

### Creation of the Pilot SGA Liaison Position

**Purpose:** As members of the Student Government Association, our goal is to represent all students. However, across campus, there have been groups of students that have been systematically left out of the conversation and work of SGA.

**The What:** The motion aims to establish a pilot program for SGA Liaisons. SGA Liaisons are a pre-existing position within SGA, however, this motion aims to place specific emphasis on bringing in individuals who could help SGA be more representative and responsive to the student body as a whole. By creating the Liaison position, the hope is to broaden SGA's reach across campus, increase SGA engagement to more groups on campus, and increase other's awareness of what SGA does.

#### *SGA Liaisons:*

- i. Student Liaisons to SGA may be either self-nominated through an application process or recommended by an administrator or staff member based on year-long focuses of the organization.
  - Recommended students would still need to submit an application;
  - Current SGA members cannot serve as SGA liaisons to groups across campus.
    - Members of class councils may apply but if selected will need to step down from their position on class council to serve as a liaison instead.
    - The number of Liaisons per year is up to the discretion of the President and Vice President.
- ii. Liaisons are not positions within the Executive Board or within the President's Council, but rather are separate entities that extend the representation of student voices into SGA operations.
  - Liaisons are non-voting members of SGA;
  - Liaisons are responsible to share student concerns with SGA and also provide SGA updates to the groups that they are representing;
  - Liaisons have the ability to co-write motions with members of the President's Council or Executive Board;
  - Liaisons have the right to obtain the floor during all meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order;
  - Each liaison is given a budget to conduct programming:
    - Programming should differ from the work that SGA and/or the club/organization does as the events should have the aim of developing interconnectedness between the aforementioned club/organization, SGA, and the larger Student Body.
  - Liaisons should collaborate with fellow members of SGA to work with the administration to improve aspects of student life that are relevant to the goals of the SGA, the student body, and the club/organization being represented.
- iii. Liaisons are to attend all formal and informal SGA meetings.
- iv. Additional obligations of the SGA Liaisons:

- Liaisons must provide bi-weekly updates during SGA meetings in order to voice concerns from student groups that they are representing.
  - Liaisons must put forward at least one main motion in writing at a formal meeting of the SGA during each semester. The motion must represent the opinions of the Liaison's constituency, which will be represented by signatures in an appendix of the written motion.
  - Liaisons must organize one event or initiative per semester that utilizes their budget.
  - Liaisons must act as student outreach and bring various perspectives into SGA. This is targeted to bring individuals/groups that are underrepresented on SGA into the conversation
  - Liaisons should promote the usage of the SGA suggestions and comments box.
  - Liaisons should promote attendance at SGA events, such as Conversations with the Deans and State of the College.
  - Liaisons must meet with their respective programs, groups, or organizations and share what has been accomplished by SGA and what is being currently discussed. To promote transparency, Liaisons will present written updates of their meetings with their respective programs, groups, or organizations to the SGA.
  - The purpose of the Liaison role is to increase the diversity of perspectives, groups, and individuals represented on SGA. Focusing on expanding SGA's DEI efforts to include underrepresented student populations in the organization
- v. All students that are not members of the SGA President's Council, including the Colby Hall Staff, can serve as a liaison following the approval process of SGA.
  - vi. Each liaison will have an Executive Board member serving as their point of contact:
    - The Executive Board member will be selected by fellow members based on relevancy to the liaison's interests and goals;
    - Liaisons must have biweekly meetings with their Executive Board member point of contact.
  - vii. Each liaison will be given a stipend of \$250 for their Spring semester duties from the budget of the Chair and Vice Chair of Equity and Inclusion. .
  - viii. Should Liaisons not be fulfilling their roles and duties, the Executive Board can vote to remove the individual from their position by a simple majority vote of individuals present at the Executive Board meeting.

**The How:** The program is a pilot program and there is no assurance of success. However, there are a few parameters that have been used to help improve the likelihood of success. First, the motion outlines guidelines and a detailed description of the position. The hope is that the clarity of the position will help individuals who fill the role be successful. Second, the Chair and Vice Chair of Equity and Inclusion have deemed that this position will help improve SGA DEI efforts. As a result, they are using their personal budgets to pay for the stipends of these individuals. The hope is that the amount of money will help get qualified and quality candidates to apply and be appointed to the role.

**Strengths and Importance:** The aim of the motion is to make SGA a more inclusive space for all. With the passing of this motion, we hope that it acts as yet another step in the right direction in our effort to stress equity and inclusion both within SGA and across campus.

**Possible Risk Areas:** We are unsure who will apply - quality candidates will be essential to having success. To help mitigate the risk, over Jan Plan, there would be significant advertisement and work to raise awareness and encourage individuals to apply.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

**Name:** Executive Board

**Favorable Hours to Meet:** Wednesdays 6-7 pm