

Description and Text of Spring 2021 Amendments

This page contains explanations of the amendments. The text of the amendments begins on page 3. Please email dtanner@mail.yu.edu with any questions.

1) **Defining Undergraduate Students:** in order to specify who “undergraduate students” includes, for purposes of the Constitution. No formal constitutional definition currently exists. Also fixes a capitalization error.

2) **Changing Requirements to be SYMSSC & YCSC Treasurers:** Currently, the requirements for the SYMSSC and YCSC Treasurer positions are slightly different. This amendment combines what we consider to be the best of each of the current requirements to make the requirement for these positions the same (sans the difference in school, ie. Syms vs. YC).

3) **Prohibiting the Holding of Simultaneous WCSG Elected Positions Within One Council:** In order to prohibit, for example, the same person serving as both SOY BMP Representative and SOY President at the same time.

4) **Addressing Fall-2 Vacancy:** In order to prevent a year-long position vacancy in the event that a Fall-2 election has no winner.

5) **Changing Requirements to be on the Ballot:** (3) establishes general requirements for candidates to appear on the ballot, rather than leaving it up to the Canvassing Committee each election. (6) is in order to prohibit different requirements for different groups of students, such as mandating signatures for on-campus but not off-campus students.

6) **Making Student Court Suits Public and Establishing a Temporary Chief Justice:** (3) is In order to allow students to present an informed defense, discourage frivolous suits and provide a fuller picture than that provided by the Court's ruling. (6) is in order to allow the Court to function normally in the event that the Chief Justice is temporarily unable to perform his duties.

7) **Leave of Absence Permission and Dissolution of Clubs¹:** The first clause would mean that any student government officials needing to take emergency temporary leave (see e.g. Article III Section 2[3]) would require GA approval to do so. The second clause would create a way for the GA to dissolve clubs.

8) **No holding two positions simultaneously:** Though similar to Amendments Committee-approved Amendment 3 (above), this would prohibit students from holding

¹ In addition to the first six amendments, which were approved by the Amendments Committee (AC) and the General Assembly (GA), the GA approved a number of student amendment proposals which were not approved by the AC (amendments 7-9).

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more than one position simultaneously in any of the listed student groups, not just two positions within one student group.

9) **Minimum student body vote needed to pass future Amendments:** Right now, amendments are passed based on three-fifths approval of voting students. This would require two-fifths of all eligible students to vote, in addition to three-fifths voting in favor of the amendment. If less than two-fifths of eligible students vote, no amendment shall ever be passed.

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1) Defining Undergraduate Students

Add to Article I Section I:

(3) For the purposes of this Constitution, “undergraduate students” shall refer to non-high school students who are not in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program and who have not yet received a bachelor’s degree, and who are either full-time or part-time students in the Sy Syms School of Business or Yeshiva College, students in the Katz Undergraduate School, students in the Makor College Experience, or students in the Post Pesach Program.

Change text in Article X Section 4:1 and 4:4 from “Undergraduate” to “undergraduate” to conform with the rest of the Constitution.

2) Changing Requirements to be SYMSSC & YCSC Treasurers

Change Article V Section 1(5) from:

The SYMSSC Treasurer must be a junior or a senior in good standing and a full-time student of the Sy Syms School of Business for at least two semesters prior to taking office.

To:

The SYMSSC Treasurer must be a full-time Sy Syms School of Business student in good standing, and a full-time student of the Sy Syms School of Business for at least two semesters prior to taking office.

Change Article IV Section 1(6) from:

The YCSC Treasurer must be a full-time Yeshiva College student in good standing and attended Yeshiva College for at least two semesters prior to taking office.

To:

The YCSC Treasurer must be a full-time Yeshiva College student in good standing, and a full-time student of Yeshiva College for at least two semesters prior to taking office.

3) Prohibiting the Holding of Simultaneous WCSG Elected Positions Within One Council

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Add to Article X Section 2:

(4) No student may hold more than one elected position in one of YSU, YCSC, SYMSSC, or SOY simultaneously.

