

Label: Ballot Measure 52001

Date introduced:

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Sponsor(s): Christopher Sanderson, Matthew Ramirez

Committee: Internal Affairs

Judicial Branch Reform Amendment Proposal

Whereas, Article 6 of the Constitution is highly outdated and,

Whereas, conflicting redundancies tarnish the integrity of the Constitution and,

Whereas, the Judiciary is underutilized in its current form and,

Whereas, the Judiciary is not able to fully serve the students of the University of Houston,

Therefore be it enacted that the 52nd Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the University of Houston Student Government Association proposes a ballot measure to be presented to the Student Body that seeks to amend the following sections of the Student Government Association Constitution

The following sections be amended to read (Any excluded sections have not been altered):

Article 6 Judicial Branch:

Section 1: Composition

Clause 1: The Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association shall consist of a supreme judicial body known as the Student Government Association Supreme Court.

Clause 2: All lower courts, created by law or necessity as determined by the Chief Justice, shall be considered subordinate components of the Judicial Branch.

Clause 3: Any subordinate courts may be removed at any time by the body that created them, so long as there is no unfinished before or decided upon by the court in question.

Section 2:

In the event of a vacancy, the Justices and/or alternates of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate present and voting. The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate present and voting, a Chief Justice from the membership of the Supreme Court.

Section 3:

The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction over any case in the Student Government Association. If a lower court or other tribunal shall have original jurisdiction over a case or controversy as specified by law, the Supreme Court shall have final appellate jurisdiction.

Section 4:

At the discretion of the Chief Justice, alternate members may be selected from to form a panel of Justices in order to meet quorum.

Section 5:

All rulings of the Supreme Court shall be final with no appeal.

Section 6:

Members of the Supreme Court may continue to hold office until such time as they discontinue enrollment as students at the University of Houston or are no longer in good academic or disciplinary standing with the University of Houston."

Further be it enacted, that the current text of Article 4, Section 8 be struck from the SGA Constitution, and remaining contents of Article 4 be renumbered accordingly.

Further be it enacted, that a new Article 7 of the SGA Constitution be added to read as follows:

"Article 7: Impeachments

Section 1:

Anyone holding office in the Student Government Association may be nominated for impeachment if:

Clause 1:

Three-Fourths (3/4) vote of the total number of senators approve nomination.

Clause 2:

The President and Speaker of the Senate come into unanimous agreement to nominate, and Three-Fourths (3/4) of the senate present and voting approve nomination.

Section 2:

All persons nominated for impeachment will stand trial in front of the Supreme Court.

Section 3:

Persons impeached shall not hold any office in the Student Government Association for two years following the date of their impeachment.

Section 4:

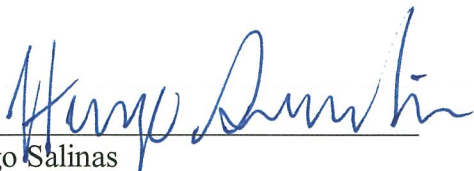
Persons accused or in violation of SGA attendance requirements are not required to go through the impeachment process, but are grounds for immediate dismissal by the head of the branch. Dismissal pursuant to this section may be appealed to the Supreme Court.”

Further be it enacted, that the current Articles 7 and 8 be renumbered as 8 and 9 respectively.

Finally be it enacted, this amendment, in whole or in part, may be rescinded if approved by a one-thirds (1/3) vote of the Senate prior to Election Day.

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

Student Government Association



Hugo Salinas
Speaker of the Senate
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of Senate Approval: 2-24-16



Shaun Smith
Student Body President
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of President's Approval: 2-25-16

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