



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HONOR THE PAST, ENSURE THE FUTURE

DSUAA Proposed Affinity Groups Trial Period

Summary:

Description of Trial Period

The Affinity Groups Trial Period is defined as a set timeframe in which Affinity Groups are temporarily allowed within DSUAA, without making changes to the bylaws. The Trial Period will begin on August 16, 2021 (the date of the Special Executive Board Meeting) and will end at the 2022 DSUAA National Convention. Once the Trial Period has concluded, at the National Convention, the alumni body may then vote to approve/decline the future potential participation of Affinity Groups within DSUAA.

The Affinity Group Trial Period provides an opportunity for DSUAA to:

- gather real-time information which can be used to determine the best potential recommendation for DSUAA's future, as it relates to Affinity Groups
- actively access and evaluate the advantages/disadvantages of Affinity Groups within DSUAA
- further determine the changes to the bylaws that will be required if DSUAA does decide to allow Affinity Groups within DSUAA

Definition of an Alumni Affinity Group:

An Alumni Affinity Group is any group of alumni having a common interest or affiliation, whether through degree, major, ethnicity, athletic or student club involvement. (several sources)

Ultimate purpose of Alumni Affinity Groups

The purpose of Alumni Affinity Groups will directly align with the same purpose of DSUAA. The Affinity Groups will strive to support DSUAA, as DSUAA supports DSU in its growth and quest for excellence.

Benefits of Segmentation through Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups will allow DSUAA to attract alumni in segments based on their interests. This allows for more effective and efficient communication that can be sent specifically to the group which most desires it. In addition, Affinity Groups provide an opportunity for alumni to focus on a specific area of DSU which they are passionate about. Focus areas may be a department, a club, or team. Through Affinity Groups, DSUAA may target several, specific focus areas within DSU at once.

Local Chapter Benefits from Affinity Groups

Affinity Group members may choose to join a local chapter, which will increase local chapter membership. In addition, Local Chapters will be able to partner directly with Affinity Groups to target specific DSU initiatives aligned with the desires of Affinity Groups (departments, team, etc.).

Affinity Groups participating as part of the Trial Period (3 or more):

- Aviation Affinity Group
- Band Affinity Group
- Wesley Affinity Group
- *Additional Affinity Groups may be accepted into trial upon request*



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HONOR THE PAST, ENSURE THE FUTURE

DSUAA Proposed Affinity Groups Trial Period

Supporting information:

Frequently Asked Questions....

- **How will Affinity Groups benefit DSUAA?**
 - Affinity Groups will greatly impact the ability for DSUAA to engage alumni by providing a sense of belonging on a smaller scale with the larger Alumni population.
 - Affinity Groups will allow Alumni with similar backgrounds an opportunity to network with one another and to assist students in their area of studies and interests.
 - Affinity Groups will allow DSUAA to have groups that can target/focus a specific area of DSU that they would like to support.
 - Affinity Groups will bring in more financial resources into DSUAA in line with the growth in membership which Affinity Groups can provide.
- **What is the difference between an Affinity Group and a Local Chapter?**
 - Local chapters provide an opportunity for alumni to gather together based on their geographical location, while Affinity Groups provide an opportunity for alumni to gather together based on common interests.
 - Affinity Groups will follow the same National bylaws that local chapters abide by.
- **Are Affinity Groups replacing local chapters?**
 - No. The Affinity Groups and local chapters will co-exist.
- **Will Affinity Groups impact the voting process/procedures of DSUAA?**
 - No – same rules apply; One Person, One vote – based only on payment of National Dues. Nothing changes.
 - The Affinity Groups will not impact the current voting process/policy of DSUAA.
 - Regardless of how many local chapters or Affinity Groups someone joins, they will only be able to vote once.



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HONOR THE PAST, ENSURE THE FUTURE

DSUAA Proposed Affinity Groups Trial Period

Supporting information:

Frequently Asked Questions Continued....

- **Who is able to join an Affinity Group?**
 - The eligibility to join an affinity group is the same as joining a local chapter.
 - Any financial member of the DSUAA is eligible to join an Affinity Group.
 - Financial members consist of those who are (Class A, Class B, - including Life Members) eligible to join an Affinity Group.
- **How is an Affinity Group formed?**
 - An Affinity Group will be formed the same way a Local Chapter is formed, but are not limited by geographic location.
 - Ten or more Class A members may apply to charter an Affinity Group
- **Is there a limit on the number of Affinity Groups someone can join?**
 - No. There is no limit to the number of Affinity Groups someone can join, as long as that member pays the required dues for each Affinity Group.
 - Is it possible to be a member of both a local chapter and an Affinity Group?
 - Yes. It is possible to be a member of a local chapter and Affinity Group, as long as that member pays the required dues for both.
- **Are Affinity Group members required to pay National dues?**
 - Yes. The same dues requirements of local chapter members apply to Affinity Group members. Local chapter members are required to be financial at the National level, as are all Affinity Group members.
- **Are Affinity Group members required to pay Chapter dues?**
 - Yes. In order to join the Affinity Group, the member must pay the dues established by the Affinity Group(s).



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HONOR THE PAST, ENSURE THE FUTURE

DSUAA Proposed Affinity Groups Trial Period

Supporting information:

Frequently Asked Questions Continued....

- **Does the location of a member affect which Affinity Group a member may join?**
 - No. The location of the member does not impact the member's ability to join an Affinity Group.
- **What impact will the addition of Affinity Groups have on the Wesley Alumni?**
 - Affinity Groups will provide an opportunity for Wesley Alumni to have a safe space to discuss their Wesley memories and topics, while still existing under the DSUAA covering.
- **Do Affinity Groups already exist at DSU?**
 - Yes. There are several Affinity Groups that exist already at DSU but are functioning separately without the DSUAA umbrella.

Links to examples of other HBCU and PWI Alumni Associations with Affinity Groups?

- **Howard University:** [Howard University Alumni Association](#) | [Howard University Alumni Relations](#)
- **FAMU:** [Florida A&M University National Alumni Association \(famunaa.org\)](#)
- **John Hopkins:** [Your Alumni Association](#) | [Johns Hopkins Alumni \(jhu.edu\)](#); [Affinity Groups and Communities](#) | [Johns Hopkins Alumni \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- **Tennessee State University:** [Alumni Association \(tnstate.edu\)](#)
- **General Information:** [Alumni Affinity Groups - Google Search](#)

Bylaws Committee Members:

- Ralonda Ivy Smith (Chair), Reba Hollingsworth, Cliff Burrell, Stefan Roberts, Wesley Ridgeway, Leah Williams