AN ASSEMBLY BILL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERSECTIONALITY COALITION WITHIN SGA

Short Title: Intersectionality Coalition
Author(s): Stephanie Buggs, College Senator (Eberly)
Kevin Donnelly, Senator
Sponsor(s): Myya Helm, Senator
Andrew Matus, College Senator (Law)
Camryn Pressley, Senator
Sarah Zanabli, Senator
First Reading Date 03-04-2020
Second Reading Date 03-11-2020

Whereas, The Mission of West Virginia University states that “the faculty, staff, and students... commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture”; and

Whereas, The Mission of the WVU Student Government Association includes the promoting of “the principles of diversity and responsible self-governance”; and

Whereas, intersectionality is defined as “the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups”; and

Whereas, The purpose of establishing an Intersectionality Coalition is to provide underrepresented and marginalized students a platform on campus; and

Whereas, There are 53 student organizations that are defined as an underrepresented/marginalized group, of which several have expressed their need of a space to voice their opinions and to receive SGA’s support; and

Whereas, The Intersectionality Coalition will be housed within the Inclusion Committee; and

Whereas, The Inclusion Committee Chair will oversee corresponding with the coalition and making sure it is functioning every year; and

Whereas, The coalition will meet once a month to collaborate amongst themselves and with SGA members, voice their opinions, concerns, and stances on campus issues, and be involved in SGA inclusivity projects; and

Whereas, The duty of SGA will be not only to house the coalition, but to provide our network and resources to connect these students to the appropriate WVU administrator; and

1 https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intersectionality
Whereas, The structure of the meetings, those included or invited to the coalition, the representatives’ status within their respective student organizations, and the size of the delegation in the coalition from a student organization will be up to the discretion of the Inclusivity Committee; and

Whereas, Changes to the form of the Intersectionality Coalition will be required to be announced in a public forum and to be approved by the members of the coalition;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: The West Virginia University Student Government Association will establish an Intersectionality Coalition to provide support and resources to student organizations that are considered to be underrepresented and marginalized to voice their opinions and concerns to the Student Body.

Section 2: The duties of the Inclusive Committee Chair in relation to the Coalition will be added to section 4.6.3 of the West Virginia University Bylaws of the Student Government Association reading as follows:

-e. Overseer corresponding to the Intersectionality Coalition and making sure it is functioning every year by scheduling monthly meetings, remaining in contact with its members, addressing their opinions and concerns to the Assembly, and providing resources and guidance for them to be successful."

Section 3: Upon its passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

Mandates:
G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Sabrina Cave, Executive Director, Student Enrichment
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Daily Athenaeum
Kate Dye, Student Body President
Marjorie Fuller, Director, WVU Center for Black Culture and Research
Meshea L. Poore, Esq., Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Akeya Carter-Bozman, Program Specialist, DDEI
J. Spencer Darden, Director, Diversity Initiatives and Community Engagement
Cris Mayo, Director, LGBTQ+ Center at West Virginia University
Mr. John Dowling, Recruiting Operations Officer, West Virginia University Army ROTC