



## 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Judiciary Committee

[February 2, 2022 | 7:00 pm] | [938 6379 6079 | Thagard 401]

### Zoom recording:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ahBe\\_3SbBv4BytQAX8\\_LyJi00v\\_dt0il/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ahBe_3SbBv4BytQAX8_LyJi00v_dt0il/view?usp=sharing)

### Call to Order: 7:07

**Members Present:** Chair Myers, Senator(s) Wang, Little, Reeves

**Members Tardy:** Senator Noel

**Members Absent:** Vice Chair Beall (excused), Guillamont, Wills, Moriah (unexcused)

**Guests:** President Hunter, Parliamentarian Rowan, Chair(s) Gonzalez, Roy, Senator(s) Diaz, Lessard, Tsourokdissian

### Land Acknowledgement

### Announcements:

- Chair Myers: We have no business this week other than Bill 3 which is going to Finance first and they are meeting right now, so we are going to recess until we hear the results of that from Finance. Depending on what time they're done there's a tiny chance we will wait until next week to hear it but we are more than likely just going to end the recess and discuss it. I'll text in the groupme when to re-join the zoom.
- **Senator Wang moves to recess; Senator Little seconds 7:09**
- **Chair Myers ends recess at 7:18pm**

### Committee Business:

- Bill 3- Sponsored by Chair Gonzalez and Senator Wang- a bill to grant the Finance committee the authority to place limitations on funding SGA entities or Registered Student Organizations that commit egregious violations of the Finance Code and to make minor adjustments to the process for the restriction of funds.
- Bill 7: Sponsored by Chair Roy; Co-Sponsor Chair Nasworthy- To define the role of PAC/RTAC Adjunct Liaison, its appointment, and to change how to deal with voting on funding boards when there's a conflict of interest regarding membership.

### Old Business:

- **Bill 3 - Sponsored by Chair Gonzalez and Senator Wang.**
  - Opening Statement:

- Chair Gonzalez: I heard there were a lot of concerns so we're here hoping everyone talks about it so we can figure it out in committee. This basically expands on authority currently given to the senate, it does not create new authority, it just enumerates what senate and finance can do to restrict funds. Some of the issues that were talked about is what exactly egregious is, if people look higher than the bill it enumerates exactly what those sanctions are. Two years is "up to two years" placed in order for Senate or Finance to not go rogue and restrict funding forever for an RSO, and it can be lifted with a resolution. Sponsors waive 1:23
- o Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - None
- o **Senator Little moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Reeves seconds**
- o Round-Table Discussion:
  - Senator Little: POI: would the sponsors be friendly to lower the maximum to one year, because the nature of RSO's electing leadership once a year, something sanctionable one year from that point is probably new leadership
  - Senator Wang: yes
  - Little moves to amend to change 805.3.c to strike out "two (2) years" and change to "one (1) year"; Senator Reeves seconds
  - Sponsor does not find it friendly; Senator Little does not withdrawal
    - Opening Statements on amendment:
      - Little: The reason why I was thinking one year is because with my RSO experience, the membership and leadership tend to change year to year. So I don't see a situation where we would feel the need to place the sanction on the restriction of their funding for two years. Sponsor yields 2:23
      - **Senator Wang moves to enter round table; Senator Reeves little**
      - Senator Wang: I'm really open to anything but I wanted to keep it at two years for now and hear what debate was going to be like, but the senate has the ability to lift restrictions. I don't see a senate that will be unfriendly to the idea that because it's a new e-board and new members and they didn't have anything to do with finance violation they won't be reasonable and not lift it. Two years is a good check just in case something really bad does happen
      - Senator Diaz: I'm not a member of judiciary so I don't want to urge you guys but the reason why people were against it is because it seems heavy handed. If it was so egregious after one school year, the senate can vote to extend it again as needed. It seemed a little bit too long because within a two year period most RSO's completely flip their leadership so it seemed unnecessary. If it is so bad to

require two years of sanction, the senate can extend it, I just wanted to clarify that.

