

Creation of the SGA DEI Committee and General Committee Guidelines

Purpose: The Student Government Association is entrusted to advocate for all members of the student body. Despite this, many students' voices are not heard, only allowing for the advocacy of select interests. The only committee that has been formally established through the college for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is an all faculty one that is designated to almost exclusively reevaluating curricula. A student committee- particularly within SGA- has yet to be created. To alleviate this, more people need to be allowed to enter conversations related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as well as other conversations conducted on college committees.

The What: This motion serves to recognize the formal creation of the SGA DEI Committee. To do this, language will be added to Article IV, Section 4 §a indicating the existence of the committee. The SGA DEI committee will seek to tackle issues that affect the daily life of students on campus and is a distinct entity from the formal College DEI Committee. This will be an opportunity for students to voice their concerns as well as understand the inner workings of the College. The DEI committee will pass motions through the Student Government Association, present action plans to administrators, student organizations, and work closely with Tayo Clyburn, who is the Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Additionally, this motion aims to establish a set of guiding principles relating to the selection of committee members.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, committees should contain a member of each class year, an equal distribution of SGA and non-SGA members, which must include a student from an underrepresented group who has been systematically left out of the conversation and work of SGA. A good example would be a FLI, CAPS, POSSE, or an international student.

The How: For the first part of this motion, the Constitution will simply be amended upon the passage of this motion. For the second part, this process of more equitable committee selection will be monitored by the SGA Administrative Chair. Therefore, the Chair shall consult with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Equity and Inclusion during the selection of committee members.

Strengths and Importance: This motion aims to further SGA's initiatives relating to good DEI practices within an institution that is committed to equity and inclusivity. With the passage of this motion, a guiding principle on selection of committee members is also introduced in order to uplift more voices and allow more students to be heard and represented.

Possible Risk Areas: We don't anticipate any risks with the passage of this motion.

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