

The Student Senate  
85th Student Government Association  
Bethel College

**A Bill to Improve Student Representation through a Shift in the Freshmen Election Timing**

**Introduced By:** The Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws

**Date Submitted:** August 14, 2017

**Action Taken by the Student Government Association Senate**

Vote: 11 For                      0 Against                      0 Abstentions

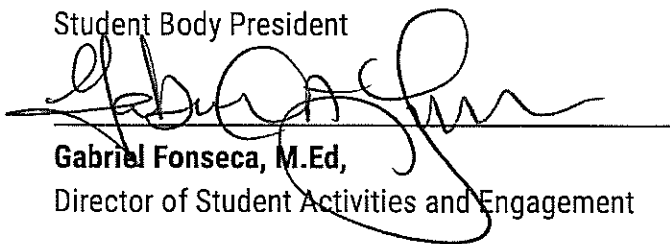
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Heath Goertzen**  
Speaker of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator VACANT**  
Secretary of the Senate

**Action Taken by the Student Body President**

     Enacted                           Vetoed

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**Kiley Varney,**  
Student Body President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gabriel Fonseca, M.Ed,**  
Director of Student Activities and Engagement

**Whereas**, the Bethel College Student Government Association promotes the interest and concerns of the student body in matters that affect the College Community, AND

**Whereas**, the Student Government Association is charged with representing the voice of all students in the College student body, AND

**Whereas**, few people get their feet beneath them at Bethel in time to consider running for Freshman Senate positions, and as such the timing of this election narrows the range of students who might decide to run for Freshmen Senate positions, which leads to a lower possibility of having a Student Government Association that accurately represents the various demographics of the student body, AND,

**Whereas**, Freshmen students do not have enough time to begin to understand the problems that the Bethel College student body struggles with, and as such are not able to provide substantive, non-generic reasons for choosing to run for office, AND,

**Whereas**, the chaos of the first few weeks at Bethel is such that it is unreasonable to expect Freshmen students to form well thought-out opinions about some of the issues that Bethel faces, AND,

**Whereas**, students elected in Freshmen elections, which are already skewed, often serve multiple years on Senate, meaning that the skewed, chaotic first engagement of a class with SGA often has implications past that first election year, AND,

**Whereas**, the timing of Freshmen elections fosters a skewed representation of the student body in the Student Government Association, AND,

**Whereas**, Freshmen students are already represented in part through At-Large Senators.

**Therefore, be it hereby enacted**, that the Senate directs the Elections Commission to submit, on an annual basis, a date for Freshmen Senate elections that will occur ~~during the first two weeks after~~ during the two weeks before Thanksgiving Break.

**Be it hereby further enacted**, that Freshmen Senator responsibilities will begin with the resumption of SGA events after Winter Break.

**Be it hereby further enacted**, that the fall semester responsibilities of At-Large Senators pertaining to the Preheim-Dunn Accountability Constituency Act will be adjusted so that both of their meetings with constituents will be held specifically for members of the Freshmen class in the Haury Hall lounge.

**Be it hereby further enacted**, that the fall semester stipend for Freshmen senators will be cut, and the extra funds resulting from a decrease in stipends allotted to Freshmen Senators will be added to the RSO fund.