

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.B. 04 012

The Agency and Bureau Coordinations Act

(The ABC's Act)

IN THE SENATE

November 13th, 2023

Senate President Kaily LaChapelle, University Sustainability and Innovation Chair Hua Hui Vogel, SLAC Chair Daniel Salup-Cid, and Student Body President Alexander Sutton introduced the following bill, which was presented on the Senate floor:

A BILL

To set forth minimum requirements to become an Agency or Bureau; to increase accountability in the process of selecting the leadership of Agencies and Bureaus; and to ensure consistency in the process for Senate approval of an Agency or Bureau.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, Agencies and Bureaus are student organizations which have been authorized to be created by SGA through a bill passed in the Senate,

Whereas, Agencies are student organizations created to provide a specific good or service to the student body, such as programming or student organization registration,

Whereas, Bureaus are student organizations that cater to a specific identity-group of the student body,

Whereas, the current Agencies are the Homecoming Council, Student Programming Council (SPC), Registered Student Organizations Council (RSOC), and Panther Power,

Whereas, the current Bureaus are the Black Student Union, the Pride Student Union, and the Medical Student Council,

Whereas, the governing documents provide no distinction between the requirements of regular registered student organizations and the level of status required to become an Agency or Bureau,

Whereas, Agencies provide SGA-funded goods and services to the student body, and as such, should be accountable to SGA and to the student body by having the President of each Agency be Senate-confirmed and serving in the SGA Cabinet,

Whereas, under the previous SGA Constitution before February 2021, the Presidents of each Agency were Senate-confirmed and required to attend Cabinet meetings, and therefore this change would be returning to a long-established and well-working practice,

Whereas, Agencies have had a lack of coordination with SGA in recent years, and increasing cohesion between the leadership of SGA and the leadership of each Agency will provide more collaboration and benefit the student body,

Whereas, Bureaus need to be distinguished from Agencies more clearly and given different guidelines to ensure that they are able to operate independently and represent their respective identity group of focus to the best of their ability,

Whereas, in accordance with SGAC 9.02.1 and SGAC 9.03.1.1, Agencies and Bureaus fall under the jurisdiction of SGA and shall adhere to the SGA Constitution and Statutes,

Whereas, the process for Senate approval of an Agency or Bureau is outlined in multiple places within the Statutes and is unclear, requiring streamlining and updating to ensure consistency,

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body amends the Student Government Statutes to add Section §4007, which will read as follows:

Section 4007 Agencies and Bureaus

- 4007.1 Bureaus are student organizations which serve specific identity groups of the student body, including, but not limited to: race; religion; ethnicity; sexual orientation; gender identity; disability; academic major; academic college or school; culture; affinity; social group; or any other purpose as approved by the Student Government Association.
- 4007.1.1 Bureaus shall choose their President through general body elections in which all members of the Bureau, as defined by the Bureau's constitution, are allowed to participate. The rest of the leadership of the Bureau may be chosen through election or appointment as the Bureau's constitution shall dictate.
- 4007.1.2 The following organizations are authorized Bureaus:
- 4007.1.2.1 Black Student Union: Shall exist to provide programming and community for students identifying as African American, Black, Brown, or a Person of Color.
- 4007.1.2.2 Pride Student Union: Shall exist to provide programming and community for students identifying as a member or an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- 4007.1.2.3 Medical Student Council: Shall exist to provide programming and community for students enrolled within the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.
- 4007.1.2.4 Disabled Student Union: Shall exist to provide programming and community for students identifying as disabled, differently abled, neurodivergent, or an ally of these communities.
- 4007.1.3 The above list shall be updated any time the recognition of a new Bureau is approved by SGA.
- 4007.1.4 In order to become a Bureau, the organization is required to have: a minimum active membership of fifty (50) members; a Constitution; an advisor; and the full administrative support and backing of a department, division, or office of the University, including but not limited to Campus Life, CSE, DRC, SLD, any academic department, college, or school, or any other equivalent unit of the university. The organization must also receive an allocation of A&S funds from the Budget Committee during the annual budget process in order to be eligible to be a Bureau.
- 4007.2 Executive Agencies, hereinafter referred to as Agencies, are administrative divisions of the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association created to provide goods and/or services to the student body, acting on behalf of the Student Government Association to provide a function beneficial to the student body funded by Activity and Service Fees.
- 4007.2.1 The following organizations are authorized Agencies:

