

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

PURPOSE: The purposes of the Student Government Association are to promote the welfare, growth, and development of student life in an environment of academic excellence, to represent the students in all phases of administrative effort, and to provide a means of promoting cooperative efforts for the general welfare of the University community.

ARTICLE I. COMPOSITION & ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The officially organized body governing all students and student organizations at Murray State University shall be the Student Government Association. The Student Government Association (hereinafter S.G.A.) shall be composed of the Student Senate, the Judicial Board, the Campus Activities Board, the Residential College Association, and any other boards as agencies created in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 2. Any full-time student and any part-time student (a part time student, for the purposes of this constitution, shall be defined as any student enrolled in 7 to 11 hours for undergraduates or in 5 to 8 hours for graduate students) shall have the privilege of seeking office in any branch of the S.G.A. as prescribed in the By-Laws. Part-time students are not eligible to run for or hold Executive Council positions.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of S.G.A. shall be President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President of Administration and Vice-President of Student Connections of the Student Senate.

Section 2. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the S.G.A. and serve as the Student Regent on the university Board of Regents. The qualifications for the office require one to be a full-time student at the time of election and thereafter. In addition, the President shall have attained at least Junior Class standing the fall semester following the election. In addition, the President must have served in a branch of SGA for at least one (1) year. The President's duties and powers shall be to serve as President of the Student Senate and to serve as an ex-officio member of all S.G.A. committees, councils, and boards. The office holder shall maintain these standards, as well as others prescribed in the by-laws, at the time of election and during the term of office.

Section 3. The Executive Vice President, whose qualifications shall be the same as those for President, shall serve as Vice President of the Senate and as Chairman of the Campus Activities Board.

Section 4. The Vice President of Administration shall serve as the Secretary of the Student Senate and Campus Activities Board. As well as serving as the Treasurer of the S.G.A and monitoring all funds received from the University. The Vice President of Administration must be a full-time student. In addition, the Vice President of Administration must have served in one branch of SGA for at least one (1) semester. The office holder shall maintain these standards, as well as others prescribed in the by-laws, at the time of election and during the term of office.

Section 5. The Vice President of Student Connections shall serve as the connections officer between student organizations, campus recruitment events, and the S.G.A. The Vice President of Student Connections must be a full-time student. In addition, the Vice President of Student Connections must have served in a branch of the S.G.A for at least one (1) semester. The office holder shall maintain these standards, as well as others prescribed in the bylaws, at the time of election and during the term of office.

Section 6. The President of RCA and the Chief Justice shall be considered as “ex-officio” members of Executive Council, they shall work as liaisons for their respective branches, but will not have voting privileges in the Executive Council or Senate.

ARTICLE III. THE STUDENT SENATE

Section 1. The Student Senate shall be the governing body of S.G.A. and shall have the power to pass resolutions, bills, rules, and regulations necessary for the general welfare of the University and to implement and maintain any programs consistent with S.G.A. purposes.

Section 2. The Senate shall be composed of the Executive Council of the S.G.A., three (3) elected senators from each Academic College or School of the University, two (2) freshman senators, eight (8) senators elected at-large, and two (2) senators from each Residential College who, along with the members of the Executive Council shall have the right to vote. The President of the S.G.A. shall only vote in case of a tie.

Section 3. There shall be a maximum of six (6) Director positions, which shall serve as standing committee senate chairs. These positions will not have voting privileges in the Student Senate. The specific duties of these offices are described in the By-laws (Article IV. Section C and Article V and Article VI).

Section 4. In order to be a member of the Senate one shall be a full-time student or a part-time student of the University and shall maintain all qualifications as established in the

by-laws at the time of elections and during the term of office.

Section 5. The officeholders for "freshman senator" must be a freshman in classification or have completed no more than 30 credit hours after high school graduation.

Section 6. The Senate shall be advised by the Student Activities Advisor/ Administrative Assistant to the S.G.A.

ARTICLE IV. THE JUDICIAL BOARD

Section 1. The Judicial Board shall have the power to hold hearings and to render decisions and interpretations in cases brought to it by students, faculty, staff, or administrators involving the University Code of Conduct or the Constitution of the S.G.A. It shall have the authority to hear parking/traffic violation appeals.

Section 2. The Judicial Board shall comply with the Kentucky Open Meetings Laws, KRS 61.800 et.seq. and shall notify interested parties of their meetings at least one (1) week in advance.

Section 3. The Judicial Board shall be the judicial branch of the S.G.A. and shall be composed of seven (7) Justices and (3) Alternative Associate Justices.

