

*Motion to Add Bylaw 21-01: Working Group Accountability to the Constitution*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this motion is to instill several accountability mechanisms upon our SGA working groups. These groups have the potential to be extremely effective, however, they have often been underutilized in the past. In order to help promote productivity and results, this motion proposes adding the following bylaw to the Constitution.

**The What:** Bylaw 21-01: Working Group Accountability would read as follows:

xi. **21-01:** Working Group Accountability

1. Working groups must meet on at least a bi-weekly schedule as determined by the members of the group.
  - a. Group leaders must make an effort to find a time that works for all members of the group.
2. Working groups must prepare a 5-10 minute presentation for the final informal meeting of each semester.
  - a. The presentation should outline what the groups goals were, if they were achieved, and how the group achieved these goals;
  - b. The group should also mention any challenges or setbacks that it faced throughout the semester;
  - c. Presentations should include reference to relevant members in administration that helped the group achieve success;
  - d. Finally, any events, motions, and initiatives that were brought about from the group should be included.
3. Working groups have the ability to write and submit a motion that can count towards a senators' motion writing requirement.
4. If a member of the group misses more than three (3) meetings in a semester, they are not allowed to have their name on any motions that are submitted by the group.
5. Any violations of this bylaw will be brought to the attention of the Judiciary Committee.

**The How:** This fall semester will be an important test run of this bylaw. The Executive Board has spent a great deal of time cultivating working groups that will be interesting, but also have feasible goals to aim towards. The success of working groups is largely dependent on buy-in from group members, and hopefully this bylaw will help promote interest and accountability.

**Strengths and Importance:** This motion is important because other than motions and event planning, working groups are one of the biggest mechanisms for change on SGA. While they have been historically underutilized, one of the goals of the 2021-2022 Executive Board is to

find new ways to make these groups effective and worthwhile. Not only will this bylaw promote this goal, but it will also provide incentive for members of the President's Council to be more active members of working groups.

**Possible Risk Areas:** A potential risk is finding a time that works for all members of the group. However, if members are willing to be flexible this should not be a huge issue. Another potential risk is lack of enforcement. Will the working group chairs be enforcing these rules? If working group chairs hold themselves and their group members to a high standard for accountability, the requirements set forth in the bylaw should not be too difficult to uphold.

**Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:** In preparation for this motion, Vice President, Laura Powell spent the summer reviewing the work of past working groups to decipher what worked for these groups and what did not. The overwhelming issue was a lack of buy-in, participation, and groups that were either too broad or too narrow in scope. After discussing the idea with the rest of the Executive Board and SGA Advisor, Jess Manno, the points listed in the bylaw were deemed the most important. The 2021-2022 Executive Board has also spent several meetings finalizing the working groups for this year that will hopefully lend themselves to more successful outcomes.

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