- 4007.2.1.1 Homecoming Council: Shall exist to provide programming leading up to and during the university's annual Homecoming week.
- 4007.2.1.2 Student Programming Council: Shall exist to provide programming, events, and community for the student body as a whole throughout the year.
- 4007.2.1.3 Registered Student Organizations Council: Shall exist to facilitate the process of approving the registration of student organizations, providing registered student organizations with guidance, information, and resources, and programming events such as organization fairs and tabling fairs.
- 4007.2.1.4 Panther Power: Shall exist to provide programming surrounding the university's athletic events and competitions, and to inspire institutional affinity and pride for the Panther Nation.
- 4007.2.2 The above list shall be updated any time a new Agency is created by SGA.
- 4007.2.3 In order to become an Agency, the organization is required to have: a defined good or service provided to the student body; an advisor; and the full administrative support and backing of a department, division, or office of the University, including but not limited to Campus Life, CSE, DRC, SLD, FSL, any academic department, college, or school, or any other equivalent unit of the university. The organization must also receive an allocation of A&S funds from the Budget Committee during the annual budget process in order to be eligible to be an Agency.
- 4007.2.4 The highest-ranking position of each Agency is the Director. All Agencies shall choose their Director through the following process:
- 4007.2.4.1 The outgoing Director of the Agency is responsible for coordinating the application and nomination process. In the event that the outgoing Director is re-applying for another term as Director, the highest-ranking officer not applying for a position will coordinate the process.
- 4007.2.4.2 A nominations committee shall be established to assist with interviews and provide input throughout the process. The committee will consist of:
- The highest-ranking member of the Agency's leadership not re-applying for consideration, and/or the outgoing Director of the Agency if not re-applying
 - A current member of the Agency not applying for a leadership role
 - The Agency's graduate assistant (if applicable)
 - The Agency's advisor
 - The Student Body President, or their designee who must be a member of the Executive Branch of SGA

The Student Body President-elect (if applicable), or the Student Body Vice President-elect as their designee

- 4007.2.4.3 The nominations committee of the Agency shall review all applications for Director. It shall then nominate a student to be the Director of the Agency, through a simple majority vote of all members of the committee. Once the Director nominee has been chosen by the nominations committee, the Student Body President must immediately pen a letter of appointment for the nominee, and send it to the SGA Senate President for inclusion on the next Senate agenda.
- 4007.2.4.4 The Director of each Agency must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the SGA Senate. Should the Senate reject a nominee, the nominations committee of the Agency shall nominate a new student and follow the same process. Once the Senate approves the Director nominee, the nominee shall be considered approved and confirmed.
- 4007.2.4.5 The remainder of the leadership positions of the Agency shall be filled and appointed in accordance with the specific procedures delineated for that Agency.
- 4007.2.4.6 The above described process shall occur in the Spring semester for all Agencies except the Homecoming Council, for which the process shall occur in the Fall semester after the conclusion of Homecoming week.
- 4007.2.4.7 Should the position of the Director become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled using the above process with final approval by the SGA Senate.
- 4007.2.5 The Director of each Agency is a member of the SGA Cabinet. As such, the Director of each Agency is required to attend all SGA Cabinet meetings, and shall be subject to all other requirements applicable to all members of the SGA Cabinet.
- 4007.2.5.1 If the Director of the Agency is unable to attend an SGA Cabinet meeting, in extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical emergency, family emergency, etc.) the Director can assign another member of the Agency's leadership board to attend that SGA Cabinet meeting in their place.

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body further amends the Student Government Statutes section §4002.1, which shall be amended as follows:

- 4002.1 The Cabinet shall be comprised of the Chief of Staff, The Student Body President and Vice President, ~~The 9 permanent~~ all Cabinet Secretaries, ~~The 4 additional directors, and~~ the Elections ~~Board Commissioner, the Comptroller, the Attorney General, the Press Secretary, and the Director of each Agency.~~

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body further amends the Student Government Statutes section §2.01.6, which shall be amended as follows:

2.01.6 ~~Council-Bureau: An student organization administrative division of the Executive Branch created to which provides representation and programming to a particular identity group of the student body, including, but not limited to: race; religion; ethnicity; sexual orientation; gender identity; disability; academic major; academic college or school; culture; affinity; social group; or any other purpose as approved by the Student Government Association and established interest group of the Florida International University. The Bureau Council will be held responsible for the administration of its ~~their~~ budgets and adherence to its ~~their~~ purpose as outlined in these Statutes. ~~It shall be able to establish separate identities from the Student Government Association upon approval of the Student Body President.~~~~

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body further amends the Student Government Statutes section §3011, which shall be entirely deleted and replaced with the following:

Section 3011 Senate Approval of an Agency or Bureau

- 3011.1 For an Agency or Bureau to be considered for approval, a petition for the creation of an Agency or Bureau must be submitted to the Student Government Association. The Senate President shall send all such received petitions to the Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee (SLAC).
- 3011.1.1 The petition form shall request the following information: whether the organization is applying for Agency or Bureau status; the purpose of the organization; the organization's Constitution; a list of officers of the organization; advisor contact information; the average population of students served; reasoning for the need to be included as an Agency or Bureau; any additional rules or regulations that the organization has established; advisor contact information; what specific good or service the organization provides to the student body or the individual identity group that the organization represents; which department, division, or office of the university has pledged the organization its full administrative support and backing, and through which administrators and/or advisors; and the names, emails, and Panther ID's of at least 50 students who are members of the organization (only applicable to Bureaus).
- 3011.2 SLAC shall review all petitions received and shall invite the individual(s) who submitted the petition to come before the committee to speak and answer questions.
- 3011.3 SLAC leadership shall make it known to the Senate which petitions it has received. Senators interested in serving as a sponsor on the bill to form the Agency or Bureau shall contact the SLAC chair and Senate President.
- 3011.4 Bills authorizing the creation of a new Agency or Bureau must have at least two Senators as sponsors. The chair of SLAC may assist in the creation of the bill.

- 3011.5 The bill must include the following information:
- 3011.5.1 Whether the organization is applying for Agency or Bureau status
- 3011.5.2 Purpose
- 3011.5.3 The Constitution of the organization
- 3011.5.4 A list of officers of the organization
- 3011.5.5 Any additional rules or regulations that the organization has established
- 3011.5.6 The name of the department, division, or office of the university that has pledged the organization its full administrative support and backing
- 3011.6 After being sent to the Senate President, the bill shall be assigned to SLAC and the Rules and Administration Committee.
- 3011.7 Following passage in both committees, the bill will be entitled priority reading at the next available Senate.
- 3011.8 Agency or Bureau bills approved by a simple majority of the Senate and signed by the Student Body President shall take effect once the Agency or Bureau receives a funding allocation from the Budget Committee during the annual budget process. Should the organization not receive an allocation in the annual A&S budget, its Agency or Bureau request shall be considered dead. Should an organization which has already received a budget allocation be approved for Agency or Bureau status, it shall automatically become an Agency or Bureau following passage of the bill.

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body further amends the Student Government Statutes sections §3006.5.4.1 through §3006.5.4.3, which shall be amended as follows:

- 3006.5.4.1 Make an application open and available each year which shall contain all such questions as required by these Statutes and the SGA Constitution. ~~to which the following components will be included; Organizational Constitution, List of officers, average population of students served, purpose of organization, need for inclusion in Student Government as an Agency or Bureau, Any Rules and or regulations that the organization operates under, advisor contact information, what service or benefit the organization serves to its specialization or the University as a whole.~~
- 3006.5.4.2 Meet to vote on the requests for incorporation; votes will be passed through simple majority in the committee.
- 3006.5.4.3 Once the committee has passed the petition for incorporation, the committee shall announce to the Senate the approval of the petition, and shall subsequently begin the process of drafting the bill to approve the incorporation of the organization as an Agency or Bureau. ~~it will then be~~

~~entitled a vote on the Senate Floor as an act of the Senate (Senate Bill) and must pass through a simple majority vote of the Senate. See SGAC 10.01~~

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body further amends the Student Government Statutes section §7002.5, which shall be amended as follows:

7002.5 Program: Defined as any entity which receives its operating revenue directly from allocation within the A&S Fee Budget. A program shall provide direct service to the Student Body of Florida International University. ~~Programs may include, but are not limited to, Homecoming, Panther Rage, Student Program Committee, Residence Hall Association, Council for Student Organizations, and other entities coordinated and overseen by Academic and Student Affairs but paid by A&S Fee funds~~

Senate Bill Transmission Form

This bill is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the bill has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The bill is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SB 04 012</i>			
Date Introduced:	<i>11/13/2023</i>		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Student Life and Academic Concerns (2) Rules and Administration		
Vote in Committee 1: <i>01/22/2024</i>	3 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote in Committee 2: <i>02/19/2024</i>	4 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: <i>03/25/2024</i>	15 <i>For</i>	4 <i>Against</i>	1 <i>Abstaining</i>
			
_____ Signature of the Senate President	_____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore		

Presidential Signature of a Senate Bill

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this bill to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this bill and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the bill has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SB 04 012



Kaily Lachapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

