

1 First Reading: 4/19/17

2 Pass:

3 Other:

4

5 Bill 81-17-B1: Bill to Adopt the Amendments to the S.G.A. By-Laws

6

7 PURPOSE: For the Student Senate of the Student Government Association of Murray State  
8 University to adopt the amendments to the S.G.A. by-laws.

9

10 WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of our Student Government Association to maintain up-to-  
11 date governing documents,

12

13 THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Senate of the Student Government Association of  
14 Murray State University adopts the attached amendments to the S.G.A. by-laws.

15

16 AUTHOR: Clinton Combs, Student Regent  
17 Amanda Shoemake, Election Ways & Means Chair

18

19 SPONSOR: Election Ways & Means

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. The legislative branch of the Student Government Association shall be known as the Murray State University Student Senate.

Section B. The Student Senate shall be the governing body of the Student Government Association (hereinafter referred to as S.G.A.) and shall have the power to pass resolutions, bills, rules and to implement and maintain any programs consistent with S.G.A. purpose.

ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT

**Section A.** The Senate membership shall consist of the Executive Council of the S.G.A., three (3) elected senators from each Academic College OR School of the University, and two (2) "freshman senators," eight (8) senators at-large, and two (2) senators from each Residential Colleges who, along with the members of the executive council, shall have the right to vote.

1. The Executive Council of S.G.A. shall consist of the President/Student Regent Executive Vice-President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Finance, Chief Justice, and the President of the Residential College Association.
2. As stated in the Constitution, the RCA President and Chief Justice are "ex-officio" members of the Executive Council, and do not receive the right to vote.
3. The President of S.G.A. shall have the right to vote only in case of a tie.

ARTICLE III. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT AND DURATION OF TERM

Section A. The Election/Ways and Means Committee shall be responsible for the establishment and enforcement of the rules governing each election.

Section B. In the event the Election/Ways and Means Committee Chair is a candidate for office during the time of elections; the President shall appoint a temporary chair of the committee until after the election results

60 have been confirmed.

61

62 **Section C.** All elected or appointed positions shall be organized by the S.G.A., with the  
63 exception of R.C.A. positions (excluding the R.C.A. president). Executive and  
64 Senator positions shall be elected in the spring semester. All other positions  
65 will be elected or appointed according to their respective operating  
66 principles.

67

68 Section D. All candidates must without exception meet the requirements for the office  
69 of their candidacy as declared in the constitution and by-laws.

70

71 **Section E.** No member of S.G.A. shall be allowed to serve in two constitutional  
72 branches, other than the officers so required by the constitution. Further, no  
73 candidates shall appear on the S.G.A. ballot more than once. Nor, shall any  
74 candidates be allowed to run for more than one Senate office per election.

75

76 Section F. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast.  
77 In case of a tie, a runoff election shall be held within 15 school days.

78

79 Section G. No write-in candidates will be accepted.

80

81 Section H. All Student Senate positions shall be for one-year terms unless otherwise  
82 stated in these by-laws.

83

84 Section I. The election results shall be made known to the public no more than 24  
85 hours following the election closing.

86

## 87 ARTICLE IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

88

89 **Section A.** Executive Council

90

91 1. The President shall:

92

93 1. Maintain a cumulative point standing (hereinafter G.P.A.) of at  
94 least 2.7 on the 4.0 system.

95 2. Act as the chief executive officer of the S.G.A., providing direction  
96 and leadership for the entire organization.

97 3. Be the official representative of the student body of Murray State  
98 University on the Board of Regents.

