

Label: CBATL87002

Date Introduced: February 2, 2017

Committee: Election Commission

Draft: -

Date Voted On: February 16th, 2017 **Date Passed:** February 16th, 2017

A Bill to Allocate and Apportion Seats for Graduate Student Representation in the Atlanta Senate

WHEREAS, the School of Public Health has a growing population of undergraduate students whom will soon be eligible to be Senators representing the School of Public Health,

WHEREAS, The School of Public Health wishes to preserve and improve the voice of graduate students within the Senate going into the future, and,

WHEREAS concurrently, the current Senate makeup is primarily of undergraduates and does not adequately voice the opinions of graduate students, and,

WHEREAS many graduate students are discouraged from running for Senate seats due to overwhelming undergraduate majority in voting, and

WHEREAS the Student Government Association (SGA) aims to provide a voice to all students, not just undergraduates or graduate students,

WHEREAS in order to preserve the existing voice for graduate student representation, increase graduate student participation in the SGA in the future, and provide a voice for the graduate student population,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ATLANTA SENATE OF THE SGA OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT

Section 1: This legislation shall be known as the "Graduate Seat Apportionment Act of 2017."

Section 2: The legislation will allocate seats strictly for graduate and professional students in the Student Government Association Senate or each school or college with a graduate or professional student program. The seats will be available in the Spring Elections.

Section 3: Adding the following item to Title 1, Article 2, Section 1, as subpoint E: "The number of available seats for graduate and professional students will be proportional to their enrollment in their respective colleges or schools, which will be determined by enrollment numbers as of the fall semester previous to the election (minimum one seat per school or college)."

Section 4: If no graduate or professional candidates apply to be on the election ballot during the spring election cycle, the seats would remain vacant up until the first Senate meeting of the Fall semester.

Section 5: Applications would be accepted from only graduate and professional candidates throughout the course of the summer to fill any vacant graduate and professional seats and would be filled according to the interview/appointment process as outlined in the SGA Bylaws.

Section 6: After the first Atlanta SGA meeting of the fall semester, if seats designated for graduate and professional students are vacant, then any student regardless of academic level status from that particular college or school would be permitted to fill the vacancy for that school or college per the SGA bylaws procedure for filling mid-year vacancies.

Section 7: Those graduate or professional students wishing to fill these positions must abide by all current regulations as set out by the bylaws.

Section 8: This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

Respectively Submitted By:

Tejal Vashi, Senator, Public Health

Sponsor:

Corey Gray, Senator, Arts & Sciences

Alexander Lloyd, Freshman Liaison

Myles Brown, Senator, Arts & Sciences

Gabriela Batista-Vargas, Senator, Student Life Committee Chair

Usra Mohamed, Speaker Pro Tempore

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE

VOTE for: 14 against: 0 abstentions: 2

ACTION TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

Signature Blessing A. Abomas Date 03/07/2017

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT**

Signature [Signature] Date 03/07/2017