

Label: SGAB-50004 Date introduced: 10/02/2013 Authors: Senator John Garcia, Attorney General Shane Smith Sponsors: Senator Catherine Tassin de Montaigu, Senator Guillermo Lopez, Senator Pooja Magadi, Senator Clint Kirchhoff, Senator Shadi Rafeedie, Senator Trent Fuller, Senator Tatiana Lutomski, Senator Cynthia Orobio, Draft: 1st Reading

Bill for the Transperency of the Attorney General

Whereas, the Attorney General exists to serve the Senate, the President and the students of the University of Houston; and

Whereas, the Office of the Attorney General should be transparent to the Senate; and

Whereas, the Attorney General leads initiatives that are relevant to students; and

Whereas, the Attorney General desires to share the progress of these initiatives with the Senate and students present; and

Whereas, the Attorney General is the head of the Department of Justice and a member of the President's Cabinet; and

Whereas, the Attorney General is not currently allowed to speak at the same time as the rest of the members of the President's Cabinet;

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Senate of the 50th Administration of the University of Houston Student Government Association:

That changes in the bylaws be made in order to require the Attorney General to report to the Senate. The changes would consist of the following (changes bolded):

Article 1: Order of Business

Section 1: The order of Business for all regular meeting of the Senate shall be as follows:

Clause 1: Call to Order by the presiding officer

I. Opening call of the roll

Clause 2: Reading and approval of the senate journal from the previous meeting **Clause 3:** Special Reports

I. University Representatives wishing to address the senate

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

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H Clause SExecutive and Speaker Reports

Student Government AssociatioReport of the President

- II. Report of the Vice President
- III. Report of the Chief of Staff
- IV. Report of the Director of External Affairs
- V. Report of the Director of Public Relations
- VI. Report of the Director of Finance

VII. Report of the Attorney General

VIII. Report of the Speaker

Clause 5: Committee Reports

- I. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - i. Academic Affairs
 - ii. Administration & Finances
 - iii. Internal Affairs
 - iv. Student Life

II. Reports of the Select Committees

Clause 6: Old Business

Clause 7: New Business

Clause 8: Closing Remarks

- I. Comments and announcements of the officers
- II. Open Forum
- III. Closing call of the roll

Clause 9: Adjournment

Article 7: Department of Justice

Section 6: Powers, Duties, and Jurisdiction of the Attorney General

- Clause 1: The Attorney General shall have executive authority over the Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General.
- Clause 2: The Attorney General shall review all bills and resolutions passed by the Senate and advise the President on the legality of the bills and resolutions with respect to the Student Government Association Constitutions, Bylaws, and University policy.

Clause 3: Coordinate the activities of the other officials and staff of the department.

Clause 4: Report on activities of the department and office to the SGA Senate.

Clause 5: Report on activities of the department and office to the President.

Clause 6: Provide direction and goals for the efforts of the Department

Clause 7: Appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and oversee the Election Commission.

BE IT FINALLY ENACTED that the 50th administration of the University of Houston Student Government Association believes that the Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General will be more efficient, effective and transparent if required to report to the SGA Senate concerning the activities of the department. Allowing the Attorney General to report to the Senate will enable him to share information relevant to students and members of the Senate and

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HOUSTON Student Government of Justice

APPROVED

Cedric K. Bandoh Student Body President University of Houston

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