99 4. Serve as chair of all Senate meetings and Executive Council

- 100 meetings.
- 101 5. Endorse all expenditures of the S.G.A. in the absence of the Vice
- 102 President of Finance.
- 103 6. Maintain membership in each of the Standing Committees.
- 104 7. Have the power to appoint any ad hoc committees deemed
- 105 necessary.
- 106 8. Appoint vacancies to branch positions, university committees,
- 107 standing committees, and other positions as deemed necessary.
- 108 9. Have the power to veto any legislation they believe does not
- 109 support the core purposes of the S.G.A.
- 110 a. The senate can overturn a veto with a 2/3 vote of the
- 111 membership.
- 112 10. Have the power to appoint a Chief of Staff as deemed necessary.
- 113 11. Serve as a co-chair of the Police Department Student Advisory
- 114 Committee.

115

116 2.The Executive Vice-President shall:

117

- 118 1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
- 119 2. In the vacancy of the office of the President, assume that office
- 120 immediately and without obstruction, and all the duties and
- 121 responsibilities thereof.
- 122 3. Serve as the chair of the Campus Activities Board.
- 123 4. Serve as chair of the Senate in the absence of the President.
- 124 5. Report to the Senate the decisions and activities of the Campus
- 125 Activities Board Programming Council.
- 126 6. Perform all other functions, as defined in the Campus Activities
- 127 Board operating principles.
- 128 7. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.
- 129

130 3. The Vice President of Finance shall:

131

- 132 1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
- 133 2. Be responsible for maintaining and safeguarding the financial
- 134 records of the organization.
- 135 3. Be responsible for collection, accounting and distribution of all
- 136 S.G.A. funds.
- 137 4. Endorse all expenditures of the S.G.A.
- 138 5. Chair the Student Senate Finance Committee.
- 139 6. Coordinate and chair the Student Life Improvement Program

- 140 (S.L.I.P. funds), as prescribed by the individual operating  
141 principles.  
142 7. Be responsible for preparation and presentation of the S.G.A.  
143 budget.  
144 8. Have completed ACC 200 (Principles of Accounting I or equivalent  
145 if transferring from another school) or AGR 333 (Agribusiness  
146 Records and Analysis), NLS 502 (Financial Resource Management  
147 and Development), FIN 230 (Personal Financial Planning, or MAT  
148 250 (Calculus and Analytical Geometry 1)with the grade of a "C"  
149 or better in each class, by the end of the academic term in which  
150 he/she is elected. Additionally, required courses may be  
151 substituted with a comprehensive skills test established by the  
152 Student Government Association. This test will be administered  
153 and graded by the Election Ways and Means Chair and/or the  
154 Student Government Association Advisor before the mandatory  
155 candidates meeting.  
156 9. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.  
157

158 4.The Vice President of Administration shall:

- 159  
160 1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.  
161 2. Record all Senate, Campus Activities Board, and Executive Council  
162 documents. Work with other branches, which coordinate their  
163 own documents, to maintain proper records of the organization.  
164 3. Maintain SGA membership records.  
165 4. Record the minutes of each Senate meeting, C.A.B. and Executive  
166 Council meeting.  
167 5. Be responsible for publication of official S.G.A. correspondence.  
168 6. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.  
169

170 5. The Judicial Board Chief Justice shall:

- 171  
172 1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.  
173 2. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.  
174 3. Provide Judicial Board updates to the Executive Council.  
175 4. Provide their interpretation of the constitution, as it relates to the  
176 initiatives of the Executive Council.  
177 5. Perform all other functions, as defined in the Judicial Board  
178 operating principles.  
179 6. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President, as so

180 long as it doesn't cause a conflict of interest for the Judicial Board.  
181

182 **6. The Residential College Association President shall:**  
183

- 184 1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
- 185 2. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.
- 186 3. Serve as a liaison between the S.G.A., the housing department,  
187 and Residential College Councils.
- 188 4. Be responsible for presiding over the Residential College  
189 Association meetings.
- 190 5. Be responsible for communicating the needs of the Residential  
191 Colleges to the Executive Council of Student Government  
192 Association and to work closely with the Residential College  
193 programming Chairperson to offer entertaining and enlightening  
194 program within the Residential Colleges.
- 195 6. Perform all other functions, as defined in the Residential College  
196 Association operating principles.
- 197 7. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.  
198

