

## RESTRUCTURING SOUTH ASIAN SOCIETY: ELECTIONS AND BOARD STRUCTURE

In the past few years, Georgetown's South Asian Society has begun to address historical criticism that it is neither diverse nor inclusive enough. While we, Georgetown Students 4 South Asia, appreciate the strides that South Asian Society has made, there is still a lot of work to be done *that cannot wait*. In light of recent events and incoming feedback (soon to be publicized), we call for the following actions for the upcoming SAS Board elections:

1. The general body must have a bigger role in South Asian Society events and board elections.
  - a. Eliminate the barrier to entry to South Asian Society board.
    - i. At the moment, board elections are determined by senior members of SAS Board. Several students have noticed a trend where successful SAS Board members have had an older sibling or friend who helped introduce them to SAS. **This creates a disadvantage for other students who do not have those connections, particularly first-year students.**
  - b. The general body should select candidates for next year's election.
    - i. We understand that board-based selection is intended to prevent a "popularity contest." However, this practice has only served to create a smaller "popularity contest" where many feel that SAS Board members elect and promote themselves and their friends.
  - c. **South Asian Society should hold an "election night" in which potential candidates can give brief speeches to the general body, after which the current SAS board can give their feedback in a public forum.**
    - i. Elections can open for a 24-hour period after this "election night" in order to include international students.
  - d. Candidates for South Asian Society board elections should be able to run for the position they desire, rather than the position that the current board thinks they should run for.
    - i. *Clarification:* SAS Board should not have the power to decide which positions candidates can run for. Candidates should be able to sign up for the position they desire and run for that position.
2. The election process must have transparency.
  - a. South Asian Society has a responsibility towards its general body and the larger South Asian community on campus, not towards its current board.

- b. The creation of new positions for people who do not win election to the board must be eliminated.
      - i. This method has been utilized in the past to retain freshman representatives, and only creates a further disadvantage from members not on the current board who are running for next year's board.
    - c. **Election results must be publicized so the community is assured that the person with the most votes for each position is actually the one elected to the board.**
  - 3. South Asian Society must restructure its board to facilitate inclusion of all South Asians on campus.
    - a. Previously individualized chair positions should be turned into small committees that welcome participants that are not on SAS board to further engage the general body of SAS.
      - i. These committees can include similar old positions, such as Academic Committee, Student Relations Committee, Philanthropy Committee, etc.
      - ii. SAS has introduced a new position for next year's board: the Multi-Cultural Chair, which "engages with various cultural and spiritual based student groups on campus to foster dialogue within the South Asian community as well as with other cultural groups." **We believe this position should be split into two positions in order to give proper due to the internal diversity of the South Asian community and the diversity of our campus.**
        - 1. We ask for the creation of a Multi-Cultural Committee which focuses on fostering dialogue on diversity within the South Asian Community.
          - a. This Multi-Cultural Committee should center itself around a mission statement which describes the various cultural communities and identities which South Asian Society claims to represent.
        - 2. We additionally ask for the creation of an Outreach Committee which focuses on connecting with other cultural and spiritual student groups on campus.

We believe that these necessary changes will serve to strengthen the South Asian community on campus as well as South Asian Society's reach. By actively encouraging greater inclusion of the general body through these key points, we can promote greater representation and facilitate a learning, welcoming environment for all South Asian students at Georgetown University. Please sign below if you support these measures.

**Georgetown Students 4 South Asia will be introducing additional measures to foster this environment soon. Follow us at @guforsouthasia to keep track of our campaign!**

**Groups:**

1.

