

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB-61005

Date introduced: September 16th, 2024

Author(s): Chief of Staff Gonzalez, Mohib Awan

Sponsor(s): Chair Jacobs, Sen. Nguyen, Sen. Nieto

Committee: Internal Affairs

Draft: Vote

The Sheila Jackson Lee Emerging Leaders Expansion Act

Whereas, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee served as a U.S. Representative for Texas's 18th congressional district, which includes most of central Houston, from 1995 until her passing in 2024;

Whereas, Congresswoman Jackson Lee was a dedicated public servant who championed numerous progressive policies, including the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act and the Violence Against Women's Act;

Whereas, her commitment to policy research and community development has left a lasting impact on the Houston community and beyond and her efforts have significantly impacted education, civil rights, and public welfare, providing a model of leadership and dedication for future leaders;

Whereas, the SGA Emerging Leaders Program, founded in 2011, aims to develop future campus and community leaders through interactive learning experiences and internships within the SGA;

Whereas, expanding the program's scope will further develop the leadership skills of participants and enhance their ability to contribute to both the university and the broader community;

Whereas, renaming the Emerging Leaders Program in honor of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee will inspire future leaders to follow her legacy of public service and community engagement.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the Student Government Association Emerging Leaders programs shall be renamed the "Sheila Jackson Lee Emerging Leaders Programs" across all aspects of the university.

Be it further enacted, that the Title I of the Student Government Association Bylaws shall be amended with the following changes:

1. Title I, Article 6, Section 2, Clause 4: The Speaker will serve as a mentor in the SJL Emerging Leaders Program.
2. Title I, Article 8, Section 1, Clause 8: All Chairpersons serve at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate, excluding the Chairperson of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee.
3. Title I, Article 9, Section 2 Title: Select Committee on SJL Emerging Leaders
4. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 1: The purpose of this Select Committee is to develop future student leaders. The Select Committee on SJL Emerging Leaders will function as an internship program within the Student Government Association to educate students about the function and structure of the organization and the university as well as the legacy left behind by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.
5. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 2: The Chief of Staff will be the Chairperson for the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee.
6. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 3: Members of the Senate are not allowed to join the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee.
7. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 4: All members of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee will be chosen through an application process by the Chief of Staff.
8. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 5: Responsibilities of the Committee on Emerging Leaders include but are not limited to:
 - a. learning the infrastructure of the Student Government Association,
 - b. attending an initiation training, practicing duties associated with becoming a Student Leader,
 - c. learning how to draft legislation, event planning, working together to organize SJL Leadership and Advocacy week,
 - d. participating in a mentorship program, etc.

9. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 6: The SJL Emerging Leaders Committee may draft legislation (subject to Title I, Article 10, of the University of Houston Student Government Association Bylaws) to be voted on by the full Senate.
10. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 7: All legislation proposed by the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee must be passed through the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee first, then move forward in the process for passing legislation as outlined by Title I, Article 10, Section 6, Clause 1 of the University of Houston Student Government Association Bylaws.
11. Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 8: Members of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee must attend an SJL Emerging Leaders training and retreat planned by the Chief of Staff.

Be it further enacted, that the Title III of the Student Government Association Bylaws shall be amended with the following changes:

1. Title III, Article 1, Section 1, Clause 9: Each Department Director will serve as a mentor in the SJL Emerging Leaders Program.
2. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, Clause 6: The Chief of Staff will coordinate the Student Government Association SJL Emerging Leaders Program and serve as Chair of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee. The Chief of Staff will provide opportunities for SJL Emerging Leaders to develop leadership skills and participate in the ongoing business of the Student Government Association through assisting elected and appointed officials of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches with their duties as student leaders. The Chief of Staff will also ensure all SJL Emerging Leaders go through the mandatory training and execute their designated project stated in Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 5.
3. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, Clause 8: The Chief of Staff is responsible for selecting members of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee through an application process.
4. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, Clause 9: The Chief of Staff is required to plan an SJL Emerging Leaders training within the first two months of the fall semester and a SJL Emerging Leaders Retreat during the spring semester for all chosen SJL Emerging Leaders Committee members.
5. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, Clause 10: The Chief of Staff is required to assign mentors to the members of the SJL Emerging Leaders Committee.
6. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, Clause 11: All Chairpersons and the Vice-Chair of each Senate Committee will serve as a mentor in the SJL Emerging Leaders Program.
7. Title III, Article 1, Section 5, shall add the following clause: "Clause 13: In the situation the SJL Emerging Leaders Program is inactive or the committee doesn't

