



# The Student Senate

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## Texas A&M University

S.B. 71-07

**The Student Senate  
71st Session  
Texas A&M University**

**Introduced By:** Luis Moreno, College of Engineering Caucus

**Sponsored By:** Perla Lopez, College of Liberal Arts  
Speaker Pro-Tempore Tate Banks, Off-Campus Caucus  
Adel Quntar, College of Engineering Caucus  
Chair Ashali Chimata, College of Liberal Arts  
Zach Huebschman, Off-Campus Caucus  
Reagan Thompson, College of Liberal Arts  
Clarissa Rodriguez, College of Engineering  
Joel Salazar, College of Geosciences  
John Ryan Rodriguez, Off-Campus Caucus  
Jerry Ramirez, Off-Campus Caucus  
Briecana DeGrate, College of Education  
Alejandra Moreno, College of Education  
Amed Harhara, College of Engineering  
Rachel Hutto, Freshman Caucus  
Julio Maldonado, On-Campus Caucus

**Action Taken** \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED

**Certified By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Handwritten signature of Mitch Parker in red ink.

Mitch Parker  
Speaker of the Senate

**Duly Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

Handwritten signature of Amy Sharp in black ink.

Amy Sharp  
Student Body President

### **The Retitling of the Unity Committee Act**

*"An act to rename the Unity Committee to Diversity and Inclusion Committee"*



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Senate Bill S.B. 71-07 – Page 2 of 5 Further Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "M. Parker".

Mitch Parker  
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(1):** Diversity and Inclusion is and has been a very prominent topic at Texas A&M University, including as it relates to the Student Government Association; and,
- Whereas(2):** The Texas A&M University Student Senate claims to represent ALL students in order to enhance the Texas A&M experience within our university and communities through research, legislation, and advocacy in accordance with the core values of our institution; and,
- Whereas(3):** Diversity in the context of Texas A&M University includes but is not limited to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and,
- Whereas(4):** The Texas A&M University Student Senate has recently established a committee for the facilitation and discussion of affairs relating to the topics of diversity, inclusion and equality through the Unity Committee; and,
- Whereas(5):** The overarching issue with the title of the recently established committee is with its intent versus impact, since changing the term “Diversity and Inclusion” to “Unity” could send the message that individuals from all groups encompassing the various diverse characteristics of people in our community is negative; and,
- Whereas(6):** Changing the term diversity, which acknowledges and validates the existence and value of individual identity, can easily further the perception that students need to minimize characteristics of their identities to be included as an Aggie; and,
- Whereas(7):** Changing the term diversity to unity could send the message that assimilation is the key to being “unified” and seen as part of certain organization and traditions with long-standing histories of exclusion; and,
- Whereas(8):** Changing the term from diversity to unity for a top position in the Student Government Association moves students further away from attempts to become educated and teach other students about the benefits of diversity and further stigmatizes the term, although as leaders on campus, we should be fostering a culture change surrounding aversions to the term diversity; and,



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Mitch Parker  
Speaker of the Senate

**Whereas(9):** There should be great consideration placed on mirroring Student Government Association documents to avoid any disconnections between institutional goals and student-level actions or decision-making that could be based on emotion, comfort-levels and uninformed rationalizations.

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** Let Article III, Section III.a. Of the Student Senate Bylaws read: “The Officers of the Senate shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker Pro-Tempore, the Senate Chair for Academic Affairs, the Senate Chair for Community Relations, the Senate Chair for Legislative Affairs, the Senate Chair for Rules and Regulations, the Senate Chair for Student Services, the Senate Chair for Finance, the Senate Chair for Constituency Affairs and the Senate Chair for Diversity and Inclusion. In addition to their senatorial responsibilities of representing their constituents, officers will be responsible for the following:”; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted (2):** Let Article III, Section III.a.9. Be amended to read:

“(4) Diversity and Inclusion Chair

The Diversity and Inclusion Chair shall:

- (i) Preside over the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The Diversity and Inclusion Chair is responsible for facilitating ideas for the member of the committee concerning all policies relating to diversity and inclusion affecting Texas A&M Students.
- (ii) Disseminate all necessary information to members of their committee and to all Senators
- (iii) Hold regular meetings with members of the committee
- (iv) Enforce the committee absence policy”; and,



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Mitch Parker  
Speaker of the Senate

Let it be  
Further

**Enacted(3):** Let Article IV, Section VI.1. of the Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read:  
“(e) Each Senator must serve on exactly one (1) of the Legislative Committees (Rules and Regulations Committee, Student Services Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Community Relations Committee, Constituency Affairs Committee, Finance Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Diversity and Inclusion Committee).

Let it be  
Further

**Enacted(4):** Let Article VII, Section I.c.8 of the Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read:  
“(8) THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE: The Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall be chaired by the Senate Diversity and Inclusion Chair. This committee shall be assigned to consider all legislation pertaining to interactions between the Student Government Association and the faculty and administration of Texas A&M University as it relates to issues of diversity, inclusion and equality on campus.”; and,

Let it be  
Further

**Enacted(5):** Let Article IX, Section VI.1.i of the Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read:  
“(i) The order of responsibility for conducting this new Senator development day is as follows: the Rules and Regulations Chair, the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the Senate, the Constituency Affairs Chair, the Academic Affairs Chair, the Community Relations Chair, the Legislative Affairs Chair, the Student Services Chair, the Finance Chair, and the Diversity and Inclusion Chair.”; and,

Let it be  
Further

**Enacted(7):** A primary charge of the Diversity and Inclusion Chair shall be to work with the diversity commissioner in the executive cabinet to generate and facilitate awareness and emphasize issues concerning diversity and inclusion across campus.



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Mitch Parker  
Speaker of the Senate

Let it be

Further

Enacted(8): Let a copy of this bill be sent to:

Dr. Robin R. Means Coleman, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity  
Dr. Daniel Pugh, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Dr. C.J. Woods, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs  
Dr. Tonya Driver, Director of Multicultural Services  
Karina Wilson, Rules and Regulations Chair  
The Battalion