A BILL
To Amend the By-Laws to Add the Requirement of Office Hours for Undergraduate Senators

Primary Sponsor: Senator Heft
First Reading: 10/6/2014
Referred to: Rules and Judiciary
Second Reading:

Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Senate of the East Carolina University Student Government Association,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as “The Senate Office Hours Act”

SECTION 2. TO REQUIRE OFFICE HOURS FOR SENATORS

WHEREAS, article I, subsection II of the East Carolina University Student Government Constitution states “The East Carolina University Student Government Association will serve as the foremost advocate for the ECU student body [..by..] stimulating communication and cooperation among students, faculty and administration, [..and..] encouraging accountability to the policies and values fundamental to the University; and,

WHEREAS, many ECU students do not feel that they can easily get in contact with the senators that represent them to share their thoughts and concerns for the university; and,

WHEREAS, requiring senators to hold office hours in the ECU SGA office and posting the times each senator holds their hours will give the senators’ constituents an easy way to find and speak to their representatives; and,

WHEREAS, other university student government associations such as the University of Nevada, Reno SGA have mandatory office hours for their undergraduate senators and have seen greater student interest in their SGA because of the required hours; and now, therefore, be it
ENACTED, The following shall be added as an amendment to the By-Laws as a new subsection F under Section 3.5:

“(f) 1. Each Senator must hold at least two (2) office hour per week. Of the two required hours one must take place in the SGA office. The other is up to the discretion of each senator. Office hours shall be held during regular operating hours of Mendenhall Student Center while the Senate is in Session.

2. The Chief Clerk of the Senate shall post a sign in sheet in the SGA office every Monday following the Senate meeting for the purpose of allowing each Senator to record the time spent in the office for the following week. The Chief Clerk shall maintain the sign-in sheets in the same manner as the minutes.

3. The Chief Clerk shall maintain a list of each Senator’s office hours. Senators who choose to hold office hours outside of the SGA Office are required to post the time and location in the SGA office and/or on the SGA website three business days before said event. If office hours are held outside of the SGA office, senators must indicate so on the sign in sheet and record them within 24 hours of holding them.

4. Each Senator shall sign in and out when holding office hours.

5. If a Senator accumulates 6 hours worth of absences from his or her office hours, it shall be counted as one Senate absence and the Chief Clerk shall report it to the Speaker of the Senate.

6. Missed office hours may be excused upon the petition of the Speaker of the Senate. Senators may petition the Speaker of the Senate by e-mail to excuse missed office hours within one week of the missed office hours. The Speaker shall review all petitions on a case-by-case basis.

7. In the case of holidays, emergencies or actions that result in facility closures, the Speaker of the Senate may decrease the number of office hours needed within a given week; and be it further

ENACTED, a copy of this bill shall be sent to Student Body President Michael King, the East Carolinian, and The Daily Reflector.

SECTION 3. DATE EFFECTIVE.

This Act shall be effective upon its passage by two-thirds of the ECU Undergraduate Senate.

Respectfully introduced by Senator Aaron Heft October 6th, 2014