Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

{ *S. Bill. 19-20, XX* }

An Act Promoting SGA Transparency and communication -- Part 1

Introduced By: President **Nathan Mudrak** and considered this BLANK day of **BLANK** in the Year **2019**

Sponsored By: Senator **Anthony Singleton** of the Freshman Class
Senator **Talal Widatalla** of the Sophomore Class

Referred to the senate by the

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 "SGA Transparency Act -- Part 1", or the "SGA Transparency Act of 2019, Part 1".

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) SGA — The term "SGA" shall refer to the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University, and all its associated branches.
(b) JHU, Hopkins - The terms "JHU" and "Hopkins" shall refer to the Johns Hopkins University.
(c) GBM — The term "GBM" shall refer to general body meetings of the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University
(d) "Exec" — The term "Exec" shall refer to the executive branch of the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University

SECTION 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS
  (1) Students often express the sentiment that SGA lacks "transparency" and are frequently disillusioned with their representation.
  (2) The Sophomore Class Council recently received feedback from a concerned student about how meeting minutes have not been posted since February 19th, 2019.
  (3) This feedback was obtained on a Google Form the sophomore class council implemented to ensure ease of student communication, a successful initiative that could be scaled to the whole of SGA.
  (4) The JHU Newsletter recently published an editorial criticizing SGA's transparency over the past year, concerned that "SGA's website remains confusing, with dead ends on several links", that "the most recently published meeting minutes are from February 19th", and that "SGA is no longer working on issuing livestreams" for their meetings.
  (5) With the aforementioned observations in mind, it is critical that steps are taken to improve SGA transparency, ensuring that representation is effective by allowing for easy student engagement with SGA actions.
(b) PURPOSES
  (1) This act amends the SGA Bylaws to require that all documents considered in the public sphere be continually posted to a shared Google Drive folder, or equivalent system, that is linked on the SGA website and in every email SGA sends to the student body.

SECTION 4.

The original Section 4 of this bill has become its own legislation: SGA Livestreaming Act.

SECTION 5. ENHANCING SGA TO STUDENT COMMUNICATION

(1) By passing this Act, the Senate reiterates the Executive Board's responsibility to upload all public SGA documents and communicate with the student body in a timely manner.
(2) To assist in the Executive Board's fulfillment of this responsibility, effective January 1st, 2020, the SGA bylaws will be updated as follows to simplify our transparency processes:
  ORIGINAL LANGUAGE (Article X Section I):
    i. Public Disclosure

1. All SGA records shall be presented to the public in an online JHBox that is accessible in less than 2 clicks from the SGA website homepage or 4 clicks from the SGA's social media pages.
    a. Any SGA document deliberated in the public sphere – legislation, minutes, and working documents – shall be placed into JHBox within a week of creation.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE (Article X Section I):

i. Public Disclosure

1. All SGA records deliberated in the public sphere shall be stored and presented to the public in a public Google Drive Folder, or other equivalent system.
    a. Such documents include, but are not limited to:
        i. Agendas and minutes for all public meetings (including committee meetings, GBMs, etc.)
        ii. Passed, failed, tabled, and withdrawn legislation
        iii. Attendance data for all SGA entities
        iv. Reports made publicly available to the student body
    b. The location of these documents shall be accessible within two (2) clicks from the SGA website homepage and four (4) clicks from the SGA's social media pages, be prominently displayed on such pages, and be linked at the bottom of all student-body-wide emails the SGA distributes.
        i. This requirement can be suspended with unanimous consent of the executive board.
    c. Such a folder should be organized, containing all of the above documents from the previous three years.
    d. The Senate shall have the power to force a document's release into the public sphere with a ⅔ majority vote, provided that the document's release would not violate the law or university policy.

(3) Passage of this act removes the "Original Language" and replaces it with the "Proposed Language".

SECTION 6. ACT ENFORCEMENT

(1) Unless otherwise noted, the ultimate responsibility for enforcing the contents of this Act lies on the Executive Secretary; however, they may delegate out the relevant duties when doing so does not decrease the efficacy of this Act.

SECTION 7. 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.

THE BILL HEREBY **PASSES/FAILS** BY A VOTE OF **X** TO **X** WITH **X** 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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Dean Chien
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Pritika Parmar
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Eric Armstrong
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony:

_____

Introducer Name(s) Here

Introducer Position(s) Here

Co-Sponsor Name(s) Here
Co-Sponsor Position(s) Here