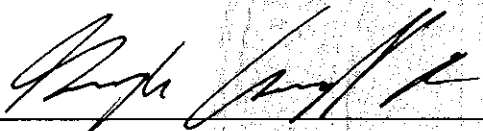
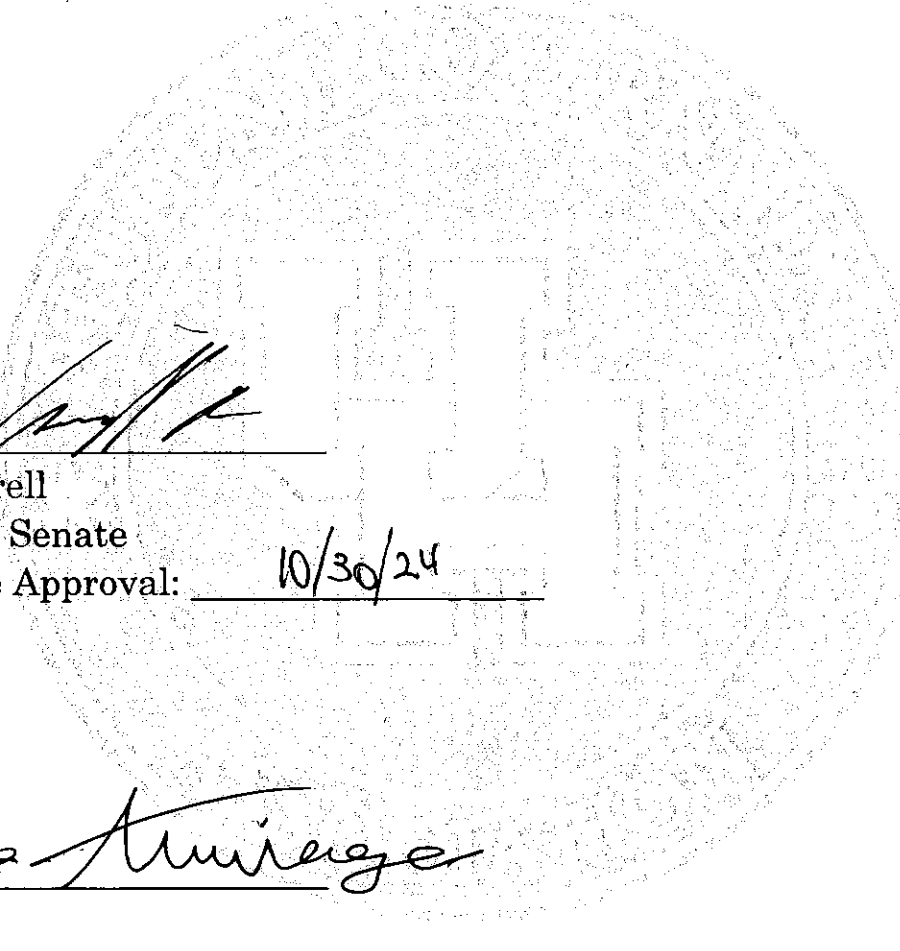
complete the events stated in Title I, Article 9, Section 2, Clause 5 the responsibility of completion falls under the responsibility of the Chief of Staff."

Be it further enacted, The SJL Emerging Leaders Program shall have the following expanded duties and responsibilities:

1. Policy Research and Development:
 - Participants will engage in comprehensive policy research projects addressing current issues affecting the university, local, state, and national communities;
 - Develop and propose actionable policy recommendations to the SGA Senate;
2. Community Engagement and Development:
 - Facilitate and participate in community service projects and initiatives that foster community development and support local organizations;
 - Organize forums and town hall meetings to engage with community members and gather input on critical issues;
3. Leadership Training and Development:
 - Attend a leadership training workshop, including conflict resolution, public speaking, and strategic planning;
 - Establish mentorship programs pairing emerging leaders with experienced university and community leaders;
4. Collaboration with External Entities:
 - Partner with local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to provide participants with real-world experience and networking opportunities;
 - Secure internships and fellowship opportunities for participants to gain practical experience in public service and policy development;
5. Equal Opportunity Initiatives:
 - Promote diversity within the program by actively recruiting participants from various backgrounds and disciplines;
 - Develop initiatives that address social issues, including but not limited to inequality, mental and physical health, civil rights, and education, within the university and the broader community;
6. Annual Symposium:
 - Host an annual symposium on leadership, policy research, and community development, featuring guest speakers, workshops, and panel discussions;
 - Provide a platform for participants to present their research findings and policy proposals;

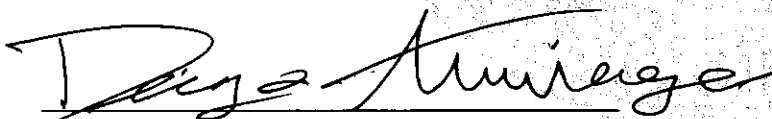
Be it further resolved, The Student Government Association shall host an annual week, during Black History Month, to recognize the contributions of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and celebrate the achievements of the participants in the Sheila Jackson Lee Emerging Leaders Program.

Be it ENACTED THAT, This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Senate of the University of Houston Student Government Association, and all amendments shall be made appropriately.



Tavagoh Cockrell
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 10/30/24



Diego Arriaga
SGA President

Date of Approval: 10/30/24