

# PROPOSED AMENDMENT

## STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Proposed and Considered 26 March 2023

Passed 4 April 2023

**RESOLVED** that the below amendments to the Bylaws of the Student Bar Association of Chicago-Kent College of law are ADOPTED with immediate effect except that the amendments to Article III Sec. 1 shall not take effect until 20 April 2023 to allow the ongoing election process to proceed undisturbed.

### ARTICLE III SECTION 1

Current Text:

Section 1: Elections. Elections for the General Assembly shall be held twice every year. The first election shall be held no later than the third full week of September, during which all first-year Representatives shall be elected; and the second election shall be held no later than the fourth full week of April, during which all other General Assembly Representatives and Officers shall be elected. Each election shall be held over the course of two days.

Proposed Text:

Section 1: Elections. Elections for the General Assembly shall be held twice every year. The first election shall be held no later than the third full week of September, during which all first-year Representatives shall be elected; and the second election shall be held no later than the ~~fourth~~third full week of April, during which all other General Assembly Representatives and Officers shall be elected. Each election shall be held over the course of two days.

### ARTICLE III SECTION 5

Current Text:

Section 5: Term. The term of members and officers of the General Assembly shall begin on the second Monday of May at noon, and shall last until the second Monday in May of the following year. The term of office for all newly elected first-year Representatives shall begin immediately following their election, and shall last until the second Monday of the following May. Should the results of an election still be disputed at the time a

member is to take office, then the term of office shall begin as soon as the dispute is resolved pursuant to Section 4(i) and (j) of this Article.

Proposed Text:

Section 5: Term. The term of members and officers of the General Assembly shall begin on the ~~second Monday of May~~fourth Sunday of April at noon, and shall last until noon on the second Monday in May~~fourth Sunday of April~~ of the following year. The term of office for all newly elected first-year Representatives shall begin immediately following their election, and shall last until the ~~second Monday~~fourth Sunday of the following ~~May~~April. Should the results of an election still be disputed at the time a member is to take office, then the term of office shall begin as soon as the dispute is resolved pursuant to Section 4(i) and (j) of this Article.

#### ARTICLE VII SECTION 1(c)

Current Text:

(c) The President-elect shall call a meeting of the newly elected General Assembly Officers after the announcement of the April election results, but before the reading period of the Spring semester. The outgoing officers shall attend this meeting and separately meet with their successors prior to the end of the academic year to ensure a smooth transition of power.

Proposed Text:

(c) The ~~President-elect~~newly-elected President shall call a meeting of the newly elected General Assembly Officers after the announcement of the April election results, but before the reading period of the Spring semester. The outgoing officers shall attend this meeting and separately meet with their successors prior to the end of the academic year to ensure a smooth transition of power.

#### ARTICLE VIII SECTION 1(a)

Current Text:

(a) Appropriation of Student Bar Association funds may only be made in cases where time does not allow for full approval of the General Assembly.

Proposed Text:

(a) To appropriate funds by Executive Order, the President must propose an Executive Order and submit such Order to the Treasurer, and the Treasurer must submit such order

to the Finance Committee. Before funds are appropriated by Executive Order, the Finance Committee must approve and the Executive Committee must approve.

Appropriation of Student Bar Association funds may also be made in cases where either time does not allow for full approval of the Finance Committee or the Finance Committee defers to the Treasurer, in which case the Treasurer may approve in lieu of the Finance Committee. Abuse of this provision may be grounds for removal of the Officers and members involved.

### ARTICLE VIII SECTION 3

Current Text:

Section 3: Records of Executive Orders. The President and Secretary must keep a record and notify the General Assembly of any executive orders. The General Assembly must ratify all executive orders at their next meeting, or through electronic ratification prior to the next scheduled meeting. Any executive orders not ratified by the General Assembly shall be revoked as much as practicable; and if any money has already been spent, then the General Assembly must, as a group, reallocate money within the budget to cover that expenditure.

Proposed Text:

Section 3: Records of Executive Orders. The President and Secretary must keep a record and notify the General Assembly of any executive orders. The General Assembly must ratify all executive orders at their next meeting, or through electronic ratification prior to the next scheduled meeting, except where money has already been spent. Any executive orders not ratified by the General Assembly shall be revoked as much as practicable; and if any money has already been spent, then the General Assembly must, as a group, reallocate money within the budget to cover that expenditure.

### ARTICLE IX SECTION 3

Current Text:

Section 3: Committee Appointments. All appointments to standing committees shall be made prior to the second general meeting of the General Assembly of any year. Assignments to all committees shall be valid until the end of the current term unless the President revokes the assignment or the member resigns the committee.

Proposed Text:

Section 3: Committee Appointments. All Appointments to standing committees shall be made prior to the second general meeting of the General Assembly of any year by the

newly elected President before the beginning of the Spring read period and within one week of the completion of the first-year Representative elections in the Fall. Assignments to all committees shall be valid until the end of the current term unless the President revokes the assignment or the member resigns the committee.

## THROUGHOUT THE BYLAWS

### Current Text:

Utilizes “him or her” in reference to representatives and executive members.

### Proposed Text:

Removed gendered language and use “they” and equivalent neutral terms in all relevant instances.

### Comments:

This amendment is designed to make SBA a continuously operating body. The need for this has arisen in two contexts. First, the general assembly has a very limited role over the summer where the President and Executive Committee effectively operate as the entire SBA. Second, it takes weeks for committees to organize and begin operating at the beginning of the school year.

These changes can be considered in two parts. First, changes are made to Article II Section 1, Article III Section 5, and Article IX Section 3 that change the calendar and move more organization to the Spring. The election deadline would be one week earlier, terms would start a bit earlier, there would be a longer window for the organizational meeting, and the new President would have to fill the committees before the spring read period. Indirectly related, Article VII Section 1(c) is changed to clarify that it is the newly elected President who calls the meeting whether already in office or not.

Second, the procedure for spending over the summer (or other times the full general assembly is unavailable) is clarified. The old one seems contradictory because it requires there is not time to consult the general assembly before money has to be spent, but then it says the general assembly has to ratify it after it was spent. Instead, this new procedure allows the finance committee to stand in for the general assembly. The revision also allows spending by the executive committee alone but in that case gives the Treasurer a veto.