First Reading: August 27, 2013

Second Reading: September 10, 2013

Pass:

Other:

Resolution [1-13-F] Resolution to Adopt an Amendment to the Constitution

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to adopt an amendment to the Constitution.

WHEREAS: All representative organizations should continually seek improvements to their operational structure to better represent their constituents, and

WHEREAS: International students constitute a growing constituency for the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University, growing from 498 students in fall 2003 to 766 students in fall 2012,[[1]](#footnote-1)

WHEREAS: International students are typically less aware of Student Government and other opportunities to make their voices heard, facing challenges different from those faced by American students, and

WHEREAS: International students constitute a discrete group of students at Western Kentucky University, defined as any student without U.S. citizenship, paying separate fees from other students, and

WHEREAS: Other universities, such as the University of Illinois at Springfield,[[2]](#footnote-2) Ithaca College,[[3]](#footnote-3) Utah Valley University,[[4]](#footnote-4) University of Central Oklahoma,[[5]](#footnote-5) and Pennsylvania State University at Schuylkill,[[6]](#footnote-6) have seats in their legislatures designated for international students, and

WHEREAS: Other universities, such as Washington State University,[[7]](#footnote-7) Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville,[[8]](#footnote-8) the University of North Carolina at Greensboro,[[9]](#footnote-9) Pennsylvania State University,[[10]](#footnote-10) and the University of Wyoming,[[11]](#footnote-11) have separate bodies representing international students which liaison with student government, whereas Western Kentucky University does not, and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendment will amend section 3.6 of the Constitution to provide that at least one (1) senator shall be a *Navitas* or *English as a Second Language International* student by reducing the number of at-large senators by one (1) from fifteen (15) to fourteen (14), and

WHEREAS: The Constitution already provides for similar representation for other discrete groups of students, such as graduate students, based on their identity as students rather than other identifying factors, and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendment will ensure that at least one senator shall be a *Navitas* or *English as a Second Language International* student, but shall not be limited to one seat, in order to ensure that the Student Government Association has representation by international students, as for other distinct group of students, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution and subsequently refer this amendment to the study body for ratification on the fall 2013 election ballot.

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Amendment to the Constitution:

3.6 The Senate shall be composed of the following:

3.6.1 Three (3) senior class senators.

3.6.2 Three (3) junior class senators.

3.6.3 Three (3) sophomore class senators.

3.6.4 Three (3) freshman class senators.

3.6.5 Two (2) graduate student senators.

3.6.6. One (1) Navitas or English as a Second Language International student senator.

3.6.7 One (1) Gatton Academy student senator.

3.6.8 One (1) senator from each academic college elected by students within the respective college for a total of six (6) senators.

3.6.9 Fourteen (14) at-large senators.

3.6.10 The president or a delegated representative of each chartered regional affiliate.

1. Data from WKU Fact Books 2008-2012, available at http://www.wku.edu/instres/fact\_book.php [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Sean Bruce, “SGA creates international student senator position,” *The Journal* (January 29, 2013), available at <http://www.uisjournal.com/news/2013/01/29/sga-creates-international-student-senator-position/> (accessed August 28, 2013); measure subsequently approved by student referendum: <http://www.uisjournal.com/news/2013/04/19/sga-election-results-announced/> (accessed August 28, 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Candace King, “SGA to add international student senator position,” *The Ithacan* (October 17, 2011), available at <http://theithacan.org/16603> (accessed August 28, 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. At UVU, the president of the International Student Council (<https://www.uvu.edu/iss/student/isc/>) serves as a representative on the Student Council (legislative branch of student government): “Utah Valley University Constitution of the Students Association” (revised March 5, 2008), p. 4 (Article III, §IV.A): available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/os_uploads/178914_UVUSA%20ContitutionApproved%20382008.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Cf. <http://www.uco.edu/student-affairs/cgc/programming/council.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Cf. <http://www.sl.psu.edu/StudentLife/sga.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Cf. <http://ip.wsu.edu/students/isc.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Cf. <http://www.siue.edu/STACTV/ISC/about.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Cf. <http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/isa/about/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Cf. <http://php.scripts.psu.edu/clubs/up/isc/docs/ISC_Constitution_2012%20Final2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Cf. <http://www.uwyo.edu/iss/student-organizations/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)