



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 330-

Resolution 330-

I, John Cho, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:

President, 330th Student Assembly (22-23)

DATE:

30th Student Assembly
Senate Bill 330-014

A Bill

To support SASA in making the Mock Mehndi happen

The Mock Mehndi Act

An Act of the 330th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Class President Maheen Saeed ('23), Senator Hashir Aqeel ('25), Senator Matthew Hwang ('25), and Class President Yannie Chang ('25)

Supported by Student Assembly Vice President Jasmin Martinez ('23), Law School Senator Brendan W. Clark ('24), Senator Aparna Parlapalli ('23), Senator Shaunna Scott ('23), Senator Justin Bailey ('24), Senator Daniel Bess ('24), South Asian Student Association President Adam Razaq ('23), Undersecretary of Mental Health & Wellness Hazel Vineet ('25), Secretary of Diversity Initiatives Victor Adejayan ('23), Undersecretary of Neurodiversity Affairs Allison Stovall ('25), and Undersecretary of Mental Health & Wellness within Diverse Communities Carlos Noel ('23)

WHEREAS, the *South Asian Student Association (SASA)* at the College of William and Mary is hosting their *Mock Mehndi* event on Friday November 11, 2022;

WHEREAS, One of the responsibilities of student representatives in senate is to advocate on behalf of and help the student body in an equal manner free of partiality, without harboring prejudices based on preconceived notions about said organizations, even under circumstances of personal affiliation;

WHEREAS, SASA originally requested \$2250 for catering and \$402 for decorations through the OBAC process which accounts for an attendance of 450 people, they had an expected attendance of 400 individuals;

WHEREAS, SASA accidentally misreported attendance numbers for last year's *Mock Mehndi* event as approximately 200 on their quarter 2 budget request, causing OBAC to fund catering at a 25% increase resulting in total funding for 250 people of \$1250;

WHEREAS, Tracking attendance was not mandated last year among RSOs in respect to finances. Therefore, the expectation that RSOs can accurately report attendance from previous years is unfounded. Faulty estimates are made inevitable by the lack of consideration towards the issue in relying on accurate previous attendance records, when RSOs have no mechanisms to provide one;

WHEREAS, This case demonstrates a need for future conversation around a broader topic: the absence of a codified appeals process through OBAC. The sponsors of this bill encourage OBAC to have a conversation on creating an appeals process;

WHEREAS, As of quarter 1 of the 2022-2023 academic year, RSOs are required to track attendance through TribeLink and submit after-action reports for events with OBAC funding. These data points prevent the bad precedent of using bills to remedy filing errors after the 2022-2023 academic year, as there will be grounds for expecting accurate previous attendance moving forwards;

WHEREAS, To best avoid setting the bad precedent of using bills to remedy filing errors for Quarter 3 and 4 OBAC funding, Student Assembly will continue to disseminate information to RSO's about the importance of accurately answering all questions on the OBAC budget request form to the best of their ability as everything in the form may be considered;

WHEREAS, SASA executive board members have acknowledged that the misfiling error was due to misinformation and oversight on their end and that OBAC correctly funded the event based on the numbers originally provided;

WHEREAS, SASA executive board members have been enthusiastically and actively cooperating with all suggested remedial avenues, while repeatedly expressing respect for OBAC and student assembly. This respect and compliance is made evident by the following: SASA attended numerous Finance office hours, was willing to submit their Quarter 3 budget 22 days early(while under an alleged misperception of the guidance given by OBAC), will be borrowing mason jars and an arch to reduce cost, and is internally progressing by partnering with TribeInnovation, Student Leadership Development, and the Center for Student Diversity;

WHEREAS, the *Mock Mehndi* is unique in that it celebrates Pakistani culture and Pakistani students who are a distinct minority demographic in SASA - it is the only Pakistani centered event currently planned for the 2022-2023 school year. Therefore there will be no comparable or equivalent future events to the *Mock Mehndi* and an underfunding would most directly impact Pakistani students;

WHEREAS, Students, especially Pakistani students, who were not responsible for the SASA executive board's mistake should not have to bear the consequences of a subpar event;

WHEREAS, by supporting the *Mock Mehndi* event, Student Assembly will be reaffirming their stance that all students on campus, even those who find themselves in the minority within their respective cultural organizations, are welcome and should have their culture appreciated by the student body at large;

WHEREAS, The following supports that SASA's *Mock Mehndi* event in Spring of 2022 had an attendance of at least 300 people: Student Assembly funded the previous *Mock Mehndi* at \$1998 for 300 people-\$1648 was allocated for catering at \$5.49 per head($300 \times 5.49 = 1648$) and the remainder was allocated for decorations, and SASA's ticketed event Expressions sold 384 tickets-demonstrating the capacity for a high turnout;

WHEREAS, the listed food and decorations are integral to the *Mock Mehndi* event in order to showcase the vibrant culture of the *South Asian* diaspora;

WHEREAS, All decorations funded by the Student Assembly reserves will be returned to *Student Assembly* for future use;

WHEREAS, *SASA* reached out to the following departments for funding: Residence Housing Association, The Computer Science Department, The Data Science Department, The Physics Department, The International Relations Department, and The Religious Studies Department

WHEREAS, *SASA* is receiving \$295 from the *Center for Student Diversity* (which cannot be used for food costs);

WHEREAS, *SASA* will provide \$100 from their own reserves towards catering for this event;

WHEREAS, All promotional materials for the event will include *Student Assembly's* logo;

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates \$613 from the Student Assembly Reserves for the following items:
 - a. Catering from Spice Palace - \$525 (Standard rate of \$5 per person)
 - b. [Curtain lights](#) - 2 packs at \$18 each
 - c. [Curtains](#) - 2 packs at \$26 each
2. Charges the *department of Outreach* with posting *Mock Mehndi* flyers on social media to be designed by *SASA* with *Student Assembly's* logo.
3. Will only use a bill to rectify RSO misstatements of previous attendance made on their OBAC budget request form during the 2022-2023 academic year.
4. Stipulates all unused funds be returned to Student Assembly Reserves.