The Senate Legislative Reform Act of 2021

Whereas, The ASG Senate is elected by the student body to serve its interests; and

Whereas, Each Senator has a responsibility to participate in the legislative process by debating, questioning, sponsoring, and, most importantly, authoring; and

Whereas, As of March 10th, 44% of the 2020-2021 Senate body has yet to fulfill their legislative requirement, and though this is an 8% improvement from this time last year, we have an obligation to do more; and

Whereas, The 2019-2020 Senate body formed an Ad-Hoc committee to evaluate avenues to improve the productivity of the Senate, but the committee was cut short due to the emergence of COVID-19; and

Whereas, The three remaining members of this committee are authors on this bill: Caleb Parker, Lily Jones, and Kathleen Bridgforth; and

Whereas, The legislative requirement is currently outlined in the Senate Standing rules but not the Associated Student Government Code of Laws, and neither document sufficiently provides a process for individuals who do not meet their requirements; and

Whereas, The re-implementation of authorship-by-committee both eases the burden on junior senators and increases involvement within the committee and with the greater Senate body; and
Whereas, The ASG Senate’s effectiveness is measured by the quality of legislation and the multitude of differing perspectives shown by it; so

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate is committed to fulfilling its duty to the students.

Be it further resolved: The ASG Code should reflect the specificity of the Senate Standing Rules legislative requirement.

Be it further resolved: Title II Section 3 Subsection A.b. of the ASG Code be amended to read “Research student concerns and author a minimum of one piece of legislation in an academic year;”

Be it further resolved: Title II Section 3 Subsection E be added to the ASG Code to read “Any Senator who does not complete their legislative requirement by the end of their term will not be eligible to serve as a Senator in the ensuing term. Any seats lost due to ineligibility would thereby be allocated to the Fall Vacancy Election.”

Be it further resolved: Title II Section 3 Subsection E. a. be added to the ASG Code to read “Any Senator who does not complete their legislative requirement in their final academic term before graduation would not be eligible to receive an ASG cord.”

Be it further resolved: Title II Section 3 Subsection E. b. be added to the ASG Code to read “Any extenuating circumstances that might justify exclusion from the requirement are to be submitted in a timely manner to the Senate Ethics Committee and ASG Advisor for evaluation.”

Be it finally resolved: This bill go into effect on June 1st, 2021 upon passage by the ASG Senate and subsequent signing by the ASG President.
Official Use Only

Amendments: ________________________________

Vote Count:  Aye _______  Nay _______  Abstentions _______

Legislation Status:  Passed _____  Failed _____  Other _________

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Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate   Date

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Julia Nall, ASG President   Date