

Minnesota Student Association
Position Statement P11S-003
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Whereas, Extensive restructuring is needed amongst the legislative relations branch within Minnesota Student Association, including the roles of the Legislative Affairs committee and the Legislative Certificate Program on the Twin Cities campus.

Whereas, Current bylaws indicate the purpose of the Legislative Affairs committee to “Propose and implement changes as appropriate in the Minnesota Student Association's policy on legislative advocating, provide for Forum's relations with state, regional, and nation student associations and government bodies, and coordinate efforts at representing the Minnesota Student Association's views in these bodies. The committee shall be responsible for maximizing student voter turnout and candidate awareness for all elections not under the jurisdiction of the All-Campus Elections Commission.”

Whereas, The Legislative Certificate Program acts as the lobbying arm of Minnesota Student Association and currently is without standing bylaw defining its purpose.

Whereas, Overlap and ambiguity exists between the leadership roles and purpose of these two bodies, and it would best serve the effectiveness of legislative relations for the Minnesota Student Association to promote specialization and clarification of each role in the advocacy process.

Be it resolved, The formation of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition will develop a representative group that can speak and advocate on behalf of all students within the University of Minnesota system. The establishment of this coalition will act as a central authority for defining and producing position formation and the legislative agenda on behalf of the entire system.

Be it resolved, The Legislative Certificate Program will assume the name of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition – TC as a subsidiary of the collective group.

Be it resolved, Legislative Affairs committee will be renamed to provide a more descriptive role in a more effective purpose of on-campus, grassroots advocacy.

Be it resolved, The role of system wide event planning and logistics for the student lobby day will fall under the responsibility of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition. Respective campus outreach centers, such as the Legislative Affairs committee, will be tasked with increasing student attendance and awareness.

Be it resolved, Members of the legislative coalition will continue to collaborate over the summer in order to implement establishing bylaws at each campus student association with the beginning of the fall semester. This will also include collaboration with the Legislative Affairs Director to better define the new focus of the committee in relation to the development of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition - TC.