A Bill to Establish a Diversity & Inclusion Committee Within ASG

Whereas, It is necessary to establish a Diversity & Inclusion Committee to better understand the experiences marginalized groups have on campus and learn of ways to further promote equity, diversity, and inclusion for the benefit of all students today and in the future; and

Whereas, According to research conducted by The Century Foundation, “having different and divergent perspectives can create positive learning outcomes . . . when students enter the professional world, they join a vast and diverse workforce. Interacting with people of all different backgrounds and mindsets can present a challenge without prior exposure to diversity, especially at a younger age. Companies are taking note of their employees’ ability to handle diversity with grace and maturity; 96 percent of major employers, according to the Century Foundation, say it is vital that employees can work with people from diverse backgrounds.”

Whereas, The University of Texas at Austin has a similar committee in place. Their mission is to “[foster] an environment of excellence in education, research, and public service by creating and supporting an inclusive campus that promotes diverse people and perspectives. By diversifying the faculty, students, and staff and advancing initiatives to create a more inclusive campus culture, University colleges and schools will better reflect the globalized society that the University serves, while also increasing democratic outcomes for graduating students including greater citizenship engagement and cross-cultural understanding.”
Be it therefore resolved: The Associate Student Government Senate supports the establishment of a Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Be it further resolved: The Director of Diversity & Inclusion will serve as the Chair of this committee and recruiter. This committee will seek to be composed of historically marginalized groups based on traditional experiences but will be open to all students on campus. Students seeking membership will go through an application process and an interview like other ASG committees. There is no limit to how many students can be a part of it.

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Code Title I Section 10 Subsection A already gives Executive Cabinet members “the full authority to conduct business on behalf of ASG as long as such business falls within the scope of their position description and duties as prescribed by Presidential Executive Order.” With this bill, the committee would be automatically created and take effect at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this bill be sent to Chief Justice Anna Roach.

Official Use Only

Amendments: ____________________________________________________________

Vote Count: Aye 41 Nay 0 Abstentions 1

Legislation Status: Passed Failed Other

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Gabrielle Gies, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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Lauren Loften, ASG President Date