



# Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

*86<sup>th</sup> Session, 2018-2019*

## AN ACT AMENDING THE DUTIES OF SENATORS REGARDING LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

Bill Number: 07

Authored By: Senator Hughes

Sponsored By: 2018-2019 Senate of the Associated Students

*Whereas*, in previous sessions of the Senate of the Associated Students there has not been a way to properly ensure that senators are abiding by Title I, Chapter 101, Section 03, Subsection b, line 4 of the Statutes of the Associated Students;

*Whereas*, Title I, Chapter 101, Section 03, Subsection b, line 4 of the Statutes of the Associated Students is regarding the duties of a senator stating, “[The duties of the Senator include, but are not limited to:] 4) Mentor and educate Legislative *Intern*(s) that may be assigned to them”;

*Whereas*, the legislating internship is way to pass knowledge on to the next generation of leaders on our campus. According to W. Brad Johnson PhD, a psychology professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, ““Research shows that mentees generally perform better in their programs and after they get out of school [than students without mentors] ... Students tend to get tied into the mentor's network of colleagues, and that creates more open doors” (American Psychology Association 2014). Additionally, the Statues of the Associated Students states, “ASUN views leadership as a valuable and necessary asset for each student to obtain. The Legislative Internship Program works to uphold that belief by creating interns who strive to improve ASUN and its institution as a whole by offering new, innovative ideas and by being dedicated to the issues and concerns of all”;

*Whereas*, the current duties lack a quantitative way to ensure the senators are fulfilling this duty;

*Whereas*, by allowing the Speaker Pro Tempore to propose a minimum number of hours senators should spend mentoring the Senator's interns every week the Association will be ensuring accountability of this duty;

*Whereas*, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall propose a minimum number of hours that senators shall spend with the assigned or chosen intern, with approval by the majority of the Senate of the Associated Students;

*Whereas*, by allowing the Senate an opportunity to discuss and approve the duties for that session, a sense of stakeholder buy in will be provided that will involve everyone in the decision-making process to reach a broad consensus for the standard obligations senators have to that intern as a mentor/mentee relationship;

*Whereas*, the Senators will document the hours they spend mentoring the interns through a method developed by the Speaker Pro Tempore;

*Whereas*, the Speaker Pro Tempore will oversee the fulfillment of these duties and will report on them bi-weekly at Senate meetings;

*Whereas*, the Speaker Pro Tempore will also propose a method of demerits for the senators if they fail to fulfill these duties that must be approved by majority vote of the Senate;

*Be it enacted*, that under Title I: The Legislative Branch, Chapter 101: Composition, Section 03: Senators, subsection b) Duties, it be amended to include, “ 4) Mentor and educate Legislative Intern(s) that may be assigned to them in concurrence with the standards proposed by the Speaker Pro Tempore and approved by the Senate body for that session.” (See Addendum A);

*Be it further enacted*, that under Title I: The Legislative Branch, Chapter 101: Composition, Section 06: Speaker Pro Tempore, Subsection b) Duties 9) be amended to state, “Develop a standard for the Senators to follow during the mentorship of the assigned interns. This standard shall be proposed by the Speaker Pro Tempore and must be passed by majority approval of the Senate. The standard will include, but is not limited to:

- i. A minimum number of hours the Senator shall spend with the assigned interns on a two-week time cycle
- ii. A method Senators shall use to document the time the Senator spends with the intern.
- iii. Develop a system of demerits for instances when senators fail to fulfill these obligations”

10) Report on the senators’ compliance with the duties and standards approved by the senate body.”

(See Addendum B);

*Be it further enacted*, that duty 9) “Responsible for the curation of the Senate Legacy Box and all files within it. These files shall provide proper documentation for future senators.” Be reassigned as duty 11 to reflect these changes. (See Addendum B).

