

By-Laws of the Senate Oversight Committee

As ratified by the Senate Oversight Committee on

March / 25th / 2025

1. Operational By-Laws

**Section 01** | The Senate Oversight Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and voting upon all Constitutional Amendments, Senate Bylaws Amendments, and Operational Senate Rule Changes that originate from members of the Senate, as well as all Committee Bylaws Amendments under Senate Jurisdiction, before they are brought before a Senate General Session.

* + 1. All legislation arising therefrom must pass the Senate Oversight Committee by a 2/3rds vote to be considered authoritative, provided they have passed all other steps required.

**Section 02** | The Senate Oversight Committee, may, from time to time, be charged with the formation of an Investigative Committee when such actions are necessary to adjudicate inquiries into the conduct or behavior of a member or members within the Judicial branch.

**Section 03 |** The Senate Oversight Committee shall not be required to physically meet under any regularly scheduled time or agenda.

* + 1. Important Business, such as forming investigative committees, shall be conducted at in-person meetings within this committee.
		2. All other physical meetings will be called by the chairman when he/she determines it is necessary for committee operations.

**Section 04 |** The Senate Oversight Committee may, at the chairman’s discretion, conduct general legislative business and votes via digital communication such as Group-Me in accordance with the procedures herein outlined within these bylaws.

**Section 05 |** Any Oversight Committee Business may be considered private amongst committee members when a motion for “non-disclosure” of a specifically enumerated agenda item is seconded and receives a simple majority vote of those members present.

1. When a motion for “non-disclosure” is passed for a specifically enumerated agenda item, Committee members are not permitted to discuss that agenda item with any individuals outside the committee unless a future motion for “General Disclosure” of the item passes via simple majority vote at a subsequent Oversight Committee meeting.
2. For the purpose of these bylaws, a violation of a “non-disclosure” vote shall be herein defined as;
	* 1. Discussion of legislation or content within such legislation as submitted before the committee;
		2. Discussion of individual votes of specific committee members on the applicable business;
		3. Discussion of comments made by committee members regarding the applicable business.
3. Membership

**Section 01 |** **Chairman**

The President of the Senate shall preside as chairman of the Senate Oversight Committee.

* + 1. The Chairman shall conduct committee operations in a way that does not abuse the authority or privileges of chairmanship to manipulate, alter, or otherwise unfairly effect the outcome of votes.
		2. The Chairman shall otherwise reserve the same rights as all other committee members;
			1. The Chairman may give their opinion on all business conducted by the committee in the time and manner in which all other members of the committee are permitted to do so;
			2. The Chairman reserves the right to make motions;
			3. The Chairman reserves the right to second motions made by committee members;
			4. The Chairman reserves the right to vote on motions made by committee members.

**Section 02 |** **Deputy Chairman**

The Student Affairs Committee Chairman shall preside as deputy chair of the Senate Oversight Committee. If the Chairman is indisposed or recuses themselves from presiding over committee business, the Deputy Chair will preside as Chairman over the Senate Oversight Committee.

**Section 03 | General Membership**

The Senate Oversight Committee shall be comprised of up to five (5) Senators.

* + 1. The Senate President shall nominate senators to serve on the Oversight Committee at the first Senate General Session of the semester.
		2. The President may utilize any process they choose in their determination of committee membership nominations.
		3. Upon nomination, the Senate membership shall vote upon these members to be confirmed to the Oversight Committee.
			1. Confirmation will be via simple majority vote.
			2. All senators, including those being voted upon for confirmation, shall be allowed to vote.
1. Digital Committee Procedures

**Section 01 |** **Order of Operations**

The Senate Oversight Committee shall follow this format for discussing and voting on legislation within a digital setting:

* + 1. **Presentation**
			1. The Chair will send the legislation in the Senate Oversight Committee Group-chat and explain the intent behind the item discussed.
			2. The Chair reserves the right to include quotes, comments, or statements from the author of the legislative piece at their discretion.
		2. **Discussion**
			1. Following presentation, committee members may ask the chair, or anyone within the chat, questions regarding the piece.
			2. Committee members may give suggestions, affirmation, or negation of the legislation without formal moderation or recognition within the group chat.
		3. **Amending**
			1. If Senators are so moved, they may motion for Amendments to the legislation. Upon receiving a second, the chair will call for a vote on any amendments necessary.