199 **Section B. Senators**  
200

201 1. The Senators of the Student Senate shall:  
202

- 203 1. Maintain at least a 2.0 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale at the time of election  
204 and during the term of office.
- 205 2. Support the mission, goals and objectives set forth by the Student  
206 Government Association.
- 207 3. Accept additional roles and responsibilities in certain projects and  
208 programs later agreed upon.
- 209 4. Attend all weekly Senate meetings and committee meetings.
- 210 5. Coordinate and conduct Campus Outreach Project (C.O.R.P.)  
211 tables, in a location that is frequented by the specific constituents  
212 of each Senator.
- 213 6. Serve on a minimum of one University committee.
- 214 7. Serve on a minimum of one Senate committee.
- 215 8. Serve a minimum of one hour a week in the Student Government  
216 Association office.
- 217 9. Maintain proper contact with the organizations that they are  
218 assigned to in order to promote a positive exchange of ideas  
219 between representative and constituents as determined by the

220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259

Executive council.

10. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.

2. The Senators elected from the individual University Colleges/Schools shall:

1. Maintain a major in the college they represent.

3. The Senators elected from the individual Residential Colleges shall:

- 1. Maintain residency in that specific Residential College.
- 2. Attend and report the actions of the S.G.A. to their specific Residential College Council.

### Section C. Chairs of Standing Committees

1. The Interviewing Committee, composed of the Executive Council, shall select the Standing Committee Chairs. All chair recommendations must have the final approval of the Senate.

2. The Standing Committee chairs shall:

- 1. Maintain at least a 2.0 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale at the time of election and during the term of office.
- 2. Be responsible for a weekly report to the Senate on the activities of the committee they chair.
- 3. Be responsible for organization and implementation of Senators assigned to their committee.
- 4. Be responsible for encouraging and sponsoring legislation before the Student Senate.
- 5. Be responsible for all monetary appropriations made to their committee.
- 6. Submit a written report of the activities of their committee at the end of their term.

## ARTICLE V. STANDING SENATE COMMITTEES

### Section A. Chief of Staff

- 260 1. The Chief of Staff Shall:  
261  
262 1. Be administratively responsible for all standing committee chairs  
263 in fulfilling the requirements and duties of each standing  
264 committee.  
265 2. Develop weekly agendas and calendars of events for Student  
266 Senate meetings at the direction of the S.G.A. President.  
267 3. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.  
268

269 Section B. Standing Committees

- 270  
271 1. The Election Ways & Means Committee shall:  
272  
273 1. Be responsible for the drafting, verification and publication of all  
274 bills, amendments, by-laws and resolutions, which come before  
275 the Student Senate.  
276 2. Be accountable for the regulation and conduct of all S.G.A.  
277 elections.  
278  
279 2. The University Affairs Committee shall:  
280  
281 1. Be responsible for research and investigation of items referred to  
282 that committee by the Student Senate or the Executive Council.  
283 2. Be responsible for the conducting of polls and interest surveys for  
284 S.G.A.  
285 3. Be responsible for providing recommendations about programs  
286 available to students on campus such as financial aid, housing and  
287 health services.  
288  
289 3. The Finance Committee shall:  
290  
291 1. Be accountable for distribution and approval of all requests for  
292 S.G.A. funds.  
293 2. The chair of this committee shall be the Vice President of Finance  
294 of S.G.A.  
295  
296 4. Publication Relations committee shall:  
297  
298 1. Be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date social media  
299 presence.