**Individuals**

1. *Maydha Dhanuka, SFS '21*
2. *Anushree Lamsal, SFS '23*
3. *Varsha Menon, SFS '21*
4. *Kumayl Jacksi, MSB '21*
5. *Shevani Tewari SFS '24*
6. *Nirvana Khan SFS '24*
7. *Haley D'Alessio COL '21*
8. *Tim McNulty COL '21*
9. *Jesse Lin SFS '23*
10. *Suhani Garg SFS '23*
11. *Deborah Wey SFS '24*
12. *Francis Antonyraj COL '23*
13. *Siena Hohne COL '22*
14. *Cimrun Srivastava SFS '23*
15. *Nikash Harapanahalli COL '24*
16. *Alec Weiker SFS '24*
17. *Annaelle Lafontant SFS '23*
18. *Kendall Bryant MSB '23*
19. *Bella Fassett SFS '24*
20. *Viha Vishwanathan MSB '24*
21. *Riya Maheshwari NHS '24*
22. *Karan Buddala NHS '23*
23. *Leyla Hagan SFS '24*

24. *Jessica Shannon SFS '23*
25. *Graham Hillmann SFS '24*
26. *Kent Adams SFS '21*
27. *Hasini Shyamsundar, SFS '22*
28. *Aarushi Shah COL'22*
29. *Rowlie Flores COL '22*
30. *Kenneth Boggess SFS '24*
31. *Arjun Badami COL '24*
32. *Masaraat Asif SFS '23*
33. *Shahmeer Nawaz COL '24*
34. *Teak Hodge SFS '21*
35. *Noah Williams COL' 21*
36. *Gov Prabhakar SFS '24*
37. *Maya Durnal COL '21*
38. *Olivia Yamamoto SFS '24*
39. *Anusha Agarwal COL '21*
40. *Brett Guessford COL '23*
41. *Michael Skora SFS '23*
42. *Georgie Wilson SFS '24*
43. *Max Zhang, SFS '23*
44. *Al Castillo, SFS '22*
45. *Ted An, SFS '24*
46. *Christian Joseph, COL '23*
47. *Alanna Cronk, COL '23*
48. *Kat Lytkowski, SFS '24*
49. *Elisabeth Koch SFS'24*
50. *Claire Cheng SFS'24*
51. *Katherine Zhuo, SFS'22*
52. *Isabel Klemmer, SFS '25*
53. *Leo Rassieur, COL '22*
54. *Justin Liu, COL '24*

55. Zara Ali, SFS '24
56. Aditi Sridhar, SFS '24
57. Daniella Sanchez, COL '22
58. Anaya Adeyola COL '22
59. Ananya Amirthalingam COL '23
60. Margaret Lin COL '24
61. Ian Tracy COL '24
62. Yekun Zhou GSAS '21
63. Katie Schluth COL '20
64. Yukta Gutta, COL '23
65. Angelene Leija COL'23
66. Margaret Gleason (COL '22)
67. Melanie Cruz-Morales, COL '22
68. Anna Kaganova SFS'23
69. Aanya Agarwal COL '24
70. Mason Stempel, COL '24
71. Brandon Wu, SFS '24
72. Kira Pomeranz, COL '22
73. Thalia Zuinga-Davila (COL '24)
74. Leah Miller COL '23
75. Brian Weinberger COL '24
76. Sabria Kazmi SFS '23
77. Neha Malik SFS'23
78. Divjot Bawa SFS'23
79. Sheila Cruz morales COL'22
80. Adora Adeyemi MSB '24
81. Natalie Regan COL '23
82. Ace Frazier MSB '23
83. Kate Barranco SFS '23
84. Megan Huynh NHS '22
85. Brian Damerau COL '20

86. *Zain Sandhu COL '21*
87. *Manahal Fazal SFS '24*
88. *Rebecca Stekol SFS '21*
89. *Megan McGuire SFS '22*
90. *Akanksha Sinha SFS '23*
91. *Olivia Henry COL '24*
92. *Ashanee Kottage SFS '22*
93. *Felipe Lobo Koerich SFS '21*
94. *Jalen Benjamin MSB'22*
95. *Alexis Tiemann SFS'21*
96. *Tara Ravishankar COL '22*
97. *Neha Sandesh MSB '23*
98. *Jess Quiñones COL '23*
99. *Jessica Richards COL '20*
100. *Elaine Liu MSB'21*
101. *Arjun Mathur NHS'22*
102. *Triveni Patel COL '22*
103. *Aisha Tounkara SFS '23*
104. *Kerry O'Donnell SFS '23*
105. *Pramiksha Marcharchand COL '21*
106. *Rhiannon Leonardo NHS '22*