



“Committee on Asian-Pacific Islander Student Support Services”

Bill # 09-06

Author: Senator Karishma Saini

Date: March 19, 2009

Vote: Yes ___ No ___

Whereas the purpose of the Student Government Association is to provide a responsive forum for student opinions and interests and to actively seek out, investigate and resolve student complaints and concerns; and to ensure that all members of the student body are supported through services that adequately address their needs and provide a campus environment of multicultural inclusiveness and support.

Whereas the Student Government Association is the official voice of the students; and through research regarding the utilization practices of the Counseling Center, data has shown that within Georgia State University’s student demographics, students whom identify themselves as Asian-American (inclusive of Central, South and Southeastern Asian groups) and/or Pacific Islander are the least likely to seek help from the Counseling Center in comparison to other minority and Caucasian student demographics. Caucasian student use the service slightly above their enrollment rate, Latino/a students use this service at the enrollment rate, and African-American/Afro-Caribbean students use the service slightly above their enrollment rate.

Whereas established student service offices, such the Office of African-American Student Services and Programming or the Hispanic Student Outreach Office were created to assist those cultural groups in acclimating to college within a culturally relevant environment, perhaps encouraging these students to utilize campus resources in an effective manner; whereas Asian-American/Pacific Islander students do not have this same form of support.

Whereas the Student Government Association is mandated by their constitution to serve as partners in the administrative processes of the University; and will work with established offices to see how best to improve these services for this demographic.

Therefore let it be resolved that the Student Government Association is favor of the following: as a means of providing effective support to all cultural groups as can be provided on this campus, a subcommittee will be formed and will conduct a multi-method form of research such as surveys and interviews to understand the reasoning of this underutilization of campus resources by Asian-American/Pacific Islander students and to find if there are any discrepancies in other student services towards this demographic and formulate what can be done to accommodate this student demographic in a culturally supportive and cost effective manner.

Evan Eskridge
SGA President

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