



Senate Bill #7  
of the 2016-2017 Session

## To Replace the Future Alumni Committee with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Introduced by  
KOMAL LUTHRA, Student Association Internal Vice-President, 2016-2017  
Monday, February 20, 2017

Passed on  
Monday, MONTH DD, 2017  
GRIFFIN THOMAS, Student Association President, 2016-2017  
Presiding Officer

*Whereas*, The Student Association’s purpose is “to enhance the value of the Rice University experience, with a particular focus in the undergraduate experience;

*Whereas*, The Student Association leverages the work of a number of standing committees to assist with this purpose;

*Whereas*, The focus of these standing committees are updated on occasion to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Student Association and its partners;

*Whereas*, The creation of the Future Alumni Committee was proposed in the Spring of 2014 in order to assist with the Office of Alumni Affairs engagement with the student body and “to connect alumni to the University and the student body by building tradition, fostering student and alumni interaction, serving the diverse needs and interests of our community, and creating opportunities for investment in Rice’s future”;

*Whereas*, Since its creation, it has been difficult to recruit and retain Committee Chairs for the Future Alumni Committee;

*Whereas*, The Future Alumni committee provides very limited number of opportunities of engagement for New Student Representatives;

*Whereas*, Since the creation of the Future Alumni Committee, the Alumni Relations Office in conjunction with Association of Rice Alumni has been able to find other avenues to engage the Student Association “to provide the means of a continuing relationship between the university and its former students”;

*Whereas*, The Student Association has recognized that the Alumni Relations Office no longer needs significant amount of assistance and support from the Student Association;

*Whereas*, The Student Association President and Internal Vice President believe that we can better serve the Student Association by investing resources elsewhere;

*Whereas*, The Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Committee is a temporary committee that was created this year which aims to do “1) bring awareness to diversity and inclusion issues on campus and 2) to provide initiatives and a framework to aid the University in creating a more inclusive community;”

*Whereas*, The Diversity and Inclusion Committee’s overall purpose is “to approach diversity and inclusion topics across a wide spectrum, ranging from but not limited to: class, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation”;

*Whereas*, Rice University has recognized diversity and inclusion to be a significant and ongoing topic of importance for the community;

*Whereas*, On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, President Leebron wrote that Rice University “will not tolerate any discrimination, harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender identification, citizenship, immigration status, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs”;

*Whereas*, The Student Association has recognized that Diversity and Inclusion Committee requires more sustained attention and resources to address the concerns of students across campus; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Future Alumni committee shall no longer be recognized as a Standing Committee of the Student Association and will be dissolved;

*Resolved*, The following statements will be removed from the bylaws:

1. Purpose. The purpose of the Rice Future Alumni Committee shall be to connect alumni to the University and the student body by building tradition, fostering student and alumni interaction and creating opportunities for investment in Rice's future.
2. Members. The Future Alumni Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a. The Future Alumni Committee Chair or Co-Chairs;
  - b. The chairpersons of the Rice Ring Committee, Families Weekend Committee, Rice Student Gift Initiative, and Rice Homecoming Committee;
  - c. A representative selected by each college from its alumni committee or associates committee;
  - d. Additional interested members of the Student Association at the discretion of the Internal Vice-President; and
  - e. A representative from the Association of Rice Alumni, who shall serve as a nonvoting advisor to the committee;

*Resolved*, That the Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall be considered a Student Association Standing Committee, instead of a Student Initiative Committee; and

*Resolved*, the bylaws shall include the following statements:

1. Purpose: The purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall be to promote awareness on issues related to diversity and inclusion and work towards creating a more inclusive environment for all students, regardless of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender identification, citizenship, immigration status, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs.

*Resolved*, if the new SA constitution and bylaws are passed under Referendum 2 of the 2017 SA General Election, the bylaw changes reflected in this legislation shall be reflected in the new bylaws.