- 300 2. Actively provide publicity for events sponsored by each branch of  
301 the S.G.A.  
302 3. Coordinate with other branches to ensure consistent publicity.  
303 4. Be responsible for the publication and distribution of any  
304 publication as directed by the student senate or the Executive  
305 Council.  
306
- 307 5. Multimedia Committee shall:  
308
- 309 1. Be responsible for the layout and design of the SGA website,  
310 routinely and consistently updating the website, and maintaining  
311 the website in accordance with the purpose and function of SGA.
  - 312 2. Provide assistance with the technology used within the Center for  
313 Student Involvement and S.G.A.
  - 314 3. Create graphics, as needed, for the branches of S.G.A.
  - 315 4. Be responsible for the live streaming of S.G.A. meetings and  
316 functions.
- 317
- 318 6. Residential College Association shall:  
319
- 320 1. Be responsible for ensuring the welfare of all students who live  
321 within the Residential Colleges.
  - 322 2. Involve the Student Senate in the issues and programs in the  
323 Residential Colleges and the Residential College Association.
  - 324 3. The President of the Residential College Association will chair the  
325 committee.
- 326
- 327 7. Government Relations Committee shall:  
328
- 329 1. Be responsible for maintaining the relationship between S.G.A.,  
330 and government officials within the Kentucky State Capitol and  
331 Washington, D.C., to ensure Murray State University student  
332 success.
  - 333 2. Coordinate the "Racers in Action" program, which will function as  
334 the lobbying efforts for the S.G.A.
  - 335 3. Coordinate voter registration drives and voter information tables,  
336 as to encourage student civic engagement.
- 337
- 338 8. Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall:  
339

- 340 1. Be responsible for advancing the diversity and inclusion efforts of  
341 the S.G.A.  
342 2. Coordinate efforts to encourage underrepresented minority  
343 involvement in S.G.A. positions and programming.  
344

345 -ARTICLE VI. JOINT COMMITTEES

346 Section A. University Committees

- 347  
348  
349 1. The student representatives to the University Committee shall be  
350 selected by the President from the members of the S.G.A.  
351 2. The term on the University Committees shall parallel the term as a  
352 Senator.  
353 3. When assigning committee representatives, the President should take  
354 care to select a diverse group of individuals to represent the student  
355 body.  
356

357 Section B. Academic Council

- 358  
359 1. Members of the Academic Council shall consist of the four senators  
360 Representing each academic College and School with the most votes  
361 from their respective college/school.  
362 2. If the senator presents a verifiable reason to the Executive Council that  
363 he/she can not serve on this committee then the other senator  
364 representing that college shall serve.  
365 3. Student members of the Academic Council shall elect among themselves  
366 a Chairperson who will be responsible for a weekly report to the student  
367 senate. The attendance policy shall follow that which is outlined in  
368 ARTICLE 9: Section A.  
369

370 ARTICLE VII. QUORUM

371  
372 Section A. In all cases a quorum shall consist of a majority of the total voting  
373 membership of the Senate.  
374

375 ARTICLE VIII. VOTING AUTHORITY

376  
377 Section A. The voting membership of the Senate shall be the Senators elected from the  
378 university colleges, "freshman senators," residential colleges, and the  
379 Senators elected at-large from the campus, and the Executive Council of

380 S.G.A. The President of S.G.A. shall only vote in the case of a tie.

381

382 Section B. Senate members must be present at the meetings to vote.

383

384 ARTICLE IX. ABSENCES AND VACANCIES

385

386 Section A. Absences.

387

388 1. Each member of the Senate shall be allowed two (2) unexcused absences  
389 per semester.

390 2. Excused absences shall be determined by the President of S.G.A. and the  
391 Vice President of Administration.

392 3. After the second unexcused absence, the Executive Council of S.G.A.  
393 must call this member before them and determine if the absences should  
394 result in dismissal from the Senate.

395

396 Section B. Vacancies.

397

398 1. All vacancies shall be publicized for a minimum of one academic week.  
399 Applications will be accepted from qualified persons interested in the  
400 positions. The Executive Council shall interview applicants and nominate  
401 person(s) to fill vacant office(s). The applicant shall be appointed by  
402 receiving approval by a persuasive majority, ninety percent (90%), from  
403 the senators present at the following meeting. If the applicant fails to  
404 receive ninety percent, then the Senate shall interview the applicants and  
405 appoint a person to fill the vacant office.