



## Bill S20 - 15

### Created by a working group.

**Chair of Working Group:** Grace DANIEL, Internal Affairs Chair | **Primary Author:** Bilal Yousuf AHMED, Parliamentarian | **Central Members:** Jason YU, Assemblyman; Sean TONRA, Assemblyman; and Javier PEREZ, Chief of Staff

**Sponsors:** Internal Affairs Committee

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## REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS OF THE STANDING RULES ACT

- Part I: Special Advisor, Chief of Staff & Deputy Chief of Staff, Ad-Hocs, Departments -

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**Whereas**, the Standing Rules govern the Rutgers University Student Assembly (the Assembly) and its operations, boards, committees, offices, and the actions of their members;

**Whereas**, the Standing Rules required a significant level of revision in order to accommodate the changing nature of the Assembly;

**Whereas**, the Internal Affairs Committee has determined a need for more fundamental changes to the Standing Rules which would make the Assembly more efficient and effective;

**Whereas**, as a consequence of extensive debate, numerous associated and contemporaneous documents were created over the course of the formation of these Standing Rules, including but not limited to agendas published by Grace DANIEL, Internal Affairs Chair; memoranda published by Bilal Yousuf AHMED, Parliamentarian; and a letter published Miguel RIBAU, Legislative Affairs Chair;

SR Changes Meeting [Agenda](#) May 4, 2020 | Parliamentary [memorandum](#) 2020-01 | SR Changes Meeting [Agenda](#) May 14, 2020 | Parliamentary [memorandum](#) 2020-02 | Parliamentary [memorandum](#) 2020-03 | SR Changes Meeting [Agenda](#) May 20, 2020 | [Letter](#) on the status of Legislative Affairs | SR Changes Meeting [Agenda](#) May 23, 2020

**And, whereas,** a working group consisting of various Executive Board members, Officers of the Assembly, and members of the Assembly was convened in order to discuss and create these changes and amendments, and ultimately formed and presented these amendments ---

**Therefore, the following shall be hereby enacted as the Standing Rules Changes of Spring 2020 and, by proposing amendments to the Standing Rules, will require two-thirds of the Assembly in order to take effect.**

**RESOLVED,** that Art. IV § 7 shall be amended to read as the following:

7. Ad-Hoc Committees are committees that have a one-time purpose and which dissolve at the Spring Organizational meeting following their creation. The general purpose of an Ad-Hoc committee should be to identify and research pressing issues in order to, ultimately, furnish a report to the Executive Board and the Assembly. An Ad-Hoc Committee may be created at any Assembly meeting by a resolution by the majority (50% +1) of the Assembly, or by the decision of the President, and may be dissolved in the same way they were created.

- a. An Ad-hoc Committees must be chaired by an undergraduate student who is:
  - i. Chosen by a method specified by the resolution which created the committee;
  - ii. Chosen by a method specified by the President, if the committee was created by the decision of the President.
- b. All Ad-Hoc Committees:
  - i. Must be formally created by either the passage of a resolution by the Assembly, or by the submission of a document outlining purpose and membership to the Executive Board by the President;
  - ii. Once created, are directly answerable to the Executive Board and shall be managed by the Vice President;
  - iii. Must file a report with the Executive Board, showing all conclusions, findings, and recommendations, before the committee is dissolved;
  - iv. May be dissolved at either the discretion of the President or by a resolution of the Assembly, with the method of dissolution being in line with the method of creation of the Ad-Hoc Committee.
  - v. Shall automatically be dissolved at the Spring Organizational meeting of the new administration.

**RESOLVED,** that Art. IV § 8 shall be amended to read as following:

8. Departments are executive bodies that are created to serve the purpose of enacting projects and initiatives which would be best completed outside of a traditional committee structure. A Department:

- a. Must be directed by an undergraduate student who is directly selected by the President and confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Board, with the chair of a department addressed as “Director of *said project*”.
- b. Must be formally created by the submission of the specifically outlined duties and responsibilities of the Department and through a confirmatory vote by a simple majority of the Executive Board, where the duties and responsibilities:
  - i. Must be clearly outlined and delineated, and not overlap with the duties or responsibilities of a Standing or Core Committee;
  - ii. And should encompass the entirety of the scope of the Department, with the Department lacking the ability to move past these established goals unless the President amends the outlined duties and responsibilities
- c. May be partially or fully dissolved, in a manner as elaborated, whereas a two-thirds vote of any Standing or Core Committee, or a majority vote in the Internal Affairs Committee, has occurred, and whereby the following procedures and regulations must be used:
  - i. A vote in a Standing or Core Committee towards any of the following will require the presence of the Secretary to verify the vote. All votes shall require a twenty-four hour notice to the President, Secretary, Internal Affairs Chair, and Parliamentarian.
  - ii. A partial dissolution may be voted on by a Standing or Core Committee in cases of partial excess. Partial excess shall be if a limited number of duties or tasks given to the department, but not the entirety or essence of the department, unduly and inappropriately overlap or infringe on a Standing or Core Committee charges, duties, or tasks.
  - iii. In the case of partial dissolution due to partial excess, the applicable Standing or Core Committee may assume the appropriate charges given to the department, and the department shall continue to execute the rest of its duties. This shall occur after a two-thirds vote in the Standing or Core Committee in question, or after a majority vote in the Internal Affairs Committee, followed by a majority affirmative vote in the Executive Board.
  - iv. Outright excess shall be, in the first case, if the department, as a whole, unduly infringes on or includes the duties of a single or multiple Standing or Core Committees and, as such, the department in full is unnecessary.
  - v. Outright excess shall be, in the second case, if the department is intentionally being used by the president to circumvent a power, duty, or responsibility or a Committee, codified Subcommittee, Executive Board member, or Officer of the Assembly.
  - vi. In either case of outright excess, the applicable Standing or Core Committee(s) shall assume the duties of the department, and the department

