Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

{ S. Bill. 20-21, X }

An Act to Amend the Bylaws section concerning caucuses

Introduced By: Senior Class President Cho and considered this **Xth** day of **February** in the Year **2021**

Sponsored By: //

Referred to the senate by the **Committee on Internal Affairs** which recommends its **Passage** by a vote of X to X with X abstentions.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Act may be referred to as the "[]"

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

a. SGA — The term "SGA" shall refer to the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University.
b. JHU, Hopkins — The terms "JHU" and "Hopkins" shall refer to the Johns Hopkins University.
c. Ethics Board —

SECTION 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

1. FINDINGS
    a. The aim of the SGA Bylaws is to provide clear and coherent guidelines for SGA to follow
    b. Article XIV details the structure and guidelines of the Women and Gender Minorities Caucus, but not for the other caucuses
        i. With the existence of other caucuses, formalizing caucuses generically is needed to clarify how other caucuses should exist and execute their initiatives.
    c. This bylaws amendment endeavors to rewrite all caucus guidelines currently listed in the bylaws document.
2. PURPOSES
    a. To provide clear structure and guidelines for caucuses under the SGA.

SECTION 4. Caucus BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The original text of Article XIV to be amended can be found here.

The entire article will read, after amendment, as such:

XIV CAUCUSES

1. Formation
    a. In order to form a caucus, the following criteria must be met:
        i. Formation must be initiated by an SGA Senate member
        ii. Submission of a bill establishing a caucus that contains the following:
            1. Rules for caucus (granted that they do not supercede the general guidelines of caucuses)
            2. Purpose of the caucus
            3. Goals of the caucus
            4. Why there is a need for this caucus on campus
            5. List of at least 10 interested individuals
            6. List of at least 3 potential partner student organizations
        iii. Caucuses must be approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Senate
2. Leadership:
    a. Each caucus must have, at a minimum, a Chair and a Vice-Chair
        i. The Chair of the caucus must be an elected member of the Senate or the Executive Board.
        ii. The Vice Chair must be a member of the Senate, the Executive Board, an Executive Board Commission, a former SGA elected member, or a non-senate member of a standing committee.
    b. The Chair of the caucus shall be responsible for the following duties:
        i. The Chair shall serve as the chief executive officer of the caucus.
        ii. The Chair shall be the official spokesperson of the caucus.
        iii. The Chair shall preside at and lead all meetings of the caucus and shall prepare the meeting agendas.
        iv. The Chair shall coordinate elections within their caucus by the end of September.
        v. The Chair shall be responsible for overseeing all administrative duties for the caucus.
        vi. The chair shall also be responsible for ensuring that there is a Caucus page on the SGA website that contains leadership information and all meeting minutes.
    c. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for the following duties:
        i. Record detailed minutes at all meetings for the caucus and shall keep them on file.

ii. The Vice Chair shall manage any and all internal and external organizational correspondence, as requested by the Chair.
iii. The Vice Chair shall maintain all membership records for the caucus, including updating the roster and member attendance sheet.
iv. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for reserving rooms and spaces for all meetings and events.
v. In the event that the Chair is unable to lead meetings or fulfill other administrative responsibilities, the Vice Chair shall step in momentarily as their proxy.
vi. Upon resignation of the Chair of a caucus, the Vice-Chair shall serve as interim chair until new elections are held.
    1. Eligibility rules of interim chairmanship shall follow that of Vice Chair and not Chair.

d. Each caucus may specify additional leadership roles in their Caucus Rules Bill.
e. Leadership Election Procedures:
    i. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the caucus must be elected by the SGA Senate in a General Body Meeting.
        1. This must be completed within one month of the approval of a caucus
    ii. In order to run for a leadership position, a candidate must be nominated by a Senator during the General Body Meeting in which the election shall take place.
        1. Incumbent Chairs or Vice-Chairs in the Caucus for which the election is for, may not nominate candidates for either position.
    iii. Each candidate must speak for up to five minutes on why they should be elected to the position they are running for.
        1. If there is only one candidate nominated for a position, the Senate shall move directly into voting procedure for the nominee.
        2. If there are multiple candidates, after the speeches, Senators may motion for a Q&A, a Moderated Caucus, or to move into voting procedure.
            a. If there are no motions for a moderated caucus or a Q&A, the Senate shall move directly into voting procedure for the position being discussed.
    iv. After speeches and optional discussion, the Senate shall move into voting procedure.
        1. A candidate for a position must win a majority of the votes to obtain the position they are running for.
            a. If there are more than two candidates and neither gets a majority of the vote, the Senate shall move into a second

round of voting, with the candidate who got the least votes in the prior round of voting taken out of consideration for the position.

