The Senate Research Committee Reform Act of 2023

Whereas, The Senate Research Committee was created to inform senate legislation through tabling and feedback gathering activities; and

Whereas, The current Research Committee has been undergoing a trial period during the 2022-2023 Senate; and

Whereas, The orderly operation of the Senate Research Committee would allow the Senate to remain in touch with the evolving needs of the Student Body, and to better fulfill our oaths to the students which we represent.

Be it therefore resolved: The Research Committee of the Senate will be established as a Standing Committee of the Senate. Members will be appointed to committees in accordance with the methods used for other committee assignments by the Chair of Senate.

Be it further resolved: The Research Committee, as a Standing Committee of the Senate, will have powers to investigate issues pressing to the student body, fulfilling the role of the Senate to represent the “common interests” of the student body, as outlined by the Senatorial Oath.

Be it further resolved: The Senate Pro Tempore will serve as the Chair of Research Committee and will be accountable to the Chair of Senate for its operations, including the orderly and punctual submissions of committee reports.
Be it further resolved: The Chair of Research Committee will convene the committee to meet at the regularly appointed time for committees on the day of the last Senate meeting of each month, except January, and May, for the purposes of deciding the topic for Research Committee for the following month.

Be it further resolved: The Chair of Research Committee will report to the Senate, on the last meeting of each month, the topic for the following month, as well as the questions which will be included in the survey for that month.

Be it further resolved: The Chair of Research Committee, along with two general committee members, will author a report of the feedback from that month’s tabling and present it to the research committee for approval during the next month’s meeting. Upon approval by a simple majority, the Chair of Research Committee will deliver the report to the Chair of Senate who will distribute it to the whole body of the Senate.

Be it further resolved: The Chair of Research Committee may, at their discretion, choose a member of the committee to take the lead on the month’s activities should they feel that they themselves are less qualified to lead on that topic. This member would be in charge of formulating the questions for the tabling survey, though the Chair still administrate for the committee during the month.

Be it further resolved: Each member of the research committee will fulfill a singular hour of tabling at a time and place agreed upon by the Research Committee
and approved by the Chair of Senate each month.

Be it further resolved: If a member of the research committee has an unavoidable conflict with the times scheduled for tabling, that member may discuss an appropriate task, such as assisting in the authorship of the monthly report, that will replace it.

Be it further resolved: Failure of a member of the research committee to complete either the mandatory required tabling or office hour, or a failure to be present at a committee meeting without an excuse being presented to the Chair of Senate, will result in a half absence, in line with similar penalties for other committees. A member may only be penalized one half absence from the required research committee duties per month. This does not apply to an unexcused absence from a committee meeting, which will always result in a half absence.

Be it further resolved: Any Senator will have the ability to ask the Chair of Research Committee to table alongside committee members for any given month but will not be held accountable to the same office hour and tabling requirement. Additionally, any Senator can propose any question to be considered as part of the monthly tabling survey.

Be it further resolved: If approved by the Senate, Chair of Senate, and President of ASG, these reforms would take effect with the seating of the 2023-2024 Senate.

Be it further resolved: The preceding “resolved” clauses be added to the ASG code between Title II Sections 14 and 15 as Title II Section 15 “Senate Research Committee” Points A-L.
Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Code Title II Section 5 be amended between point B and point D to read “The Senate Pro Tempore shall be the Chair of the Senate Research Committee.”

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this bill be sent to Chief Justice Anna Roach.

Official Use Only

Amendments: ________________________________

Vote Count: Aye 36  .  Nay 0  .  Abstentions 3

Legislation Status: Passed  Failed  .  Other

Gabrielle Gies, ASG Chair of the Senate  Date  2-22-23

Lauren Loften, ASG President  Date  2-22-23