



TO: The Student Senate of The University of Notre Dame du lac

FROM: Hunter Brooke, *Student Union Parliamentarian*, Madison Denchfield, *Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*, and Matthew Amante, *Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*

DATE: October 25, 2023, 5:30 PM

RE: SO2324-07, An Order to Amend Article XII of the Constitution

MEMORANDUM

The Committee on the Constitution has concluded its review of SO2324-07, an amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to revise the electoral hearings timeline outlined in Article XII, and is prepared to present its findings and relevant recommendations to the Student Senate.

Over the course of deliberation, the Committee raised multiple points of discussion. First, the Committee debated increasing the time allowed for the Election Committee to assemble to 48 hours, rather than the initially proposed 36 hours. However—on the advice of the Judicial Council President—the Committee reasoned that a 48-hour extension was likely unnecessary; and that 36 would provide enough time for the Election Committee to meet without imposing undue and unnecessary burden on candidates and the broader public.

The second proposed change was to amend section 4(g) of Article XII of the Constitution, changing “24 hours” to read “36 hours” and thus ensuring constitutional consistency aligned with the original substantive change of the amendment. This amendment was adopted with the consent of both authors, and saw no dissent among the other members of the Committee.

Finally, the Committee discussed potentially tabling the amendment until further discussion; this was seen as strongly unnecessary by the Committee, and no motion was made to table nor to postpone.

Before calling a final vote, the Committee engaged in broad discussion and debate regarding the potential positives and drawbacks of the proposed amendment. Multiple former candidates and other members of the Committee spoke favourably, highlighting how the change would reduce excessive stress on candidates, the Election Committee, and the Judicial Council, while also ensuring higher probability of consistently hitting quorum. Further discussion was had regarding the potentiality of a delayed release of election results; but broadly, the Committee found this possible negative to be significantly less weighty than the probable benefits.

Committee Recommendation: After thorough debate, the Committee has unanimously decided to recommend SO2324-07 be approved by the Student Senate. The Committee has concluded that the advantages of extending the time period for the Election Committee to meet (from 24 to 36 hours) outweigh the disadvantages. Despite potential concerns regarding delayed election results, the benefits afforded to members of the Election Committee and a higher chance of consistently hitting quorum, are—according to the Committee on the Constitution, the testimonies of former candidates, and the Judicial Council President—more significant than any possible downsides.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunter Brooke

Student Union Parliamentarian

Chair, Committee on the Constitution

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Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian

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