

Student Government Association
Tennessee Technological University

SGA Bill F23-001

**An Act to Provide for the Inception and Governance of a Executive Program
known as the First Year Assembly**

Whereas, there is a need for the establishment of an Executive Program known as the First-Year Assembly (FYA) within the Student Government Association (SGA) to develop future SGA members and provide advice to the SGA President on matters impacting the freshman and transfer classes ; and,

Whereas, the FYA will act as a representative body for both freshman and transfer students, fostering an inclusive environment that reflects the diversity and interests within the student body; and,

Whereas, the FYA will offer leadership training, mentorship opportunities, and valuable guidance to new students, assisting them in navigating university resources and understanding the customs, traditions, and history of Tennessee Technological University and the SGA; and,

Whereas, the establishment of the FYA will benefit the student body by empowering first year students with a stronger voice in campus affairs, enhancing their involvement, and preparing them for active roles in the SGA's Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Branches; and,

Whereas, the mentorship provided will attract talented members of the freshman and transfer classes to future SGA roles and elections, by doing so this provides well-trained representatives in all fields of study at Tennessee Technological University; and,

Whereas, through a rigorous selection process, including interviews and consideration for diversity, the FYA will ensure that its membership comprises dedicated and qualified representatives from the freshman and transfer classes.

**NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

Section 1: This bill shall be known as the "First Year Assembly Act of 2023".

Section 2: The following definitions shall be used in this bill:

Section 2.1: The term 'Freshman Class' shall refer to students viewed by the University as members of the Freshmen Student body within their respective degree programs.

Section 2.2: The term 'First Year Assembly' shall refer to the body created under this Act to represent the interests of the freshman and transfer classes within the Student Government Association (SGA).

Section 2.3: The term 'Freshmen Senators' shall refer to the members of the First Year Assembly who were nominated by the Freshmen Class membership of this body and appointed by the SGA President to represent it in the Senate.

Section 2.4: The term 'Transfer Member' shall refer to the members of the First Year Assembly who are first-year transfer students who are further along within their respective degree programs to no longer be considered a member of the "Freshmen Class" by the University.

Section 2.5: The term 'Cabinet Advisor' shall refer to the Executive Cabinet member appointed to oversee the First Year Assembly.

Section 3: The First Year Assembly (FYA) is hereby established as an independent body within the Executive Branch of the SGA to develop future SGA members and student leaders.

Section 3.1: The FYA shall act as a representative body for the Freshman Class.

Section 3.2: During the Fall Semester, the FYA shall:

Section 3.2.1: Provide its members with leadership training and mentorship opportunities.

Section 3.2.2: Assist students who are new to Tennessee Technological University by providing information about various university resources, services, opportunities that are available to them.

Section 3.2.3: Instruct its members in the customs, traditions, and history of Tennessee Technological University as well as the role, function, and history of the SGA.

Section 3.3: During the Spring Semester, the FYA shall:

Section 3.3.1: Provide instructional sessions through the emulation of each branch of the SGA with the aim of preparing members to take on roles within the Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Branches of the SGA

Section 3.3.2: Each session shall be led by the respective representative of

each SGA branch: the SGA President, the Speaker pro Tempore of the SGA Senate, and the SGA Chief Justice. The Cabinet Advisor shall be present at each of these sessions.

Section 3.3.3: By the end of the Spring Semester, the FYA must have at least two (2) practice sessions with FYA members representing roles within each branch to provide realistic experience. The FYA will operate under the rules adopted by the SGA Senate during each practice session.

Section 3.3.4: Any legislation passed by the FYA will be provided to a SGA Freshman Senator for introduction within the SGA Senate as legislation.

Section 4: The membership of the FYA shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total seats in the SGA Senate and shall not be less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total seats in the SGA Senate. The composition of the FYA should, as far as possible, reflect the diversity and range of interests within the freshman and transfer classes. Up to twenty percent (20%) of the total membership of the FYA may include Transfer Members.

Section 5: The SGA Secretary shall, at the beginning of each Fall semester, notify the entire freshman and transfer student body about the opportunity to join the FYA. This notification shall include details on the role of the FYA, the benefits of participation, the selection process, and the application deadline.

Section 6: The SGA President, the Cabinet Advisor, a previous SGA Supreme Court Justice selected by the outgoing Supreme Court, and a previous SGA Freshman Senator selected by the outgoing FYA shall jointly create the application form, conduct interviews with the applicants, and select members for the FYA from the pool of applicants.

Section 6.1: The application form for the FYA shall be published on Eagle Engage.

Section 6.2: This application form should seek to capture the applicant's qualifications, interests, and commitment to the SGA.

Section 6.3: Students interested in joining the FYA shall submit applications through Eagle Engage, which will form a pool of candidates for consideration.

Section 6.4: Any member of the FYA may resign from their position by submitting notice of their resignation to the SGA President or Cabinet Advisor. Upon notification, their seat shall become vacant immediately unless stated otherwise in the resignation.

Section 6.5: If a seat within the FYA becomes vacant, the SGA President, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the SGA Senate, the SGA Chief Justice, and the Cabinet Advisor shall meet to decide a replacement for the vacant seat.

Section 7: At its first meeting, the FYA shall select, from its membership, a number of individuals to represent the Freshman class in the SGA Senate equal to the number of individuals that the class is entitled to have in the SGA Senate based on the enrollment standard within the SGA Constitution, subject to final approval and nomination by the SGA President according to the SGA Constitution.

Section 8: The FYA Guidance Committee, consisting of the SGA President, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the SGA Senate, the SGA Chief Justice, and the Cabinet Advisor, shall meet upon the call of one or more members provided that a forty-eight (48) hour notice is given to the membership.

Section 9: The duties of the FYA Guidance Committee shall be:

- a) Ensure the proper functioning of the FYA.
- b) Help formulate, set, and enact program policy.
- c) Discuss and seek out subjects deemed appropriate for future consideration at general body meetings.
- d) Elect a secretary from its membership at its first meeting of the year.
- e) Perform any additional duties as described by the laws of the SGA.

Section 10: The duties of the Cabinet Advisor shall be:

- a) Schedule FYA meetings
- b) Lead recruitment efforts for the program in consultation with the SGA President and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the SGA Senate.
- c) Perform any additional duties as described by the laws of the SGA.

Section 11: Transfer Members have the right to participate in all meetings, training, practice sessions, and other FYA activities, but they do not have the right to vote on Freshmen Senator nominations by the FYA.

Section 12: The FYA shall use *Robert's Rules of Order: Newly Revised* 12th edition (et seq.) as its parliamentary authority. The Cabinet Advisor shall act as parliamentarian.

Section 13: This Bill shall take effect immediately following passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

Respectfully Submitted By:
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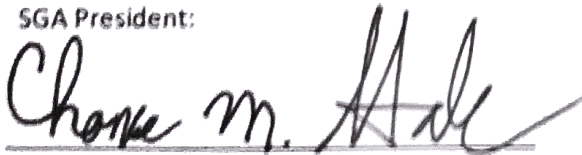
Committee Record

Committee Name:	Committee Secretary:	Status:
[Committee 1's Name]	[Committee 1's Secretary]	Select one
[Committee 2's Name]	[Committee 2's Secretary]	Select one
Constitutional Committee	[Constitutional Committee's Secretary]	Select one

Senate Record

SGA Secretary:	Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:	Status:
Jeb MacLennan	24	0	0	Approved

SGA President:



Chance M. Hale