



Memo

From the office of the...

SRA Bylaws & Procedures Commissioner

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: David Lee; Bylaws and Procedures Commissioner
SUBJECT: Bylaw 3/A Assembly Procedures
DATE: March 16, 2017

Dear Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

Today I am presenting you the changes to Bylaw 3/A as approved by the Bylaws and Procedures Committee. These changes have been discussed and proposed through consultation with the VP Admin, MSU Operations Coordinator and other SRA Members. On SRA 16K the Bylaws and Procedures Committee was tasked to review Bylaw 3/A – Assembly Procedures to ensure SRA Members are held accountable to meetings. Particularly, attending and being present during meetings.

In passing this bylaw, the committee notes how the late meeting times can be an issue for students who are commuters or have commitments in the morning. Moving forward we would like to recommend that meetings times be rescheduled to an earlier time for SRA 17-18.

The changes to the bylaw are as follows:

5.7.2 Leave of absences are to be granted at the discretion of the Speaker and Vice-President Administration;

Summer meetings have historically been the most poorly attended which can be problematic. This year especially we have seen the challenges it can have in terms of achieving quorum for passing major financial decisions. Moreover, the bylaw acts as a safeguard as leave of absences currently are granted by the speaker whenever an SRA member submits an application.

6.3 An SRA member shall automatically relinquish their seat if they are absent for:

6.3.1 Two (2) meetings in the Spring/Summer term;

6.3.2 Three (3) meetings in the Fall or Winter term;

6.3.3 Four (4) meetings in between September 1 to March 31;

The current bylaw for attendance allows for two meetings each term to be missed before an SRA member is relinquished. This is problematic as there are only six meetings each term. The proposed bylaw places a limit on the number of meetings an SRA member can miss within the academic term to four, allowing for more accountability as mentioned during the committee of the whole.

Moreover, this bylaw change also ensures that SRA members that have not taken an LOA will also be attending one of the two training sessions during the summer.

SRA Members during the Committee of the Whole have also noted that some members would leave for long periods of time during the meeting. Originally a bylaw change was proposed of an automatic absence if an SRA member misses two rolls calls that are more than 30 mins between each other. After conversations with the Speaker, the committee questions the feasibility of a bylaw change and believes that certain circumstances like an hour recess could potentially lead to several absences if members came a few minutes late. Moving forward, the committee would like to recommend that SRA members hold each other accountable.

If you have any further questions, feel free to ask.

Best,

David Lee
SRA Bylaws & Procedures Commissioner
McMaster Students Union
srabylaws@msu.mcmaster.ca