**First Reading: March 2, 2021**

**Second Reading:**

**Pass:**

**Fail:**

**Other:**

**Bill 12-21-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University**.

**PURPOSE:** For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky to amend the Constitution to streamline election proceedings by moving academic college senators, the international senator, and the three fall at-large senators to spring elections.

WHEREAS: Section 3.7 outlines exceptions to the spring elections of 13 senators (nearly a third of the Senate) in Senate seats that were added post the original drafting of the constitution, and

**WHEREAS:** Section 3.7 will be revised to only state

“The election procedures of the Senate shall be:

3.7.1. That all but the three (3) freshman senators, one (1) graduate senator, and one (1) Gatton Academy student senator shall be elected in the spring election.

3.7.2 If the freshman, graduate, or Gatton Academy senator position(s) will not be filled in the fall election, they shall change to at-large positions in the same fall elections.”, and

**WHEREAS:** This amendment would also correct an error in section 3.7.3 which incorrectly describes “two (2) graduate senators” thus limiting the long list of senate seats excluded and preventing issues like this from occurring in the future, and

**WHEREAS:** The Student Government Association’s annual operating budget has been historically approved by the slate of Senators elected in the prior spring’s election, and

**WHEREAS:** The exceptions made in the Constitution seemingly lack consideration over the impact of almost a third of the Senate being pushed off until the fall, and

**WHEREAS:** The Fall 2020 SGA election demonstrated the immense benefit of having an almost complete Senate from the beginning, and

WHEREAS: Voter turnout is higher in spring elections since the elections coincide with Executive Cabinet elections, so spring elections are more likely to represent the student body, and

WHEREAS: Having a nearly complete Senate for the upcoming year provides ample time to innovate and research legislation during the summer, and

WHEREAS: All branches of the Student Government Association can better corroborate and delegate when the makeup of the Senate is better outlined, and

**THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky supports the addition of the aforementioned clauses to the Constitution and supports a referendum of approval from the student body.

**AUTHORS:**

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**SPONSORS**:

 Constitutional Review Ad-Hoc Committee

 Legislative Research Committee

 Academic and Student Affairs Committee

**CONTACTS:**