

10-12-2011

Senate Bill (S) 52-012 SG Ethics Refinement Act

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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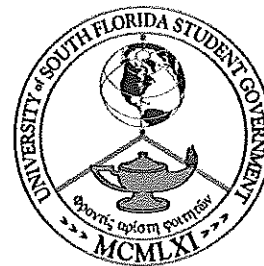
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University of South Florida Student Government Senate



SB [S] 52-012

SG Ethics Refinement Act

52nd Term

Fall 2011

The intent of this bill is to promote ethical behavior across all of Student Government by adding prohibition of false, defamatory statements and participation in official procedures where the individual cannot act in an impartial manner. In addition, this bill leaves the consequences of Employee Handbook violations up to the discretion of the Employee Handbook.

A SENATE STATUTORY AMENDMENT

Be it enacted by the Senate of the University of South Florida Student Government assembled, that the following changes be made to the Student Government Statutes:

Chapter

207

Student Government Remuneration Policies

- 207.1 Student Government Officers or Employees must be University of South Florida students with the exception of those outlined in Statutes.
- 207.2 Student Government Officers and Employees shall be responsible for all information contained in the Student Government Employee Handbook and shall be subject to the punitive measures indicated therein.
- 207.3 ~~Failure to act in accordance with the Handbook shall be grounds for immediate and unconditional termination.~~
- 207.4 No Student Government Officer or Employee shall be remunerated unless so established in the current operating budget, or in an amended budget, and all employment paperwork has been approved prior to commencing work.
- 207.5 Student Government Officers and Employees shall be remunerated as established in their respective budgets.

Chapter

208

Student Government Anti-Discrimination Policy

- 208.1 Discrimination shall be defined as the differential treatment of a student solely on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, parental status, disability, or any combination thereof.
- 208.2 No Student Government Officer, Employee, or Activity and Service Fee Funded Student Entity shall practice discrimination as defined in this Statute.
- 208.3 Any Student Government Officer, Employee, or Activity and Service Fee Funded Student Entity who practices discrimination shall be referred to relevant university authorities.
- 208.4 If such authorities deem that an act of discrimination has occurred, such findings shall serve as immediate grounds for the appropriate statutory corrective actions.

Chapter

209

Student Government Code of Ethics, Decorum and Professionalism¹

209.1 Legislative Intent and Declaration of Policy:

It is essential to the proper conduct of Student Government that its Officers and Employees be independent and impartial. Student Government Officers and Employees hold their positions for the benefit of the student body. Such Officers and Employees are bound to observe in their official acts, the highest standards of ethics consistent with Statutes:

209.2 It is the intent of this chapter to protect the integrity of Student Government by prescribing restrictions against conflicts of interest and unethical practices.

209.2209.3 All members, representatives, and affiliates of Student Government shall conduct themselves with proper decorum at all official Student Government functions or any situation where he or she is acting as a representative of Student Government.

209.3209.4 All members, representatives, and affiliates known herein collectively as members of the University of South Florida Student Government are required, in their official capacities as members, All members, representatives, and affiliates of Student Government shall to uphold the highest ethical standards of accuracy and truth in advancing the interests of those they represent and all rules and regulations outlined in the USF Code of Conduct, University Regulations and Policy, and Statutes.

Student Government Code of Ethics

209.4209.5 No member² of Student Government shall:

209.5.1 Take advantage of the official capacity of their office for their own personal gain or advantage, including any act beneficial to any person in whose welfare he or she is interested.

209.5.2 Participate in any private business or professional activity in which they have any direct or indirect financial interest which would place that person in conflict between that interest and the public interests of the student body.

209.5.2209.5.3 Participate in any Student Government procedure where the outcome has significant personal consequences for the individual that render him or her unable to act impartially.

¹ SB [S] 50-025, Modifies the chapter title.

² SB [S] 51-014 (Spring) replaces "officer or employee" with "member".

209.5.4 Make an untrue claim, expressly stated or implied to be factual, with the intent to harm the reputation of an individual or entity. This claim may be communicated verbally or in writing.

209.5.3209.5.5 Participate in any malicious act.

209.5.5.1 A Malicious Act shall be defined as any act intended to cause physical or personal injury, done with malice, hatred or spite.

209.5.6 Use or knowingly allow the use of Student Government property, facilities, vehicles, or personnel of any kind for any purpose other than Student Government Business.

209.5.7 Be involved in any agreement to accept a bribe.

209.5.7.1 A Bribe shall be defined as any form of gift bestowed to influence the recipient's conduct, including but not limited to: money, goods, property, privilege, preferment, or promise.

209.5.8 Advise, aid, procure, or in any way induce another to act in violation of the Student Body Constitution, Student Government Statutes, or otherwise specified Student Government policy, or the University's Student Code of Conduct.

209.5.9 Be intentionally tardy or absent from any meeting for which they have confirmed attendance.³

209.5.9.1 Confirmation of attendance shall include but not be limited to, email confirmation, Outlook Invite acceptance, and written confirmation.

209.5.9.2 Student Government members capable of demonstrating legitimate circumstances, as determined by SGATO, shall be considered exempt from this statute.

209.5.10 Intentionally subvert any Student Government mandated deadline.

³ SB [S] 51-014 (Spring) adds this clause and subsequent subclauses.

209.6 Violations of Criminal Law or Liability under Civil Law.

209.5.1 No Officer or Employee of Student Government shall be convicted by a Supreme Court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or misdemeanor related to the duties of his or her office.

209.5.2 For the purposes of this chapter, a conviction or civil finding of liability must be for an act occurring during the officer or employee's current term of office or during their official campaign period for that member's office as defined by Student Government Statutes.

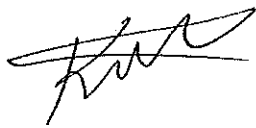
209.6 A violation under this chapter may be grounds for impeachment, suspension, removal from office, dismissal from employment, non-compliance or public censure.⁴

209.7 If at any time before the duration in which the investigation, suspension, and/or removal from office is sought, the member in question resigns, all procedures shall cease and the position shall be filled in a manner outlined in the Student Government Constitution and/or Statutes.

209.8 Any resignation submitted in the procedure of removal from office and/or suspension from office shall be irrevocable.

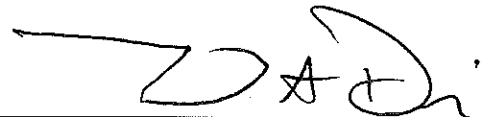
209.9 Such resignation shall not terminate proceedings by other official entities of the University, officials of federal, state, and/or municipalities, and/or other legal proceedings.

⁴ SB 50-028, Amends this clause



Digitally signed by Khalid Hassouneh
DN: cn=Khalid Hassouneh, o=USF
Student Government, ou=Senate
President, email=khassoun@usf.edu,
c=US
Date: 2011.10.05 15:51:49 -04'00'

Khalid J. Hassouneh, Student Senate President



Matthew A. Diaz, Student Body President

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SB [S] 52-012
SG Ethics Refinement Act

Author: Chairwoman Samantha Toro
Sponsor: Chairwoman Samantha Toro
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