

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB- 56007

Date introduced: July 17th, 2019

Authors: Senator Campbell, Chair Khademakbari

Sponsors: Speaker Do, Vice Chair Vo, Director Medrano, Legislative Chief of Staff White, Chair Barrett, Vice Chair Chukwu, Senator Gonzales, Chair Potts, Senator Doan, Senator Duvall, Senator Saybe, Senator Fuentes, Senator Rodriguez, Attorney General Desabhotla, Senator Jackson-Price, Senator Dias, Senator Austgen, Associate Director Vicklund, Senator Ramos, Director O'Brien, Senator Morgan

Committee: Internal Affairs

Draft: Final Vote

Legislative Accountability Act

AUTHOR'S SUMMARY: This bill will amend the SGA Bylaws to establish a meeting where UGAL and college-specific Senators will meet with the other Senators that represent their respective constituencies, called Caucuses. These Caucuses will be held at least four times per administration to give the Senators an opportunity to brainstorm ideas that are in the interest of their constituency, while members of their constituency shall be encouraged to attend these meetings and offer input. In order to enforce Caucus attendance, the bylaw clauses concerning Senator attendance will be amended to address Caucuses.

Whereas, college-specific Senators are elected to represent their respective colleges and advocate for the needs and desires of those colleges and students-at-large;

Whereas, Senators do not currently have a formal avenue to identify problems that affect their specific colleges;

Whereas, only two (2) out of fifty-eight (58) pieces of legislation passed in the 55th SGA Administration focused directly on the benefit of a specific college within the University of Houston (UB-55023 The Jack J. Valenti School of Communication Water Bottle Filling Station Act & UB-55024 Cleaning Up Melcher);

Whereas, currently many Senators do not engage in deliberations with their fellow college Senators on ideas that benefit their respective colleges;

Whereas, the potential benefit the Student Government Association can give to each college can be raised if Senators gather to discuss ideas that solely focus on bettering their respective colleges;

Whereas, it is important that college-specific Senators continue to work on benefitting students-at-large, however the reasoning of this bill is that Senators should be more involved in contributing to the advancement of their respective colleges than they are currently.

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

Title I of the Student Government Association Bylaws will add a new Article 7 with the following sections and clauses as read, re-numbering, not removing, the subsequent articles accordingly:

Article 7: Caucuses of the Senate

Section 1: General Provisions

- Clause 1: A Caucus of the Senate ("Caucus") is defined as a conference of Senators that carry the same title and represent the same constituents with the purpose of discussing initiatives that benefit their respective constituencies.
- Clause 2: There will be a Caucus for every college that has at least three (3) Senators representing it.
- Clause 3: There will be an Undergraduates-at-Large Caucus. ~~Graduates-at-Large Senators may form a Caucus.~~ These Senators will not be responsible for attending any other Caucus meetings.
- Clause 4: Senators representing exclusively Graduate or Professional students will not be required to be a member of any Caucus.
- Clause 5: Any rules and regulations of order for each Caucus that are not listed in the Student Government Association Constitution or Bylaws will be at the discretion of the Senators within the Caucus.
- Clause 6: A Caucus of the Senate is not to be confused with moderated or un-moderated caucuses that are held within Senate meetings to debate on business.
- Clause 7: Any additional Caucus may be established with the advice and consent of the Senators composing the Caucus and the Speaker of the Senate without an amendment to this Article and will be subject to the same privileges, rules and regulations of Caucuses established by this Article.

Section 2: Senate Caucus Meetings

- Clause 1: Meetings for each Caucus will be held at least four (4) times per each Student Government Administration, and at least one (1) of these meetings must take place in the first Spring semester, two (2) in the Fall semester and one (1) in the last Spring semester of the administration.
- Clause 2: The date, time, and place of each Caucus meeting will be coordinated by the Speaker of the Senate with respect to the availability of the Senators and made public.
- Clause 3: A majority of Senators from a Caucus has the right to call for a Caucus meeting at any time.
- Clause 4: The Speaker of the Senate or their designee will preside over each Caucus meeting.
- Clause 5: No Caucus meeting will be presided over by a member of that Caucus.
- Clause 6: Meetings will be open to all members of the Caucus' constituency.
- Clause 7: Each individual member of a Caucus has the right to attend Caucus meetings electronically, through call-in, teleconferencing, etc.

Section 3: Procedures for Small Colleges

- Clause 1: For the purpose of this section, a "small college" will be defined as a college with less than three (3) Senators representing it, excluding Graduate and Professional colleges.
- Clause 2: Each Undergraduate-at-Large ("UGAL") Caucus meeting will include a designated time for the discussion of small colleges.
- Clause 3: Senators representing small colleges will be considered members of the UGAL Caucus and are subject to the same rules and regulations as UGAL Senators.
- Clause 4: During the small college discussion time, the UGAL Caucus will operate as if
it is a Caucus of the small college being discussed. All members will have the opportunity to discuss their initiatives that benefit the specific small college.

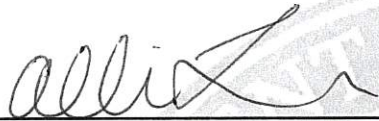
Be it further enacted, that Title I, Article 3, Section 1, Clause 1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws be amended to read:

"Clause 1: Each Senator will attend all meetings of the Senate, of those Senate Committees on which that Senator serves, and of their respective Senate Caucuses."

Be it further enacted, that Title I, Article 3, Section 4, Clause 1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws be amended to read:

“Clause 1: Any Senator who accumulates a combined total of three (3) or more unexcused absences from Senate meetings, Senate Committee meetings, or Senate Caucus meetings will promptly and automatically be removed from office on the grounds of nonfeasance.”

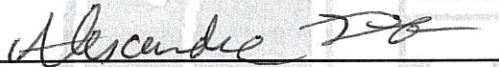
Be it further enacted, this bill will go into effect on the first class day of the Spring 2020 Semester and only one (1) meeting for each Caucus will be required for the remainder of the 56th Student Government Administration.



Allison Lawrence

Allison Lawrence
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 10/14/19



Alexandre Do

Alexandre Do
Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 09/25/2019