b. This process shall continue until a candidate gets a majority of the vote.

v. Elections for each position shall be held during one of the first three General Body Meetings of each year's Senate. New elections shall be held during the academic year upon the resignation of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the caucus, or upon the receipt of the signatures of 2/3rds of the Senate.

1. Upon resignation of Chair or Vice-Chair, new elections must be held within two weeks of resignation. If the resignation occurs during a time in which the next GBM is farther than two weeks away (for example, during winter break), the election shall be carried out at the next GBM.
2. Between the resignation of the Chair and the election of a new chair, the Vice Chair will serve as interim Chair, and the caucus will vote on a temporary replacement for the Vice Chair.
    a. Upon resignation of the Vice Chair, the chair will determine who will serve as interim Vice Chair until a new election can be held.

3. Powers and Responsibilities of Caucuses
    a. Caucuses shall work to advance, represent the needs and concerns of, and promote greater equality for the community that they represent.
    b. Actions that caucuses are authorized to carry out include without Senate Approval include:
        i. Endorsing, suggesting, or otherwise encouraging legislation aimed to help the constituency they represent
        ii. Reviewing and providing feedback on whether legislation passed by SGA is as inclusive of and mindful to the needs of the constituency they represent as possible.
        iii. Acting as a safe space for the constituency they represent, and providing meaningful opportunities for the constituency they represent to convene and discuss pertinent issues.
        iv. Holding General Body Meetings with interested students and interested student groups to discuss whatever issues are deemed relevant by the caucus.
        v. Running a Social Media Account
        vi. Any actions not included in this list require further action before the caucus may carry them out, which shall be described within these bylaws.
    c. Events and Initiatives

i. There are two routes for initiatives to be approved:
    1. In order to work on events and initiatives, caucuses can present their initiative to a GBM (to ensure awareness within the Senate)
        a. Any relevant legislative committees can comment / provide feedback
        b. A simple majority vote within the Senate can approve the event/initiative
    2. Alternatively, a caucus initiative can partner with a specific legislative committee
        a. A committee simple majority vote can approve said initiative/event

4. Internal Rules
    a. Caucuses shall define their structure, operating rules, and any other leadership not specified by these bylaws by creating an annual Caucus rules bill that must be approved by the Senate every academic year.
        i. Annual Caucus Rules bills shall be approved by a majority vote of the Senate by end of September at the latest.
    b. Rules Bills must stay within the structure provided in these bylaws, and may not outline any responsibilities, leadership election procedures, or anything else that contradicts these bylaws.
        i. Rules Bills should include a potential caucus logo if applicable
    c. Annual Rules Bills must be posted publicly on the SGA website. The Caucus shall not be allowed to carry out any of its responsibilities and shall be considered null and void until the Rules Bill is posted on the website.
5. Membership
    a. Caucus membership shall be open to all interested students of any background or demographic, in accordance with our Constitution
    b. Caucuses may further define in their Rules bill the specifics of "membership" within their caucus

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.

Should any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance be held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Any money granted not used for any of the above purposes in supporting United Muslim Relief Funding Bill will be returned to the SGA Operations budget.

THE BILL HEREBY **PASSES** BY A VOTE OF **15** TO **0** WITH **1** ABSTENTIONS.

UPON PASSAGE, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE SENATE TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS BILL INDICATING THE SENATE'S ASSENT AND THUS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED THE BILL'S ADOPTION AS LAW.

Signatures of Enactment:

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Mehak Ali
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Sam Mollin
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Breanna Soldtelli
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Addy Perlman
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA