

Senate
of the
Student Government Association
of
The Johns Hopkins University

{ S. Bill. 19-20, XX }

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER & DESI
AMERICAN (APIDA) CAUCUS

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR **ANANYA KALAHASTI** AND CONSIDERED THE **20TH** OF **APRIL** IN THE YEAR **2021**

SPONSORED BY:

SENATOR **KOBI KHONG** OF THE **2024** CLASS
SENATOR **SUBHA BHATTA** OF THE **2022** CLASS
SENATOR **JENNY CHEN** OF THE **2024** CLASS
SENATOR **VEDA CHANDA** OF THE **2022** CLASS

REFERRED TO THE SENATE BY THE **COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS** WHICH RECOMMENDS ITS **PASSAGE/FAILURE** BY A VOTE OF **4 TO 0.**

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 “APIDA Caucus Bill”.

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) APIDA – The term “APIDA” shall refer broadly to the Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi American communities.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

(a) FINDINGS

- (1) 32% of the Class of 2024 is Asian American, according to data published by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. As a note, that number does not include Asian international students, who also constitute a high percentage of Asian students on campus.
- (2) Of the current 32 members in SGA, 17 identify with one, if not more APIDA groups (53%).
- (3) Hopkins currently does not offer any ethnic studies programs specifically discussing Asian American studies, and only offers regional studies programs on East Asia, leading to a lack of coursework discussing issues pertinent for APIDA students.
- (4) To represent and reflect the diversity of the student body and also reaffirm the university’s commitment to advancing and promoting diversity, inclusivity, SGA should formalize the creation of an Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi American Caucus.
- (5) There is currently no formal representative body bringing together members of the APIDA community all across the JHU Homewood community to discuss and address APIDA-centered issues, and SGA, as the official governing group of the undergraduate student body, is a respected entity with the recognized jurisdiction, bandwidth, and credibility to spearhead that unprecedented initiative.

(b) PURPOSES

- (1) The purpose of the APIDA Caucus is to represent diverse voices on issues affecting the Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi community on Homewood campus, and this act establishes the creation of an APIDA caucus.
- (2) The APIDA Caucus will act as a special interest group, representing the voices and issues from all Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi American students at Hopkins.

SECTION 4. ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND DESI AMERICAN CAUCUS

The following act shall establish the creation of an APIDA Caucus and list the following elements:

- (a) Mission: The mission of this group is to advance, represent the needs and concerns of, and promote greater equality for the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American community at The Johns Hopkins University.
- (b) The APIDA Caucus seeks to achieve this mission in part by endorsing legislation aimed to address issues pertaining to the APIDA community and ensuring, as best as possible, that legislation passed by SGA, is as inclusive to APIDA students as possible.
- (c) The APIDA Caucus seeks to formally act as a safe space and provide meaningful opportunities for all APIDA students in the JHU community to convene and discuss issues faced within the community.

- (d) Additionally, the APIDA Caucus seeks to formally organize students around issues of interest to be able to voice concerns in a coordinated manner to SGA as well as the university's administration
- (e) The APIDA Caucus will partner with various student organizations and departments on events and initiatives designed to protect, promote, and advance the rights and interests of Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Students.
 - a. These may include but are not limited to undergraduate student groups represented in...
 - i. Fraternity & Sorority Life
 - ii. JHU Athletics
 - a. Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC)
 - iii. Multicultural Leadership Council
 - b. These may include but are not limited to APIDA-centered groups such as:
 - i. Multicultural Student Organizations, such as the Inter-Asian Council, and South Asian Students at Hopkins
 - ii. Asian-Interest Fraternity & Sorority Life Groups, such as Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, and Sigma Omicron Pi
- (f) At minimum, bi-semesterly meetings will be held with these various organizations listed above to discuss a wide range of issues concerning but not limited to...
 - a. APIDA Regional and Ethnic Studies Programs, including but not limited to South Asian Studies, Asian American Studies, Pacific Islander / Pasifika Studies
 - b. Increase course offerings discussing issues within the APIDA community
 - c. Inequality and discrimination targeted towards APIDA individuals within academic and professional spaces, including more extensive discussions of stereotypes
 - d. Visibility and representation of APIDA individuals in both administrative and academic leadership roles
 - e. Safety and Security, both on Campus and more broadly in the community
 - f. Support for underrepresented APIDA groups, such as Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders, in student support services
 - g. Advocating for more equitable funding for APIDA student organizations on campus
 - h. Data Disaggregation
 - i. And others
- (g) The APIDA Caucus will abide by the SGA Constitution and will not restrict membership "on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability or on the basis of the exercise of rights secured by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution ... [or on the] basis of citizenship status or socioeconomic status."

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 is 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.

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:

Sam Mollin
President of the Senate

Mehak Ali
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Breanna Soldatelli
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Addy Perlman
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony: