Dear fellow Blue Jays,

The SGA is proud to send out its first monthly email! Following in last year's tradition, we plan to send these updates every month so that we can be more transparent and accountable to you.

Announcements:

Class of 2021 Elections
SGA's new freshmen class senators were elected! Your new Freshmen Class Council consists of President Sam Schatmeyer and Senators Coco Cai, Nico Daurio, Evan Mays, Matt Taj, Lauren Paulet and Aspen Williams.

JHU SGA Judiciary Nomination Recommendation Form
Due to graduations last year, the 5-member SGA Judiciary has two vacancies. If you have recommendations for whom should be nominated to fill the positions, we have created a form that you can use to recommend nominees. The nomination recommendation form will be open until Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 at 11:59 PM.

Temporary SGA Website
The SGA is currently building a new website to replace sga.jhu.edu! In the interim, SGA is utilizing a temporary site, jhustudentgov.wordpress.com. The site includes even more than sga.jhu.edu: updated SGA contact information, three years of SGA legislative records, three years of election records, links to digital record repositories for every SGA committee and class council, all of SGA's minutes for the year, and infographics that illustrate how the SGA is structured to better serve you!

Legislative Milestones:
SGA passed new legislation nearly every single week last month! You can see the full text and introducers and co-sponsors of the legislation in the hyperlinks below.

- Monument Quilt Funding Bill
    - The Monument Quilt Funding Bill allocated $200 in cosponsorship funding to the Monument Quilt, a collection of over 200 handwoven quilts that aims to create a public healing space for survivors of sexual assault and sexual violence. The Monument Quilt, which visited campus this past Wednesday, was organized by SARU, CHEW, Women and Gender Resources at JHU, the Office of LGBTQ Life, JHU BIT and Force.
- National Voter Registration Day Bill
    - The National Voter Registration Day Bill allocated funding and solidified logistics for an upcoming voter registration drive. The voting drive, which

will occur in mid-November, will allow students to sign up for “TurboVote”, a service that keeps track of each state’s voting rules and automatically sends and returns ballots for subscribed college students.

- Ban the Box Resolution
    - The Ban the Box Resolution affirmed the SGA’s support for Maryland State Assembly legislation that would remove the criminal conviction checkbox from college applications. The Assembly legislation will be debated in the Spring of 2018, when a bipartisan coalition of legislators hopes to pass the legislation with a veto-proof majority.
- Smoking Cessation Programs Resolution
    - The Smoking Cessation Programs Resolution calls for the administration to create optional smoking cessation programs for JHU students, staff and faculty.
- Rules Bill
    - The Rules Bill delineates SGA’s Senatorial operatory rules for the semester. Among its many clauses, the bill addresses longstanding conflict of interest concerns by strictly prohibiting any quid pro quo rewards for SGA members.

Committee Updates:

- Academic Affairs
    - Academic Affairs is currently focused on 3 main goals: allowing student input for the development of intersession courses, creating more advising support and resources for non-premeds, and creating universal academic expectations, especially in regards to class standards, curving, and grade assignment.
- Civic Engagement
    - Civic Engagement is currently bringing the aforementioned TurboVote program to campus. Civic Engagement is also working on a "We Rise" rally for Saturday, November 4th. The rally will be an opportunity for students to "rise" for the intersectionality of the causes they care about.
- Health, Safety and Sustainability (HSS)
    - HSS is building a mental health toolbox that includes several digital apps like Atrium and Calm. HSS will also be working to distribute the remaining tampons from last year's feminine hygiene initiative. On mental health, HSS is working to bring the JED Foundation to Hopkins and kickstart a mental health stigma reduction campaign that began at the end of last year. In sustainability, HSS is composing letters to PIIAC that reaffirm SGA’s stance in favor of fossil fuel divestment.
- Student Organizations

    - Student Orgs has begun processing prospective student group applications, which close on October 14th. If you have submitted an application, Student Orgs will soon be reaching out about the interview process!
- Student Services
    - Student Services is focused on improving the infrastructure in academic classrooms and dormitories. To start, they have begun working with Dean Jerry Derienger to address mice infestations in the older dormitories, like McCoy. They have also been communicating with Maintenance about ensuring academic classrooms have enough chairs to accommodate their class sizes.

Upcoming Events:
The SGA is partnering with several student organizations to host three major community-building events this month!

- **2nd Annual Mental Health "Well-Fest" — Friday, October 27th from 11 AM to 2 PM on the Levering Courtyard**
    - Following last year's effort by the Mental Health Task Force, the SGA is working with Active Minds, A Place to Talk, CHEW, the Counseling Center, and Athletics and Recreation to host a festival of mental health resources at the end of the month. Combining informational resources with interactive activities, Well-Fest is the perfect time and place to destress from the semester and meet the groups on campus dedicated to supporting your mental health and wellbeing.
- **"We Rise" Rally — Sunday, November 4th on the Beach**
    - The "We Rise" rally will be an opportunity for students to "rise" for the intersectionality of the causes they care about! From live music to podium speeches, the rally is an amazing opportunity for our student body to come together and rise up for the causes we believe in.
- **2nd Annual SGA Fall Forum — Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 PM in the Hodson Hall Atrium**
    - The SGA invites you to its second annual Fall Forum! This year, the Fall Forum will consist of a series of roundtables dedicated to sparking new projects and cross-collaborations between student groups. Each roundtable will feature one of SGA's committees and in particular, this year's Forum will focus on how we students can come together to protect each other in light of events like the DACA revocation, the Title IX protections revocation, Charlottesville, Las Vegas and more.

Humble regards,

The Johns Hopkins University Student Government Association