Executive Order 328-003 of November 20, 2020

Extension of the EAC Process & Deadlines

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted normal student life and events, preventing recognized student organizations to conduct their normal programming due to social distancing guidelines in place and different timelines;

WHEREAS, this disruption has expedited the academic calendar of William & Mary, compelling the Student Assembly to alter many of its practices within all three branches in order to conform to the new calendar;

WHEREAS, also due to this disruption, the standard operating procedure for the Executive Appropriations Committee lacks sufficient time to find and approve applicants for the committee due to the expedited academic calendar;

WHEREAS, this current academic calendar affects the codified standard operating procedure for the budgeting process, which will need to be adjusted to match the adjusted academic calendar for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS, it is a vested interest of the Student Assembly to permit flexibility where possible in order to better maintain important constitutional requirements of the Student Assembly and its membership to its constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority invested in me as President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary, and by Clause V of Senate Resolution 327-003 that authorizes “the President of the Student Assembly and the Chair of the Senate of both the 327th and the 328th Student Assemblies to make necessary changes to the Student Assemblies’ standing operating procedure as needed, even if those changes violate the Code or Constitution, to meet the needs of the global pandemic”, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The Student Assembly is committed to assisting recognized student organizations and student life in any way we can. This pandemic represents a balancing act that we must maintain between public health and safety and student life. Due to the pace of this expedited semester, the current standard operating procedures for the budgeting process, which have already been altered in an antecedent Executive Order 328-001, conflict with the many elements of the current expedited academic calendar, both logistical and mental.
To support the student body as best as we can, we believe that this timeline should be temporarily adjusted to match the pace of this semester and provide more flexibility in the next.

In addition, as William & Mary continues to respond to the ever-evolving status of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, the standard operating procedures for the budgeting process should reflect permit flexibility where possible, as determined by the Senate Finance Committee, Secretary of Finance Graham Pfeiffer, and Student Leadership Development leadership.

Sec. 2. Extension of the EAC Deadlines & Processes. Immediately following the release of this order, the Student Assembly will extend the application window for the Executive Appropriations Committee to December 11, 2020. This is to allow more time for the Secretary of Finance to find applicants representative of the student body.

In addition, this Executive Order will grant special permission, with approval from myself, the Chair of the Senate, and Student Leadership Development, to the Secretary of Finance and the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee to make changes necessary to the standard operating procedure of the budgeting process and EAC as they see fit. However, any changes, even with approval from the aforementioned, can be overturned by 2/3rds vote of the Senate in special business.

The status of special permission will only apply to this budgeting cycle. Whenever special permission is exercised, the Finance Secretary must announce it to the Senate Finance Committee, whose Chair will announce it to the Senate at a subsequent meeting.

Sec. 3. Acknowledgement of Unprecedented Actions and Emergency Powers. The power to alter the budget rollovers and holds ultimately resides within the Senate of the Student Assembly, this Executive Order and any that refer to the conduct of the Student Assembly’s budgeting and finances during my tenure will require additional signage from the Chair of the Senate. I wholeheartedly acknowledge that this is an unprecedented action that will supersede parts of the Code and Constitution of the Student Assembly, and do not want to set a dangerous precedent that would undermine those documents.

This Executive Order will take effect immediately and will only last for this budgeting cycle, with a special request to the President of the 329th Student Assembly to revisit the discussion on the EAC timeline and process, as the pandemic has great possibility to extend into the next academic year.