- Senator Lessard: I've been treasurer for different RSO's on campus and we do cycle our eboards every year usually in spring right before the end of fiscal year. So I do think that one year is good because it's not like the new person coming in is the one who made the violation who may have had 0 control over the situation and i dont think its fair to punish a new board for longer
- Senator Gonzalez: I just want to say that lets say under the original sanction was one year, but it can be up to 2. The wording is used so that you can go lower, and not higher. Basically it's not that deep, all sanctions would have to be one year.
- Senator Lessard: POI: would the sponsor be friendly to instead of "no longer than one year", changing it to "one to two years", more of a range
- Senator Wang: It basically says that and in my opinion it makes it more unclear to word it like that
- Senator Lessard: So there is no minimum right now?
- Senator Wang: No, two years is absolute maximum right now but there is no minimum
- Senator Diaz: Could sponsor's list or give an example of a type of egregious violation that could warrant a two year violation?
- Chair Gonzalez: Yes, actually we went through this in budget, an org came and we asked them the standard question of if they were financially certified and they said "no we don't have to be". They genuinely didn't think they had to be because their advisor told them they didn't, but let's say that moving forward this org continues to not follow the finance code, because it's a 6 figure budget in my belief that's egregious deserving of sanctions
- Senator Wang: Another example is that there were issues with a lot of people weren't submitting docs to student body treasurer which is really bad too, so stuff like that
- Senator Diaz: It's unfortunate that on the senate floor we can't have these conversations but again as I said in finance, the reason why senators were so opposed to it is because we didn't know 805.2 existed. Just wanted to clear that up and I thank you for your clarification
- Chair Gonzalez: Thank you for being here because you're the only one who raised concerns and came to committee.
- Senator Lessard: Actually now hearing about that one organization with a 6 figure budget I actually like the two years. Students deserve to know that their A&S fees are being used appropriately
- **Senator Little withdraws motion to amend**

- Senator Lessard: I was also one of the biggest people to object to this so I do appreciate Senator Wang hearing me out about those and pointing out 805.2. Not gonna oppose this on the senate floor because all of my concerns have been addressed
- Senator Little: I was in support when it came through the first time, still in support now. I think it's a good safeguard to make sure people aren't abusing money so this is a good idea and I'll be voting yes
- o **Senator Little moves to call the question; Senator Reeves seconds**
- o Closing Statement:
  - WAIVED
- o Vote:
  - Yes: [ 3 ] Senator Little, Reeves, Wang
  - No: [ 0 ]
  - Abstain: [ 1 ] President Hunter
- o **RESULT: BILL #3 PASSES**

#### **New Business:**

- **Bill 7: Sponsored by Chair Roy; Co-Sponsor Chair Nasworthy**
  - o Opening Statement:
    - Chair Roy: Hello and good evening, So bill 7 is basically a proposal to create an adjunct liaison for RTAC and PAC to deal with its appointment and deal with conflict of interests. So there is a vice chair but it is a general member of the student body and so are the other members. And because the vice chair is just a regular person, they could not fill in for the chair in their absence. It puts a lot of eggs in one basket. Thankfully I haven't missed any meetings because of my schedule but I want to create this position so a senator can be appointed through the PAC chair submitting a name to the Senate president and this way the senator is more involved in PAC. Also there's currently a way that if you're a member of an organization you can't vote on it. USED ALL TIME
  - o Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Senator Wang: So if PAC and RTAC have vice chairs, can the vice chair not preside over the meeting?
    - Senator Roy: Yes
    - Senator Wang: Is it possible to have the Vice Chair preside over the meetings?
  - o **Senator Little moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Wang seconds**
  - o Round-Table Discussion:
    - Senator Wang: I really like the idea of a liaison because of the amount of work to do. I am however concerned over 807.4 I don't see the point in someone disclosing information about their involvement.
    - Senator Roy: With PAC, it's the first step of a three step process. Because the organization can be as large as 300 staff members who are very involved and i want the finance committee to be able to see that the person from that organization voted/
    - Senator Wang: is there a way for the vice chair to preside over PAC meetings instead of the liaison

- Senator Roy: I'm not sure if we can have someone presided over by a member who's not a current senator. Even though the Vice Chair may be the most eligible, I think it needs to be a senator.
- Senator Wang: Ok so I have a couple questions. Would the liaison be able to be a member of the finance?
- Senator Roy: I would say no, but I would be friendly to any amendment
- Senator Wang: I don't know if having an adjunct liaison be forwarded and then have the senate president approve makes sense.
- Senator Little: Could everyone summarize?
- Senator Wang: So right now it says that there's no stipulation that the adjunct liaison can't be a member of finance and the sponsor already said they find it friendly. Also having the adjunct liaison to possibly undermine the president possibly amending that.
- Senator Wang: I can see your reasoning, by why did you have it said to be approved by the senate president.
- Senator Roy: Everyone gets a say in the Vice Chair of their committee. And having the senate president to appoint a vice chair seems like giving the president a lot of power. I wanted the PAC or RTAC chairs to have some sort of role and have some say so.
- Senator Wang: The president appoints liaisons, and this is not a role of a vice chair.
- Senator Little: I also have concerns that the primary liaison is the one forwarding that. I also have concerns about someone chairing a meeting because the vice chair was elected
- Senator Wang: Are you saying there's no point in an adjunct liaison
- Senator Little: I do understand why this is needed, as PAC and RTAC cannot meet if their chair is not there and what about mental health days, as it's written I think i'm going to vote no on this bill.
- Senator Wang: I understand the point of like the liaison wouldn't be someone who is appointed. I do understand that the president would appoint these people, but they are not appointing someone who is the chair. This is why i mentioned earlier about having the vice chair preside over meetings
- Senator Little: I'm in the same spot, i don't know what a solution would be
- Senator Wang: what if we made it to where they can be the primary sponsor of resolution so they can go present in finance.
- Senator Wang: I think if we just struck preside over PAC and RTAC meaning
- Senator Roy: I would be friendly to that amendment
- Senator Little: I also agree with the previous committee member's point, that striking that clause would be good. I feel like the vice chair should be able to chair a meeting considering they were voted in.
- Chair Gonzalez: I do have an issue with someone who hasn't been sworn in, having responsibility and presiding over things.
- Senator Little: There is a bit of a learning curve, and I do have some concern.
- Chair Gonzalez: And also technically if the chair is not there, they are the primary sponsor and they aren't a senator.

**Senator Wang moves to amend 807.4.E to strike everything after “resolutions”; Senator Little seconds**

- Sponsor finds it friendly
  - Amendment passes
  - **Senator Wang moves to amend 807.4.E to add the sentence “The Adjunct Liaison will be appointed by the Senate President.” after “...Senate.” Senator Little seconds**
    - Sponsor finds it friendly
    - Amendment passes
  - Senator Little: I'd love to discuss at a later date a creative solution, but in the meantime i will be voting yes
  - Senator Wang: I still don't know how I feel about 807.4B2. I still don't know how comfortable with members funding their own organizations without money
  - Senator Little: POI have you had a lot of circumstances where the PAC members have been a part of the organization you guys are funding.
  - Senator Roy: Yes, we've had incidents. As chair I made sure there was no heavy debate based on conflict of interest. This was to allow more leniency.
  - Senator Little: I'm on the fence about this one, because I dont wanna have people voting to get the most amount of money possible for their organization. But on the other hand, I was a part of many organizations that I wouldn't be biased about.
  - Senator Wang: Senate is made up of 50 or so people, PAC is made up of only 3 to 5, I'm just still very uncomfortable
  - Senator Little: has there been time in PAC where more than one PAC member was a part of the organization being funded.
  - Senator Roy: Because of how small it is, it makes it to where every voice should have a voice. It was intended for finance to see the vote and to evaluate whether it was biased.
  - Senator Wang: This did happen in RTAC where someone was biased on what they were hearing.
  - Senator Roy: i appreciate all of the opinions
  - **Senator Wang moves to amend 807.4.B(2) to strike everything after “they are...”;** **Senator Little seconds**
    - Sponsor finds it friendly
    - Amendment passes
  - **Senator Wang moves to amend 807.4.B(2) to add “a member.” after “they are”;** **Senator Little Seconds**
    - Sponsor finds it friendly
    - Amendment passes
- **Senator Little moves to call the question; Senator Wang seconds**
  - **Closing Statement:**
    - Used all time in opening
  - **Vote:**
    - Yes: [ 4 ] [Senator(s) Little, Wang, Noel, Reeves]

- No: [ 0 ]
- Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: BILL #7 PASSES**

**Unfinished Business:**

- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair: None
- Senator Wang: Happy Lunar New Year!

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00; Zoom link

**Adjourned:** 9:29

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**Signature of Chair**