and director shall cease all action. This shall occur after 1) a two-thirds vote in the Standing or Core Committee in question, or after a majority vote in the Internal Affairs Committee; followed by 2) a majority affirmative vote in the Executive Board; and followed finally by 3) a resolution in the Assembly which must pass by a majority vote which sustains the Standing or Core Committee's, or Internal Affairs Committee's, point(s) of concern.

- vii. The second case of outright excess should be noted, by the Internal Affairs Committee, as an abuse of power on behalf of the President. It should then take appropriate steps as outlined under Article XXIV of the Standing Rules.
- d. May submit legislation directly to the Executive Committee, if the Department requires additional funding or that the Assembly take a formal stance on an issue through the passage of a resolution.
- e. May receive funding from either the President or the Assembly, whereby:
  - i. Departments may receive funding from the Presidential Initiatives line-item of an administration's budget, dependent on the president informing the Executive Board upon allocation.
  - ii. Should additional funding be required, they may submit legislation to the Assembly, through the Executive Committee and working with the Treasurer, in order to determine from where funds may be appropriated. Such a bill would require a simple majority to pass.
- f. Shall have their directors update the Assembly reasonably often once the Department has been formed and until it is no longer active during Officer Updates.
- g. Shall exist until the department is fully dissolved. However, directors shall serve at the pleasure of the president and shall have their terms end at the end of the term of the president who appointed them. A new president may, thereafter, appoint a new director to an extant department.

**RESOLVED**, that Art. XV § 8 shall be removed, and Art. XV § 7 shall be amended to read as follows:

#### 7. Roles and Powers of the Chief of Staff, and Deputy Chief of Staff

- a. The Chief of Staff shall serve as the premier administrative officer of the Assembly. As such, the essence of the role should be to maintain the orderly conduct and functioning of the Assembly, within the bounds defined as follows. The duties of the Chief of Staff shall consist of:
  - i. Assisting the president in administrative duties as assigned,
  - ii. Serving five office hours a week in the summer and academic year,
  - iii. Overseeing the Office Hour Schedule, as posted online and in print,
  - iv. Serving as an Officer of the Assembly,

- v. And, though the departments shall ultimately be accountable and responsible to the president, the Chief of Staff shall manage departments on the president's behalf, should the president allow it.
- b. The Deputy Chief of Staff shall assist the Chief of Staff in all duties outlined in XV § 7(a). Towards this end, the Chief of Staff may devolve any of these duties to the Deputy Chief of Staff.
  - i. The Deputy Chief of Staff shall have the duty to perform any tasks delegated by the President or Chief of Staff.
  - ii. The Deputy Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the President, with input from the Chief of Staff, and serve at the pleasure of the President.

**RESOLVED**, that an Art. XV § 12 shall be added and read as follows:

12. Role and Powers of the Special Advisor of the President

- a. This position shall be filled solely at the discretion of the president. Any administration may appoint a Special Advisor; the president may not appoint Special Advisor if the president so wishes without the fear of penalty.
- b. The position of Special Advisor will serve as a personal policy and legislative aide to the President. As such, they are expected to have knowledge in various fields and should be able to effectively convey their expertise to the President and the Executive Board. Towards this end, the roles of the Special Advisor shall include:
  - i. Attending meetings with the president, providing for note-taking and advice when applicable,
  - ii. Advising the president in the development and implementation of various policy ideas,
  - iii. And helping maintain schedules for the president.
- c. Further, the position of Special Advisor shall act as a personal aide to the president. They are expected, in this capacity, to give relevant advice regarding different situations in which the president may not have experience. Towards this end, the roles of Special Advisor shall additionally include:
  - i. Providing their insight during contentious debates within the Assembly or the Executive Board,
  - ii. Giving advice for instances of controversy on campus, regarding issues pertinent to faculty, students, and members of the Assembly,
  - iii. And, in general, supporting the President and other members of the Executive Boards for tasks that need to be completed.
- d. In circumstances where the President or Vice President cannot attend a high-level administrative meeting, the Special Advisor may attend on behalf of the Assembly. When they are given the due consent of the President, Vice President, or Chief of

Staff to attend these meetings, they shall be given plenipotentiary powers; towards that end, they would be required to duly report to the Executive Board regarding the meetings attended.

**RESOLVED**, that the Parliamentarian and Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee shall, upon the passage of these changes and amendments, work with the president, the Assembly, and pertinent parties to properly transition any current ad-hoc committees and subcommittees into what their new form would be under these changes and amendments.

**RESOLVED**, that the Assembly acknowledges that this is the second phase of a multi-phased plan to comprehensively rewrite the Standing Rules and, as such, the Assembly anticipates additional Standing Rules changes in the near future.

**RESOLVED**, upon enactment, the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee shall furnish an updated copy of the Standing Rules to the Parliamentarian and the Secretary of the Assembly, and the Secretary shall publish the same on the Assembly's website.