Congressional Resolution NO. 16-17-39

Sponsors: IUSA Oversight and Reform Committee and Student Life Committee. Filed on 2/14/2017. Considered on 2/21/2017 with a final disposition of (PASS/FAIL)

Resolution to update the IUSA Bylaws

WHEREAS, the Congress must approve changes to the IUSA Bylaws.

WHEREAS, the only current language in regards to vetoing is in the Constitution and reads:

Article III, Section 3: Executive Authority Over Legislation

The Congressional Secretary will cast a vote in case of a tied vote in the Congress. The Congressional Secretary will transmit legislation adopted by the IUSA Congress to the President within three days of the legislation’s adoption. Within three days of the President’s receipt of the legislation, the President may enact the legislation by signing it or veto the legislation by informing the Speaker in writing. If the President vetoes the legislation, then the Congress may override the veto by a two-thirds vote. If the President neither signs nor vetoes the legislation within three days, then it will take effect as if the President had signed it.

WHEREAS, there is a lack of language either in the Constitution or Bylaws defining additional step of communication of the veto between IUSA Congress and the Speaker.

WHEREAS, several members of congress have expressed concern over the lack of transparency and communication that has resulted from an unclear veto process.

WHEREAS, Congress has the power to override vetoes via a two-thirds vote, but are unable to do so if they are unaware of the veto.

WHEREAS, it is important that this form of check on executive power remain vested and available to the Congress.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, we amend the Bylaws under Article III, Section B following subsection Executive Approval to read:

Executive Veto

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the IUSA Constitution the President retains the ability to veto legislation within three days of their receipt of the legislation. If the President vetoes the legislation, they are to notify the Speaker in writing. The speaker is then required to submit the veto remarks, in writing, to the entire congress as well as the committee/congressperson who submitted the initial piece of legislation. The agenda for the subsequent voting session will also be updated to include an announcement that the legislation has been vetoed. Any congressperson will then be able to motion to override the veto and with a two-thirds vote, the veto shall be overrode and the legislation granted authority.
LET IT BE RESOLVED, we amend the Bylaws under Article V, Section A, which addresses the responsibilities of the Speaker, to include subsection 7 that reads:

7. The Speaker of Congress shall be tasked with informing the entire congress as well as any associated parties, in writing, in the event of an executive veto. The speaker will also be required to update the agenda of the subsequent voting session to allow for discussion over the veto.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dakota Coates
Chair of Oversight and Reform Committee