



112<sup>th</sup> STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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*Doosed*

*3/26/19*

*21 days*

*9 may*

*Abstentions*

### Executive Summary

#### **A.B. 16: Amending The Code of Rules and Procedures to Establish MEC Representatives**

A.B. 16 is inspired by the pursuit of creating a more representative, equitable, and productive Student Government Assembly. In the simplest of terms, A.B. 16 establishes a pilot program that allows the MEC agencies to appoint representatives to sit in the SG Assembly. Its goal is to last a year, and after that, if successful, implement the program into the SG Constitution to ensure its continued implementation. If it is not successful, then an operational committee shall convene to review the pilot program and provide recommendations moving forward.

*Overturned by SC*

#### **Questions:**

1. Why the MEC and why its agencies?
  - a. The history of the MEC sees its origins in that of Student Government. We both have a history of pursuing a better university for all. The MEC provides a unique chance to explore this concept because of: 1) It's institutional stability; meaning that it has been around for a substantial amount of time, it has university oversight and staff assigned to direct it, and it has been successfully student-run across the years, showing a sense of stability and success, and 2) Its history with SG. Being a former agency of Student Government, it seems appropriate that this organization would be the inaugural pilot to further understand and try new forms of representation for the assembly.
2. Why two seats per agency?
  - a. These agencies cover multiple identities and allowing each agency two seats ensures that the Assembly has greater diversity, and subsequently, more productive and beneficial legislation and discussion for the student body.
3. What constitutional authority is there to establish this program?
  - a. Sec 4.27 of The Constitution of The University of Texas at Austin Student Government permits the assembly to "elect officers not specified in this constitution."
4. What section of the Code of Rules and Procedures ensures their equal authority along representatives elected in the spring and fall elections?
  - a. Title II, Article I, Chapter III, Subchapter A, Sec. 3.3 specifies, "All Representatives elected or duly confirmed shall be considered sitting members of the Assembly."

5. Why a pilot? If successful, why file for an amendment? If not successful, why a committee?
  - a. A pilot allows Student Government to understand how these roles would operate, and experience them in real time, as opposed to a formulated abstract on how best to achieve diversity in SG. If successful, it should be mandated to institute it, and if not, we should understand why and chart the best path moving forward. The institutional nature of guaranteeing a constitutional amendment provides a notion that the seats are a guaranteed, respected, and needed aspect to achieve a better assembly. If the pilot program does not achieve the intended goals, then we will have an experience in which to learn from and understand what did not work, and from that, we can begin to formulate new ideas to better represent the student body.
6. What about other identities and expansion of the assembly for new seats?
  - a. As per Sec 3.40 (b) of the proposed amendment, an operational committee shall be formed to assess and recommend measures in which to implement an expansion protocol. This would allow a uniform way in which to understand the needed requirements and justification for new seats in the assembly, and how best to go about piloting them, and ensuring that they will seek constitutional approval.

# A.B. 16

## Amending The Code of Rules and Procedures to Establish MEC Representatives

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IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**Authors:** DEPUTY DIRECTOR TRIP DAVIS (*Deputy Director of Advocacy*), Director Sarah Phillips (*Political Engagement for Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective*), Director Marissa Martinez (*Latinx Leadership Institute for Latinx Community Affairs*), Director Luke Hernandez (*University Liason and Political Engagement for Latinx Community Affairs*), Director Marene Chihuahua (*Community Development for Latinx Community Affairs*), Director Lynn Huynh (*Operations for Queer and Trans People of Color Agency*), Director Jordan Walters (*Community Advancement for Afrikan American Affairs*), Director Brandon Okeke (*Operations for Afrikan American Affairs*), Director Inner Carbajal (*Special Events and Coordinating for Latinx Community Affairs*), Director Evangelina Vaghefi (*Community Development for Latinx Community Affairs*), Director Rosaleen Xiong (*Community Engagement for Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective*), Director Tanvi Sehgal (*Social Outreach for Queer and Trans People of Color Agency*)

