANCH HEADS AND OTHER STUDENT
      GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AS DEEMED NECESSARY AND
      IMPORTANT TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE
      CAUCUS.
   4. HE OR SHE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAUCUS
      REPORT (SEE SECTION 7).

E. DUTIES OF THE VICE CHAIR:
   1. THE VICE CHAIR SHALL ACT AS THE PRESIDING
      OFFICER IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR, FULFILLING
ALL OF THE DUTIES OF THE Chair DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING.

2. THE Vice Chair shall serve as a liaison for the Caucus and the Student Government Senate and Executive and Judicial Branches.

3. THE Vice Chair shall be responsible for recording minutes of the caucus meetings and making these minutes available to the public via the caucus website and to the LSU Student Government via email.

SECTION 4. DETERMINING ACTIVE AND INACTIVE STATUSES OF CAUCUSES

A. CAUCUSES MUST HAVE AT LEAST FIVE (5) MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE STATUS; A CAUCUS THAT DOES NOT MEET THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED INACTIVE. A CAUCUS CAN BE REACTIVATED ONCE THIS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT IS ONCE AGAIN MET.

B. CAUCUSES SHALL SUBMIT ROLLS TO THE SENATE SECRETARY OF THE NUMBER AND NAMES OF ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EACH SEMESTER BY THE FOURTH (4TH) LEGISLATIVE WEEK SO AS TO DETERMINE ACTIVE OR INACTIVE STATUS.

C. A CAUCUS IN INACTIVE STATUS CANNOT SELECT A CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR AND CANNOT HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AS RECOGNIZED BY THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 5. REGULAR CAUCUS MEETINGS

EACH LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAUCUS SHALL HOLD REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS. TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED AT LEAST TWO (2) CLASS DAYS IN ADVANCE DURING THE CAUCUS REPORTS, SENT IN AN EMAIL VIA THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT LISTSERV, OR POSTED ON THE LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEBSITE. THESE MEETINGS MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

SECTION 6. MEETINGS PROHIBITED DURING REGULARLY SCHEDULED LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT BRANCH MEETINGS

NO CAUCUS MAY HOLD REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS AT THE SAME TIME AND DATE ON WHICH AN OFFICIAL BRANCH MEETING (SENATE MEETING, EXECUTIVE BRANCH MEETING, JUDICIAL BRANCH MEETING) HOLDS ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS.

SECTION 7. CAUCUS REPORT

A. ALL CAUCUSES SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE SENATE SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER EACH CAUCUS MEETING. THE REPORT MUST LIST:

1. THE NAME OF THE CAUCUS,
2. **The date, time, and place of the caucus meeting,**
3. **Names of attending members,**
4. **Minutes of what was discussed during the course of the meetings in detail, as supplied by the vice chair.**

B. **The caucus chairperson shall sign the caucus report and he or she shall be responsible for the accuracy of the report.**

C. **The caucus chairperson, or their designated representative, may report at Senate meetings during its allotted time in the Senate Order of Business unless no meeting was conducted.**

**SECTION 8. RESTRICTIONS ON CAUCUSES**

A. **Caucuses are not governing bodies, and therefore, cannot issue orders or pass legislation. Caucuses may, however, act as vehicles for solidarity and roundtables for discussion among caucus members, as well as being groups that may disseminate information relevant to issues concerning constituents represented by the members of the Caucus to members of the LSU Student Government and their constituents.**

B. **A caucus may formally endorse specific pieces of legislation; a caucus may not endorse specific members of LSU Student Government for committee or leadership positions, nor may they endorse candidates in LSU Student government Elections as a caucus. Individuals within the caucus are not subject to this restriction.**

**SECTION 9. FOUNDING AND RATIFICATION OF CAUCUSES**

A. **In order to found a caucus, there must be at least five (5) current members of LSU Student Government to found the caucus. Caucuses shall be formed through Concurrent Resolutions.**

B. **The caucus must establish a mission statement defining the general purpose of the caucus and the students on campus that the caucus wishes to formally represent in the LSU Student government.**

C. **The caucus must establish a platform defining the aims of the caucus as a whole and its membership; this includes goals for legislation, projects, programs, and other objectives that the caucus shall be affiliated with.**
D. When the Concurrent Resolution is presented to the Student Government Senate, the author shall move to have the legislation be referred to Joint Committee; this Joint Committee shall be made up of the Student Outreach Committee and the Committee on Rules.

