

86-034



The Student Senate
86th Student Government Association
Bethel College

A Bill to Modify the Senator Vacancy Procedure

Introduced By: Heath Goertzen, Student Body President

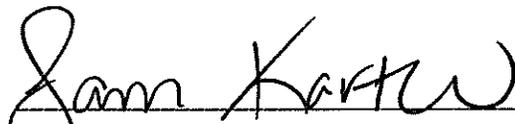
Date Submitted: February 7, 2019

Action Taken by the Student Government Association Senate

Vote: 14 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions



Sydney Bollinger, Speaker of the Senate



Sam Karten, Secretary of the Senate

Action Taken by the Student Body President

Enacted Vetoed



Heath Goertzen, Student Body President



Sam Haynes, SGA Advisor

"FOR STUDENTS...BY STUDENTS"

86-___: *A Bill to Modify the Senator Vacancy Procedure*

Abstract:

This bill changes the way Senate vacancies are filled. Under the current system, any open seats on Senate are filled by a presidential appointment, which is time-consuming and undemocratic. The new system proposes to hold an election in order to fill vacant seats.

Whereas, the process for filling vacant senate seats is not democratic

Concerned, that the current process is onerous and time-consuming for the SGA president

Further Concerned that to date, 12 of the 29 bills heard by 86th Senate have been Senator appointment bills,

Recognizing, that this is an ineffective use of Senate time

Therefore, Let it be Enacted: the following modifications be enacted to the bylaws.

1. Under XIV, Add Sub-Point H (prior to current sub-point H), Titled “Special Elections for Senate Vacancies”, reading
 - a. “In the event that a senate seat is vacated during the school year, a special election will occur in order to fill the vacant position. An email will be sent to all members of the represented cohort notifying them of the opening. The email should include information about the position (including time requirement, roles, pay, and anything else the elections commission deems prudent). This email should finally request that any interested students write a short paragraph describing why they are interested in the position and why they feel they would be a good candidate. One week after this email is sent, the elections commission shall send out a ballot to the represented cohort with the names and self-authored paragraphs of each candidate via email. The candidate with the most votes shall be appointed to the vacant seat immediately.
 - i. If after one week no students submit their names, a follow-up email should be sent notifying the cohort that the seat has not been filled as well as a message that the seat will remain unfilled if no one steps forward. The ballot will remain open for one more week prior to the rest of the process.
 - ii. If only one person expresses interest, they shall be appointed without a vote.
 - iii. If no person steps forward to fill the position, the position shall remain open until the end of the semester. If the vacancy opened in the Fall semester, the above procedure should be repeated at the beginning of the spring semester. If the vacancy opened in the spring semester, the position shall remain open until the spring elections. “