



RUSA Resolution 15S21-02

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Sponsor: [Executive Committee]

Resolution for the Appointment of an Interim SAS Senator

Whereas, there is a current vacancy for a School of Arts & Sciences Senator position;

Whereas, student senate seats are greatly outnumbered by the seats allocated to faculty and staff, so it is important to ensure student representation within the University Senate until the positions can be permanently filled in the Fall 2021 elections;

Whereas, the Constitution notes that the Appointment Committee shall fill vacancies within the Assembly, but the Appointment Committee:

- A. Has not yet been assembled in line with Article II Section 2 of the Standing Rules and Article II Section 4(B) of the Constitution, and
- B. Even if formed, would not be able to go through its appointment process in time for the University Senate meeting to be held on Friday, April 30th, 2021; and

Whereas, a similar circumstance arose in Spring 2019 and President Virani and then-Treasurer LaBelle *et al.* authored legislation¹ to appoint interim SAS Senators that acts a model for such vacancies and acts as precedent with confirmation as such from the Parliamentarian²; and

Whereas, having more SAS Senators would allow more interested students to run for the SAS Senate Leader position, as well as allow more students to have a voice in the University Senate officer elections, which will be held on Friday, April 30th, 2021;

¹ RUSA Resolution 13S19-14, "[Resolution to Allow the RUSA Executive Board to Appoint Interim SAS Senators.](#)"

² S.R. Art. III § 2(E)(c-d) advisory opinion: There is a notable difference between an *interim* position and a *permanent* position. It is the view of the Parliamentarian that this resolution is sufficiently narrowly tailored to the particular situation the Assembly currently finds itself in and does not infringe on the Article II Section 4(B) constitutional powers given to the Appointment Committee. The narrowly tailored basis is founded on the fact that there is a deadline to the interim appointment, there is a clear and present need articulated for why the vacancy should be filled, and precedent for this procedure can be found under actions taken by President Jhanvi Virani and the Executive Board of the 13th Assembly.

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, that the Assembly, through a two-thirds vote, motions for the following to occur to fill a vacant SAS Senate seat on an interim basis:

1. The Assembly hereby suspends Article II Section 2 of the Standing Rules to allow for the appointment of an interim SAS Senator;
2. The interim SAS Senator shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board, and shall serve until the Appointment Committee is functional;
3. The interim SAS Senator shall be given deference and preference by the Appointment Committee in making its permanent selection for filling the vacancy, especially if the interim SAS Senator in question has attained a position of note within the University Senate.

Be it further resolved, that the Assembly, through a two-thirds vote, shall further the applicable parts of Article II Section 4 of the Standing Rules to recess upon the passage of this resolution and call for an emergency Executive Board meeting, which shall meet during the recess to select the interim SAS Senator and report back to the Assembly at the end of the recess, with the recess lasting no more than ten (10) minutes.