**Section 02 |** **Voting**

* + 1. Senators shall vote via digital means by signifying either “Aye” or “Nay” when so prompted by the Senate President for all required motions and legislative votes.
			1. All legislation shall require a 2/3rds majority vote to pass.
		2. Upon passage of the legislation, a member of the committee may move for “General Disclosure” of the matter discussed. This motion requires a simple majority vote to pass.

**Section 03 | Outcome**

* + 1. The Senate President will ensure the Oversight Committee is informed of the outcome within 24 hours of the Vote.
		2. If the legislation passes, it shall be sent to the Senate Clerk to be put on the agenda for the next Senate General Session.
		3. If the legislation is denied by the Oversight Committee, it shall be sent back to its originating committee or author for reconsideration. The author shall have the opportunity to make changes and re-submit the document to the Senate Oversight Committee in the amended form. Once a piece fails committee, it may not be re-submitted in an identical format.

**Article IV.** In-Person Committee Procedures

**Section 01 |** The Senate Oversight Committee shall follow this format for discussing and voting on legislation:

* + 1. **Initial Reading**
			1. The chair, upon announcing the title and number for the piece of Legislation, will read the “be it resolved” clause or other relevant action clauses therein.
1. **Presentation**
	* + 1. Due to the private nature of Oversight Committee Meetings, the Chair shall present the legislation and its intent to committee membership.
2. The chair may, at their discretion, read aloud to the committee a pre-written statement on the legislation from the author.
	* + 1. This presentation process shall last as long as necessary at the discretion of the chair.
		1. **Affirmation and Negation**
			1. After the presentation, the committee shall be in a presumed session of Affirmation and Negation.
			2. Committee members, if so moved during this period, may speak for up to **two (2) minutes** in either affirmation or negation for the legislation by verbally prefacing their statement with either “Affirmation” or “Negation” respectively.
			3. This period will last no longer than **ten (10) minutes**.
		2. **Amending**
			1. If committee members are so moved, they may motion for Amendments to the legislation. An allotment of up to **fifteen minutes** shall be given to form no more than two amendments to the document.

**Section 02 |** Voting

* + 1. Committee members shall vote via voice by signifying either “Aye” or “Nay” when so prompted by the chair for all required motions and legislative votes.
			1. All legislation shall require a 2/3rds majority vote to pass.
		2. If the official vote tally is subject to error due to a clear division, a committee member may immediately audibly call “Division” directly following the Nay votes, but before the gavel falls.
		3. If Division is called before the gavel falls, the chair shall be required to tally the votes manually through method of raised hands or other such numerically verifiable methods at the sole discretion of the chair.

**Section 03 |** Outcome

* + 1. The chair will inform the committee of the outcome immediately following the Vote.
		2. If the legislation passes, it shall be sent to the Senate Clerk to be put on the agenda for the next Senate General Session.
		3. If the legislation is denied by the Oversight Committee, it shall be sent back to its originating committee or author for amendment. The author shall have the opportunity to make changes and resubmit the document for approval by the Senate Oversight Committee in the amended form. Once a piece fails the Oversight committee, it may not be re-submitted in an identical format.

**Amendments to Oversight Committee Bylaws**

**Amendment I** |

All future additions to these bylaws, unless acting as an alteration to an existing enumerated clause, shall be herein listed as formal Amendments to this document. Amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced during any Oversight Committee Session by any sitting committee member and must be presented in writing to the chair prior to discussion and debate. All Amendments to these By-Laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3ds) majority vote of approval.

 ***Ratified By the Senate Oversight Committee on 13/SEPTEMBER/2022***