Adopted in Senate on September 19th, 2018

Attest:

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Anthony Martinez, Speaker of the Senate

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Hannah Jackson, President of the Associated Students

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

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Andrea Godoy, Secretary of the Senate

## **Addendum A**

### **SECTION 03: SENATORS**

#### **a) IN GENERAL:**

A Senator, elected by peers in the college of his or her major, serves a broad set of functions within the Association. However, the primary role of the Senator is that of legislator, amending and generating bills and resolutions which best reflect the needs and voices of the students during his or her term as Senator. Senators must maintain a GPA consistent with the requirements of the Constitution, from an institution of higher education.

#### **b) DUTIES:**

The Senator is in the prime position to communicate between students and heads of colleges. The duties of the Senator include, but are not limited to:

1. Host four office hours within a two-week period
2. Attend the convening of the Senate and its committees to which the Senator has been assigned.
3. Report during committee meetings to which the senator is assigned with respect to his or her activities as the previous meeting, whenever the chair of the committee requests.
4. Mentor and educate Legislative Intern(s) that may be assigned to them **in concurrence with the standards proposed by the Speaker Pro Tempore and approved by the Senate body for that session**
5. Regularly attend meetings of the Student Advisory Board of the college which they are representing or take initiative regarding an inactive or nonexistent advisory board

## **Addendum B**

### **SECTION 06: SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

#### **a) IN GENERAL:**

The Senate shall appoint from the membership of the Senate a Speaker Pro Tempore, subject to the majority approval of the Senate. The Speaker Pro Tempore will adopt the duties of the Speaker of the Senate when appropriate, serving at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate.

#### **b) DUTIES:**

The duties of the Speaker Pro Tempore include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Run weekly meetings of the full-body Senate when the Speaker is not present
- 2) In the case of illness, leave, or omitted to make such an appointment of the Speaker, the Speaker Pro Tempore may perform the duties of the Speaker for a period not exceeding 14 days, subject to the approval of the Senate.
- 3) In the case of a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall act as Speaker until the election of a new Speaker. Pending such election the Speaker Pro Tempore may exercise such authorities of the Office of Speaker as may be necessary and appropriate to that end.
- 4) Sit on the Senate Standing Committee on Oversight, as a full member of the Committee on Oversight. The Speaker Pro Tempore shall report on the legislative internship program.
- 5) Will serve as oversight and liaison to the Legislative Interns.
- 6) Coordinate the application and resignation process of the legislative interns and meet regularly with the Chair of the Legislative Interns to advise on planning of Legislative Intern meetings during the Fall semester.
- 7) Plan, organize, and execute the curriculum of the Legislative Internship program with the aid of the Legislative Chair to include, but not be limited to:
  - i. Produce the education components each week to include sentiments such as: Robert's Rules of Order, the ASUN governing documents, the current Rules of the Senate, the Nevada Open Meeting Law, functions of the Standing Committee, Nevada State and federal laws and policies, writing procedures for legislation, time management, leadership development and research skills
  - ii. Presentations or guest speakers that increase the learning mission of the

program.

- iii. Hold events where Legislative Interns are able to meet current Senators.
- iv. Coordinate a “buddy system” where Senators are matched to mentor and educate Legislative Intern(s).

8) Review candidates for the Legislative Internships for eligibility with the assistance of the administrative faculty of the Center for Student Engagement.

9) Develop a standard for the Senators to follow during the mentorship of the assigned interns. This standard shall be proposed by the Speaker Pro Tempore and must be passed by majority approval of the Senate. The standard shall include, but is not limited to:

- i. A minimum number of hours the Senator shall spend with the assigned interns on a two-week time cycle
- ii. A method Senators shall use to document the time the Senator spends with an intern.
- iii. Develop a system of demerits for instances when senators fail to fulfill these obligations

10) Report on the senators’ compliance with the duties and standards approved by the senate body

11) Responsible for the curation of the Senate Legacy Box and all files within it. These files shall provide proper documentation for future senators.