

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Sponsor(s): Chief of Staff White, Speaker Cheng, Director of Outreach Nguyen, Senator Medrano, Senator Davis III, Senator Pineda, Chair Ortiz, Senator Garcia, Justice Desabholta, Senator Ubina, Attorney General Barrett, Chair Chukwu, Senator Hilton, Senator Krothapali, Senator Fulce, Senator Robinson, Senator Lopez

Committee: Student Life

Draft: Final

The International Student Support Act

Whereas, the mission statement of the International Student and Scholar Services is to advance “the goals of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services by providing for the special needs of international students and exchange visitors related to their status as non-immigrants of the United States. It fulfills the University of Houston's responsibility to comply with the laws and regulations of the U.S. government and promotes internationalization through comprehensive services and programs;”¹

Whereas, an excerpt of the UH Diversity and Inclusion statement reads, “We will continually strive to work together to address the challenges of the future in a way that removes barriers to success and promotes a culture of inclusivity, compassion and mutual respect. The competencies gained through diverse experiences across campus prepare all of our students, staff and faculty to thrive personally and professionally in a global society.”²

Whereas, international students face unique challenges related to acculturation; including but not limited to cultural isolation, language barriers, social differences, and homesickness;

¹ <https://www.uh.edu/oisss/services/>

² <https://uh.edu/about/diversity-statement/>

Whereas, international students make up 7.3% of the University of Houston student body³;

Whereas, international peer mentorship programs across U.S. campuses benefit international students and domestic students alike, by promoting intercultural friendships, introducing students to campus resources and culture, and fostering cultural inclusivity;

Whereas, the University of Houston does not have a peer mentorship program for international students;

Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

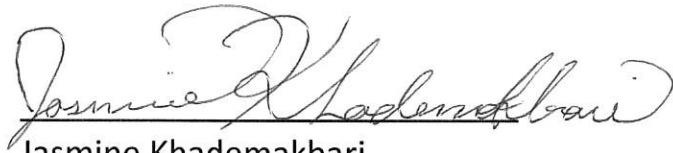
An international student peer mentorship program will be created in partnership with the International Student and Scholar Services office.

Be it further enacted, the UHSGA President will form a Task Force on International Student Support to facilitate the implementation of the International Student Peer Mentorship program by matching mentors and mentees, planning workshops and socials, and collecting program data from mentors and mentees;

Be it further enacted, the Task Force on International Student Support will comprise of four (4) UHSGA appointees and one (1) representative from the International Student and Scholar Services office;

Be it further enacted, the UHSGA President or their designee will serve as chair of the Task Force on International Student Support.

³<https://uh.edu/oisss/forms-and-publications/enrollment-reports/f19-enrollment-report.pdf?v=2>



Jasmine Khademakbari

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 6/5/2020

APPROVED



Julian Cheng

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 6/5/20

