Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

S. _____ Bill.

____ – ____

A Bill To Amend the Bylaws in regards to the Student Group Recognition Process

Introduced By: _____Senator Muniz_____ and considered this ____ day of _____ in the Year _____

Sponsored By: Senator _____Phipps_____ of the _____2017_____ Class

Senator _____Bhamidipati_____ of the _____2019_____ Class

Referred to the senate by _____ which reccomends its _____ by a vote of _____ to _____.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Bill may be referred to as the "Student Group Amendment."

SECTION 2. PURPOSE(S).

(a) This Bill will amend the Student Government Association's Bylaws in an effort to increase efficiency and consistency in the student organization's recognition process.

(d) This Bill will provide the Committee on Student Organizations the jurisdiction to recognize new student groups.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) SGA – The term "SGA" shall mean the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University.

SECTION 4. FINDINGS.

a) The Committee on Student Organizations is tasked with conducting "hearings with leaders of proposed student organizations to evaluate and recommend to the Senate their approval or disapproval," as per the SGA's Bylaws.

b) The Committee on Student Organizations holds an extensive application review and interview process, through which proposed student organizations are evaluated for their unique purpose, organizational structure and contributions to campus life. After which, the Committee votes on whether to recommend an approval or denial of said student organizations.

c) The SGA Senate does not read new group applications and is not present for hearings with new group leaders.

SECTION 5. The Bylaws Amendment

a) Article III, Section 4, subsection i, clause 4, section b, subsection 1 shall be amended to read "To conduct hearings with leaders of proposed student organizations to evaluate and determine their recognition status within the SGA."

b) Article VII shall be amended to:

1. Scope
    i. This article shall apply to all dealings with current and proposed student organizations by the Committee on Student Organizations and the SGA Senate.
    ii. Should any part of this article be found unconstitutional, such part shall be considered severable and the rest of the article shall remain in effect.
2. Recognition of Proposed Student Organizations
    i. The SGA Senate has, under the Constitution, jurisdiction over the appointment process of new student organizations.
    ii. The Committee on Student Organizations shall receive applications for proposed student organizations and determine, along with the Coordinator of Student Organizations, which Category these groups fall under.
        1. The following Categories are not under the direct jurisdiction of the SGA Senate and shall not be evaluated by the Committee on Student Organizations: Academic and Research, Center for Social Concern, Graduate Student

Organizations, Dean of Student Life Charter Organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Life.

iii. The Committee on Student Organizations shall conduct hearings with the Coordinator of Student Organizations and leaders of proposed groups to evaluate the uniqueness and feasibility of their mission, the establishment of a longitudinal organizational structure, the level of risk and their contribution to on-campus student life.

iv. The Committee on Student Organizations shall vote on whether to recognize the existence and provide funding for proposed student organizations. Committee quorum and a simple majority is required for the committee's determination to be in effect.

1. The committee's decision shall be referred to the Coordinator of Student Organizations, by the end of the academic term at which the application was submitted, to finalize the new group registration process.
2. The committee's decision shall be referred to the SGA Treasurer and the Student Activities Commission to give new organizations access to start-up funds and student group grants.

v. A decision to recognize or deny a proposed student organization by the Committee on Student Organizations can be appealed by any SGA Senator with a simple majority vote, at which point the General Body will evaluate the proposed student organization and vote on a final determination of its recognition.

3. Current Student Organizations

i. The SGA Senate is, under the Constitution, empowered to pass legislation governing student groups.

ii. Student groups may not disallow any member the right to vote with regard to race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, citizenship, or handicap. This requirement may be waived in circumstances in which an individual group has a specific reason—related to the impending graduation of group members—as to why members set to graduate in the academic year following the election should not be allowed to vote in a group election.

1. If the group wishes to waive this requirement, they must present a case to the SGA Senate explaining why graduating members should not be allowed to vote in an election. If the SGA rules in the group's favor, then the class of graduating members will not be allowed to vote. The disallowance of graduating members, if approved, must apply to every member of the group, without exception, who is to graduate in the semester following the election.

iii. All laws passed by the SGA governing approved student organizations shall be complied into a singular document and sent to the leaders of the student organization at the beginning of each school year."

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 _____ BY A VOTE OF _____ TO _____ WITH _____ ABSTENTIONS.

UPON PASSAGE, AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE SENATE TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS BILL INDICATING THE SENATE'S ASSENT AND THUS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE BILL'S ADOPTION AS LAW.

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Anna Du
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the SGA