West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Resolution: AR-2020-03

Title: A Resolution Regarding Open Elections for Leadership Positions within Student Organizations

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association Mission Statement states that the Student Government Association desires to preserve “an atmosphere that helps to foster an open exchange of ideas with civil discussion, inquiry, and self-expression...to promote the principles of diversity and responsible self-governance”; and

Whereas, West Virginia University has 510 student organizations on campus, and 509 of those student organizations are registered on WVU Engage²; and

Whereas, 57 student organizations have 40 or more members registered on WVU Engage, and these statistics could potentially increase as more students and student organizations register on WVU Engage²; and

1. Short Title: Student Organization Leadership Resolution
2. Author: Nick Shoemaker, College Senator (Statler)
3. Sponsors: Travis Rawson, President Pro Tempore
4. Lily McKnight, College Senator (Reed)
5. Thaiddeus Dillie, College Senator (Davis)
6. Quinn Hopen, College Senator (Medicine)
7. Stephanie Buggs, College Senator (Eberly)
8. Dominic Cunningham, Senator
9. Contributors: Cedric Cliatt, Intern
10. Josh Peters, Intern
11. Dr. Thanh Le, Advisor
12. First Reading Date: 03-04-2020
13. Second Reading Date: 03-11-2020
Whereas, opening leadership positions to the entire student organization could improve inclusivity and diversity within the student organizations; and

Whereas, having open elections for leadership positions in student organizations will provide more students with opportunities to develop and use their leadership skills, and having a more diverse group of leaders could bring new ideas to student organizations; and

Whereas, a research study at the University of Southern Maine found that “Students believe that participation in student-led organizations not only help better prepare them for a position of leadership in their future careers, but that it also contributes to their development of leadership potential”³; and

Whereas, the Student Organization Leadership Development (SOLD) program can provide new student organization leaders with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, if necessary⁴; and

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

Section 1: The West Virginia University Student Government Association recommends that student organizations with 40 or more members hold open elections within their organizations for all leadership positions.

Section 2: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Sabrina Cave, Executive Director, Student Enrichment
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Kim Harrison, Assistant Director, Student Involvement
Deron Jackson, Assistant Director, Student Leadership Development
Daily Athenaeum
Kate Dye, Student Body President, Student Government Association
Zoya Khan, Student Organization Liaison, Student Government Association
References

1. https://sga.wvu.edu/our-mission
2. https://wvu.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations
3. https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/1bc7/02cbd4bd7e8dbaa865bb1d61f9ccc0668d6e.pdf
4. https://studentengagement.wvu.edu/student-involvement/sold