

Bonfire 2002 resolution voided, approved again

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THE BATTALION

Student senators approved again Wednesday a resolution supporting Bonfire 2002 after the Student Government Association Judicial Court rescinded the original resolution passed at the senate's Oct. 31 meeting.

The court ruled that senate rules were violated in bringing the resolution to the floor. Senate bylaws require that when a resolution is submitted less than four class days prior to the senate meeting, as the Bonfire

resolution was, a majority of senate officers must approve its placement on the agenda. However, the Bonfire resolution was approved by only three of the six officers on the internal affairs committee.

Daniel Pearson, a senate officer and senior political science major, said the speaker pro-tempore of the senate has traditionally presided over meetings of the committee but could not vote, and so it was widely understood that three constituted a majority.

Paul Jackman, a senator and senior aerospace engineering major, filed the complaint

See SENATE on page 3B.

SENATE

Continued from Page 1A

and accused the Pro Traditions action of ramming through irresponsible legislation.

But Pearson said that the overwhelming majority of senators that supported the resolution indicated that the senate was speaking for the student body.

"I'm appalled at Jackman insinuating that people who voted for the resolution are of lower caliber than those who opposed it," Pearson said. "That's low and irresponsible, and his personal attacks have no place in this debate."

At Wednesday's meeting, supporters tried a different tactic to bring the resolution to the floor.

Kevin Capps, a senate officer and sophomore history major, said that with a two-thirds vote, the senate could discuss and vote on the bill dur-

ing open session, which is usually used as a time for senators to discuss comments and ideas.

After the senate voted 37 to 12 to discuss and vote on the resolution, debate began again.

"Two weeks ago, we brought the Bonfire 2002 Action Resolution to the floor, it was hotly debated and discussed and there were a lot of things that it went through and it passed 39 to 13," Capps said.

"I hope that our feelings have not changed. We have been through a lot in order to get it to this point where we can speak in behalf of the student body.

We need to make sure that those in the administration know what the students want."

Arguments made against the resolution were made because some senators were concerned about the safety of Bonfire 2002.

"My number one concern is safety. You and I want Bonfire to return in 2002, but the fact remains that 12 students died. I presented to the authors of this resolution today my concern over safety and it was not included or amended into the resolution. This is why I voted against the resolution last time.

It does not mean that I do not support Bonfire because I believe that [safety] should be our top priority," Senator Derek Mercer, a sophomore political science major, said.

After an extended debate period ended, the resolution passed with a vote of 38-13 and one abstention.

In other business, a new bus route was proposed to the Student Senate in the West Campus Bus Route Bill. Senator Daniel Pearson, who authored the bill, said that a bus route, called Wehner Express, could be created by Bus Operations to take students from the Memorial Student Center and Fish Pond directly to Wehner via University Drive and then back to the MSC again.