**Sponsors:** CHAIR VINIT SHAH (*Academic Affairs Committee*), REPRESENTATIVE LINDA DURAJ (*McCombs School of Business*), CHAIR USMAAN HASAN (*Ethics and Oversight Committee*), AND REPRESENTATIVE AMRUTHA SREEDHARANE (*College of Natural Sciences*)

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT:**

SEC 1: Amend Title II, Article I, Chapter III in the Code of Rules and Procedures by adding Subchapter F as follows:

Subchapter F: Multicultural Engagement Center (MEC) Agency Representatives Pilot Program

Sec 3.35 **Purpose.** MEC agency representatives aim to increase diverse opinions, experiences, and viewpoints to the Student Government legislative process, as well as institutional actions as a whole.

- Sec. 3.36 **Representative Allotment.** Each agency of the MEC, Afrikan American Affairs (AAA), Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective (ADPAC), Latinx Community Affairs (LCA), Native American and Indigenous Collective (NAIC), Queer and Trans People of Color Agency (QTPOCA), and Students for Equity and Diversity (SED) shall each be allotted two seats in the assembly.
- Sec 3.37 **Representative Selection.** The MEC agencies, under the advice and supervision of the MEC Director and Assistant Director, shall decide upon the selection procedure for their allotted seats. Upon making a decision, a written outline and explanation should be submitted to the Speaker of the Assembly, and be available for inspection upon request.
- Sec 3.38 **Representative Approval.** The selected Representatives shall be subject to assembly confirmation of a simple majority at the first available meeting after their selection.
- Sec 3.39 **Expiration of Pilot Program.** The program shall last the entirety of the 113th Assembly, and be concluded sine die of the 113th. If the program is not successfully sustained through a constitutional amendment, and this section is not explicitly removed or amended beforehand then the following shall happen:
- a. An operational committee consisting of the Speaker, the chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, and five representatives chosen by the Speaker shall be convened. The committee shall be tasked with:
    - i. Writing a report for the Assembly and SG as a whole; outlining what was successful of the program, what went wrong, what could be improved, and what they see as the next steps moving forward to achieve a more diverse and equitable student government.
- Sec 3.40 **Constitutional Amendment.** If upon implementation this program is successful, and this section (Title II, Article I, Chapter III, Subchapter F, Sec 3.40) is not removed, repealed, or otherwise eliminated from the code than the following shall happen:
- a. Five weeks before the 2020 Spring election, a bill shall be filed, by either the Speaker of the Assembly and/or the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, or upon negligence of aforementioned duties by the two individuals, any representative, to Amend The Constitution of the University of Texas at Austin Student Government to insert a new section into Article IV. This article shall solidify the seats of the MEC representatives and establish their chosen method of selection. This bill shall be fast-tracked and voted on at the first assembly meeting after filing.
  - b. An operational committee consisting of the Speaker, the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, four MEC Representatives, and one additional representative, chosen by the speaker, shall be formed and codified in the following way, in its appropriate location within the Code of Rules and Procedures:
    - i. Assembly Diversity Expansion Committee shall be responsible for the institutionalization of the MEC pilot program. Additionally, they should present to the Assembly the best course of action moving forward in terms of adding additional seats to the assembly and the best way to go about that to ensure a stable and representative body. The committee shall propose a standard form of recruitment or application for assembly seats, requirements for said seat appointment, a similar one-year pilot proposal,

and their measure of success and prospect of constitutional implementation.

- SEC 2: This bill shall be sent to the Deputy Advisory to the Dean of Students, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the President of The University of Texas at Austin. Upon being approved by these entities, this bill will go into immediate effect.
- SEC 3: The Assembly Clerk shall update the Code of Rules and Procedures and provide an electronic copy to the Communications Director, who shall update the SG website accordingly.