



CONTACT

Jazmin Goodwin

Director of Communications

Howard University Student Association 56th Administration

Email: husa56communications@gmail.com

July 8, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HUSA President Carpenter Signs Transparency Bill into Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Senate passed a bill that requires public disclosure of information concerning HUSA, HUSA Senate, and college and school councils that would otherwise remain private from the student body.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was passed June 22 in the Senate after a unanimous June 19 vote in the Senate Constitutional Review Committee.

“The HUSA Senate Assembly is pleased to have passed the FOIA bill and hopes that this bill will result in inspiring a culture centered on transparency,” said Vice Chairman DeJoiry McKenzie-Simmons

FOIA will provide accessibility to information like budgets, student leader salaries, meeting minutes and any other information related to the function of student government. The bill was authored by HUSA President Allyson Carpenter and HUSA Director of Student Advocacy Dontae Bell.

“Clear and unabated communication from student government entities is essential to reinforcing students’ enervated trust in the administration and university as a whole. Without proactive transparency from all factions of student government, we cannot adequately demand the same initiative from administrators,” Bell said.

Students, journalists and the general public will now be more included in the political process and have greater access to information. In fact, HUSA has already made changes to their website, essentially allowing anyone to submit a FOIA request.

Will Fuller, former senior news editor of The Hilltop, is confident FOIA will be monumental for the success of our students, student government and the university at large.



“The media will now have a platform to enact change and demand for accountability,” Fuller said. “Transparency is key and long overdue.”

FOIA is the first bill passed during the fifth legislative session, demonstrating the commitment of student leaders to bring accountability to student government. Carpenter cites the upcoming Constitutional Convention as the motivation to get the Freedom of Information Act passed over the summer.

“HUSA is partnering with the Senate to host a convention where delegates will draft a new constitution. We didn’t want that process to happen in a vacuum. We wanted total transparency,” Carpenter said.

President Carpenter hopes that the passing of FOIA will inspire Howard University President Dr. Wayne I. Frederick and the Board of Trustees to take similar steps in being more transparent with the Howard community.

About HUSA

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) serves as the primary student government entity on Howard University’s campus. Since its inception in 1961, HUSA serves as a mechanism for effective change on Howard's campus. Functioning as a rallying point for activists and academics alike, its purpose is to provide input into Howard University's decision-making process, act as a spokesperson for students and maintain communications concerning students' interests and concerns in all of the university's schools and colleges.

###