Section 4. The Judicial Board Chief Justice shall serve as Chairperson of the Murray State University Student Judicial Board. The Chief Justice will preside over the Murray State University Student Judicial Board and be responsible for communicating concerns and issues to the S.G.A. Executive Council. The Chief Justice shall serve as a liaison between the S.G.A., Public Safety, and various judicial offices of the university. This position will be selected by the S.G.A. President, then confirmed by the Student Senate; from the members selected to serve on the Murray State University Student Judicial Board. The Student Senate must confirm this position annually. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board will be responsible for a report to the Student Senate each week or following each specially called Judicial Board hearing.

Section 5. The S.G.A. shall solicit applications for the Judicial Board. The Executive Council shall interview the applicants and the S.G.A. President shall select ten (10) nominees for the seven (7) Associate Justices, (3) Alternate Associate Justices, and from the list of nominations recommending a Chief Justice and an Associate Chief Justice. Upon the nomination from the S.G.A. President, the Senate must confirm the nominees.

Section 6. No member of the Judicial Board shall vote on any question in which he/she has an interest.

Section 7. Structure of the Judicial Board, qualifications of membership, duration of term,

specific duties and responsibilities, absences and vacancies, etc. shall be detailed by the By-Laws, otherwise known as the Judicial Board Operating Principles.

ARTICLE V. THE CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

Section 1. The purpose of the Campus Activities Board shall be to serve and unify the interests of the students, faculty and staff of M.S.U. and the university service region through co-curricular programming and policy recommendations for the operation of the University Center.

Section 2. Funding for the Campus Activities Board shall be through the accounts of the S.G.A.

Section 3. Structure of the Campus Activities Board, qualifications of membership, duration of term, specific duties and responsibilities, absences and vacancies, etc. shall be detailed by the By-Laws in accordance with the Campus Activities Board Operating Principles.

ARTICLE VI. RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The Residential College Association shall serve as the voice of the students of the Residential Colleges. The organization will maintain its own By-laws and function to increase communication between residential students and S.G.A.

Section 2. The membership of the Residential College Association shall consist of the officers, 16 Residential College Senators, the president of each Residential College, at least one representative chosen by election from each college and President of NRHH. Each college shall have one vote.

Section 3. The officers of the Residential College Association shall be the President, Vice-President of Programming, Vice-President of Finance and Records, Vice-President of Recognition, Vice-President of Leadership and Development.

Section 4. The Residential College Association President shall preside over the Residential College Association and shall be responsible for communicating R.C.A. concerns to the S.G.A. Executive Council. The R.C.A. President shall be a full-time student. The R.C.A. President shall be elected during the S.G.A. elections each spring by a student body vote. The office holder shall maintain these standards, as well as others prescribed in the by-laws, at the time of election and during the term of office.

Section 5. The budget for the Residential College Association shall remain based upon a fee levied on students who live within the Residential Colleges.

Section 6. The individual Residential College Councils shall maintain their autonomy in constitution and in their rights to create policy specific to their Residential Colleges.

ARTICLE VII. VOTING AND CONSTITUENCIES

Section 1. Any student enrolled in a college shall have the privilege of voting for Senate positions representing that college, all S.G.A. officer positions, at-large Senate positions. Any student with a freshman classification or with less than 30 credit hours earned after high school graduation may have the privilege of voting for the "freshman senators."

Section 2. The primary constituency of S.G.A. officers, at-large Senators and students on the Campus Activities Board shall be all students in the university. The primary constituency of a Senator representing a university or residential college or school shall be students in that college. The primary constituency of the "freshman senators" shall be the freshman class.

Section 3. A student eligible to vote shall be defined as: anyone taking a course at Murray State University, excluding dual-enrolled high school students, faculty, and staff. Student workers and graduate assistants are not considered staff members of Murray State University.

ARTICLE VIII. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. The Student Senate or the Judicial Board shall have the power to remove from office any member of its respective body for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section 2. Senators or Executive Officers of the S.G.A. can be recalled on the petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of their respective constituencies, subject to a majority vote of such constituency.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

Section 1. The Student Senate shall have the power to enact by-laws to implement the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 2. Any proposed changes in the By-laws shall be endorsed by one-fifth (1/5) of the Senators, and shall require approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate.

Section 3. Amendments to this constitution can be proposed by a three-fourths (3/4) majority

vote of the Student Senate or by a petition signed by 25% of the total Student Body. Such amendments shall be ratified by a plurality vote of the student electorate subject to approval of the M.S.U. Board of Regents.

ARTICLE X. RATIFICATION

Section I. This Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of those voting, subject to final approval of the Murray State University Board of Regents.