# Senate

of the

## Student Government Association

of

## The Johns Hopkins University

*{ S. Bill. 20-21, X }*

**An Act to Amend the Bylaws section concerning Committee Chairs**

Introduced By: Executive President Mollin and considered this **8th** day of **September** in the Year **2020**

Sponsored By: Executive VP Ali, Senator Widatalla, Senator Cho and Senator Abid

Referred to the senate by the **Committee on Internal Affairs** which recommends its **Passage** by a vote of 5 to 0 with 0 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 "Committee Chair Bylaws Amendment Act"

**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.

**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 3 Section 9 of the Bylaws, which details removal processes, fails to provide clear guidelines on chair removal
        i. Specifically, this section states that "Removal of the chair of a committee, or of a member of the committee, shall proceed in identical fashion to impeachment proceedings as prescribed by the Constitution and further expounded upon by supporting statutes."
        ii. According to the Constitution, all impeachments and removals must start by the presentation of signatures to the full senate, and end with a hearing in and a vote by the full senate
        iii. According to the Bylaws, committees may remove a chair by a ¾ vote.
        iv. Thus, the Bylaws leave the procedure for chair removals done solely by a committee vote unclear. Does the Senate need to take action before the committee can vote? Do committees need to present signatures and then have a hearing 1-3 weeks later in a committee meeting? How can proceedings be carried out without a conflict of interest when the chair who is being removed has to run the meeting where they will be removed?
2. PURPOSES
    a. To provide clear and fair guidance for the removal of committee chairs by committees.

**SECTION 4. CHAIR REMOVAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*The original text of the section to be amended is as such:*

"9. Removal of Chairs or Members of a Committee of the Senate

a. The Chair of a Standing Legislative Committee of the Senate or an Ad-hoc Committee of the Senate may be removed by a 3⁄4 vote of the committee itself, or by a 2/3 vote of the Senate as a whole.
b. A member of a committee may only be removed by a 3⁄4 vote of the Senate as a whole.
c. Removal of the chair of a committee, or of a member of the committee, shall proceed in identical fashion to impeachment proceedings as prescribed by the Constitution and further expounded upon by supporting statutes.
d. Any member of the Senate who is impeached in accordance with the Constitution and relieved from the duties of the Senate are thus automatically removed from all Standing Legislative Committees of the Senate and Ad-hoc Committees of the Senate."

*The section will read, after amendment, as such:*

"9. Removal of Chairs or Members of a Committee of the Senate

a. The Chair of a Standing Legislative Committee of the Senate or an Ad-hoc Committee of the Senate may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the committee itself, or by a 2/3 vote of the Senate as a whole.
b. A member of a committee may only be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Senate as a whole.
c. If a Committee chooses to remove a chair by a 2/3 vote of the Committee itself, they must abide by the following procedures.

1. A senate member of a committee must submit the signatures of at least 1/2 of the senate members of the committee calling for the removal of the committee chair to the Executive Vice President.
    a. When there is an odd amount of senators in the committee, the number of signatures required shall be rounded up.
2. The Executive Vice President shall convene a meeting no later than 2 weeks after the receipt of the signatures calling for the removal of a committee chair to hear arguments for and against chair removal and to hold a vote to remove the chair.
3. At a minimum, the chair under consideration for removal must be allowed the opportunity to speak, and a senator calling for the chair's removal must be allowed an equal opportunity to speak. Speaking order should be determined by some form of chance.
4. After speeches from the chair under consideration and from an accuser, senate members of the committee shall enter into deliberations. The chair under consideration of removal must not be present for deliberations. After deliberations have concluded, senate members of the committee must vote by secret ballot on whether to remove the chair. The chair under consideration for removal cannot participate in this ballot.

5. If the chair is removed, they shall be thanked for their service and downgraded to a regular senate member of the committee.
6. Upon removal of a co-chair, the committee may vote to appoint a new co-chair, or stay with the one remaining chair.
7. Upon removal of a single chair of a committee, the Executive Vice President shall hold an election for a new chair no later than one week after the removal of the original chair.
8. The removed chair may not run in the chair election held to determine their replacement.
9. The Executive Vice President cannot be removed from the Internal Affairs Committee and the Executive Treasurer cannot be removed from the Finance Committee.

d. Removal of the chair of a committee, or of a member of the committee, done by the full senate, shall proceed in identical fashion to impeachment proceedings as prescribed by the Constitution and further expounded upon by supporting statutes.

e. Any member of the Senate who is impeached in accordance with the Constitution and relieved from the duties of the Senate are thus automatically removed from all Standing Legislative Committees of the Senate and Ad-hoc Committees of the Senate."

**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 **18** TO **0** WITH **0** 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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AJ Tsang
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Noh Mebrahtu
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Rushabh Doshi
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Mi Tu
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony:

_____

Aspen Williams
Freshman Class Senator

_____

Kwame Alston
Senior Class President

_____

Fatima Bouftas

Junior Class Senator

_____

Anthony Boutros
Sophomore Class President