SECTION 10: CAUCUS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
A. Governing documents must include the qualifications necessary to serve as a Chairperson and vice-Chairperson of the Caucus, which may include, but are not limited to, membership in the Student Government or related student organizations associated with the Caucus.

PARAGRAPH 7: Whereas, in order to include caucuses in the order of business before the Senate, it is necessary to amend Chapter 4: Order of Business in the Student Government Rules of Order, and

PARAGRAPH 8: Whereas, Senate Rule 4.1 shall now read:

RULE 4.1 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business of the Student Senate shall be as follows:

A. Call to Order
B. Moment of Silence
C. Pledge of Allegiance
D. Induction of New Senators
E. Roll Call
F. Public Input
G. Reading, Correction, and Adoption of the Minutes
H. New Business
   1. All Bills
   2. Concurrent Resolutions
   3. Resolutions
I. Committee Reports
   1. Standing Committees
   2. Student Committees established by the Bylaws
   3. Temporary Committees established by Senate Resolution
J. Caucus Reports
K. Executive Officer Reports
L. Judicial Officer Reports
M. Unfinished Business
   1. Consideration of Veto
   2. Reconsideration
   3. Concurrent Resolutions that pertain to appointments
4. Finance Bills  
5. Resolutions  
6. Concurrent Resolutions  
7. All other bills  
8. Executive Orders  
9. Legislative Orders  
N. Legislative Officer Reports  
O. Advisor Reports  
P. Petitions, Memorials, and Other Communications  
Q. Adjournment  

**PARAGRAPH 9:** Whereas, in order to formalize the role of Committee on Rules in the process of creating caucuses, it is necessary to amend Rule 6.4E, and  

**PARAGRAPH 10:** Whereas, Senate Rule 6.4E shall now read:  

**E. RULES:** To this committee shall be referred all legislation and other matters relating to the following subjects:  

1. Services of or for the Student Senate, its members and/or its committees.  
2. All Constitution and/or Bylaw Amendments.  
3. Legislative rules and procedures.  
4. Elections and Election Board.  
5. Appointment of persons to office in the Student Government.  
6. Caucuses and their formation; these pieces of legislation will be reviewed in a joint committee meeting with the Student Outreach Committee.  
7. Other matters as ordered by the Student Senate.  

**PARAGRAPH 11:** Whereas, in order to formalize the role of the Student Outreach Committee in the process of creating caucuses, it is necessary to amend Rule 6.4F, and  

**PARAGRAPH 12:** Whereas, Senate Rule 6.4F shall now read:  

**F. STUDENT OUTREACH:** To this committee shall be referred all legislation and other matters relating to the following subjects:  

1. All matters related to, including facilitation of, the “Orgs2Geaux” program.  
2. Student-related auxiliaries.  
4. Cultural affairs and programs.  
5. All matters pertaining to students’ constitutional rights and civil liberties.  
6. School and college council affairs generally.  
7. Student groups and organizations.
8. **ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

9. **ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO FREE SPEECH ALLEY.**

10. **ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE.**

11. **ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DUTIES OF SENATORS.**

12. **CAUCUSES AND THEIR FORMATION; THESE PIECES OF LEGISLATION WILL BE REVIEWED IN A JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.**

13. **OTHER MATTERS AS ORDERED BY THE STUDENT SENATE.**

**PARAGRAPH 13:** This bill shall take effect upon passage by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the LSU Student Senate and signature by the President, upon lapse of time for presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently approved by the Senate, on the date of such approval.
Approved:

________________________  ______________________
Brooksie Bonvillain       J Ryan Hudson
Speaker of the Senate     Student Body President

Date:____________________  Date:___________________