4) Addressing Fall-2 Vacancy

Change Article X Section 5(7) from:

In the event that any other position is not filled during Fall-2, the position shall remain vacant for the entire academic year.

To:

In the event that any other position is not filled during Fall-2, the members of the council in which the position was not filled shall, within two days of the Fall-2 election, and by majority vote, appoint a qualified student to fill the position, with the approval of a majority of the General Assembly.

5) Changing Requirements to be on the Ballot

Rewrite Article X Section 3 (1-3) to read as follows:

(1) The Canvassing Committee shall post a public notification of all available positions at least five days prior to the Canvassing Committee's stated deadline for declaration of candidacy.

(2) All rules governing the elections shall be clearly outlined to candidates by the Canvassing Committee in an official meeting to be convened within three days of the deadline for declaration of candidacy.

(3) Following the official rules meeting, the Canvassing Committee shall allow candidates at least five days to submit either a petition signed by one-fifth of the current members of the student body group which the candidate wishes to represent, or a 750 to 1500 word paper, or a 2 to 4 minute video. The Canvassing Committee may make rules outlining what is defined as a signature. Both the paper and the video should be the candidate's pitch to voters, and the Canvassing Committee may make rules outlining what can, cannot, and must be included in the paper and video. Only candidates who submit a valid petition, paper, or video may have their names printed on the election ballots.

I. Beyond the option to submit a petition with signatures stated above, the Canvassing Committee shall not require any candidates to submit or collect signatures.

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(4) The Canvassing Committee shall, within three days of the deadline to submit petitions, papers, and videos, publicly release all valid papers and videos submitted by candidates. Candidates who submit a petition of signatures or a video may also submit a 50 to 749 word pitch in addition to their signatures, which, if submitted and valid according to any rules the Canvassing Committee places upon it, shall be included in the Canvassing Committee's public release of valid papers and videos.

(5) Following the deadline to submit petitions, papers, and videos, candidates may begin to campaign at the time set forth by the Canvassing Committee, according to the rules set forth by the Canvassing Committee.

(6) Beyond the respective requirements listed in this Constitution, the Canvassing Committee shall not discriminate between students running for the same position in their candidacy eligibility requirements and requirements to be eligible to appear on the ballot.

6) Making Student Court Suits Public and Establishing a Temporary Chief Justice

Change Article XI Section 3(3) from:

(3) Upon receiving a suit, the Student Court must, by majority vote of the Justices, within five days, beginning with the day filed, decide whether to hear the case. Once the Student Court decides to hear the case, it must do so within twelve days from the day filed. The Justices shall meet privately and release a majority opinion, in writing, within three days after the case has been heard.

To:

(3) Upon receiving a suit, the Student Court must, by majority vote of the Justices, within five days, beginning with the day filed, decide whether to hear the case. Once the Student Court decides to hear the case, it must do so within twelve days from the day filed. **The Student Court must release the suit publicly to the Student Body upon deciding to accept the case.** The Justices shall meet privately and release a majority opinion, in writing, within three days after the case has been heard.

Add to Article XI, Section 1:

(6) In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to preside over a case, he shall appoint a Temporary Chief Justice from amongst the senior justices.

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7) Leave of Absence Permission²

Add to Article VIII Section 5(1), XII

The General Assembly must authorize by majority vote for any official to take a leave of absence.

The General Assembly by 3/5 majority vote may file to the Office of Student Life to dissolve any WCSG club.

8) No holding two positions simultaneously

Change Article VIII Section 3(2) to:

No student may hold more than one position in YSU, YCSC, SYMSSC, SOY, or the SLC simultaneously.

9) Minimum student body vote needed to pass future Amendments

Add to Article XIII Section 1(6):

At least two-fifths of the student body must cast ballots, including blanks, in the General Student Body Amendment Vote for an amendment to be ratified.

² In addition to the first six amendments, which were approved by the Amendments Committee (AC) and the General Assembly (GA), the GA approved a number of student amendment proposals which were not approved by the AC (amendments 7-9).