

**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 have been confirmed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ARTICLE IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

##### Section A. Executive Council

###### 1. The President shall:

1. Maintain a cumulative point standing (hereinafter G.P.A.) of at least 2.7 on the 4.0 system.
2. Act as the chief executive officer of the S.G.A., providing direction and leadership for the entire organization.
3. Be the official representative of the student body of Murray State University on the Board of Regents.
4. Serve as chair of all Senate meetings and Executive Council meetings.

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

2.The Executive Vice-President shall:

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

3. The Vice President of Finance shall:

1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
2. Be responsible for maintaining and safeguarding the financial records of the organization.
3. Be responsible for collection, accounting and distribution of all S.G.A. funds.
4. Endorse all expenditures of the S.G.A.
5. Chair the Student Senate Finance Committee.
6. Coordinate and chair the Student Life Improvement Program (S.L.I.P. funds), as prescribed by the individual operating

principles.

7. Be responsible for preparation and presentation of the S.G.A. budget.
  8. Have completed ACC 200 (Principles of Accounting I or equivalent if transferring from another school) or AGR 333 (Agribusiness Records and Analysis), NLS 502 (Financial Resource Management and Development), FIN 230 (Personal Financial Planning, or MAT 250 (Calculus and Analytical Geometry 1) with the grade of a "C" or better in each class, by the end of the academic term in which he/she is elected. Additionally, required courses may be substituted with a comprehensive skills test established by the Student Government Association. This test will be administered and graded by the Election Ways and Means Chair and/or the Student Government Association Advisor before the mandatory candidates meeting.
  9. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.
4. The Vice President of Administration shall:
1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
  2. Record all Senate, Campus Activities Board, and Executive Council documents. Work with other branches, which coordinate their own documents, to maintain proper records of the organization.
  3. Maintain SGA membership records.
  4. Record the minutes of each Senate meeting, C.A.B. and Executive Council meeting.
  5. Be responsible for publication of official S.G.A. correspondence.
  6. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.
5. The Judicial Board Chief Justice shall:
1. Maintain at least a 2.7 G.P.A. on the 4.0 scale.
  2. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.
  3. Provide Judicial Board updates to the Executive Council.
  4. Provide their interpretation of the constitution, as it relates to the initiatives of the Executive Council.
  5. Perform all other functions, as defined in the Judicial Board operating principles.
  6. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President, as so long as it doesn't cause a conflict of interest for the Judicial Board.

6. The Residential College Association President shall:

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

Section B. Senators

1. The Senators of the Student Senate 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. Support the mission, goals and objectives set forth by the Student Government Association.
3. Accept additional roles and responsibilities in certain projects and programs later agreed upon.
4. Attend all weekly Senate meetings and committee meetings.
5. Coordinate and conduct Campus Outreach Project (C.O.R.P.) tables, in a location that is frequented by the specific constituents of each Senator.
6. Serve on a minimum of one University committee.
7. Serve on a minimum of one Senate committee.
8. Serve a minimum of one hour a week in the Student Government Association office.
9. Maintain proper contact with the organizations that they are assigned to in order to promote a positive exchange of ideas between representative and constituents as determined by the 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

1. The Chief of Staff Shall:

1. Be administratively responsible for all standing committee chairs in fulfilling the requirements and duties of each standing committee.
2. Develop weekly agendas and calendars of events for Student Senate meetings at the direction of the S.G.A. President.
3. Perform any additional tasks, as assigned by the President.

## Section B. Standing Committees

### 1. The Election Ways & Means Committee shall:

1. Be responsible for the drafting, verification and publication of all bills, amendments, by-laws and resolutions, which come before the Student Senate.
2. Be accountable for the regulation and conduct of all S.G.A. elections.

### 2. The University Affairs Committee shall:

1. Be responsible for research and investigation of items referred to that committee by the Student Senate or the Executive Council.
2. Be responsible for the conducting of polls and interest surveys for S.G.A.
3. Be responsible for providing recommendations about programs available to students on campus such as financial aid, housing and health services.

### 3. Publication Relations committee shall:

1. Be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date social media presence.
2. Actively provide publicity for events sponsored by each branch of the S.G.A.
3. Coordinate with other branches to ensure consistent publicity.
4. Be responsible for the publication and distribution of any publication as directed by the student senate or the Executive Council.

4. Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee Shall:
  1. Be responsible for ensuring that the recruitment and retention strategies of the University align with the current priorities of high school and college students.
  2. Coordinate programming that assists in University recruitment and retention efforts..
  3. Work in close partnership with the Office of Recruitment and Student Ambassador program to achieve enrollment goals.
  
5. Government Relations Committee shall:
  1. Be responsible for maintaining the relationship between S.G.A., and government officials within the Kentucky State Capitol and Washington, D.C., to ensure Murray State University student success.
  2. Coordinate the “Racers in Action” program, which will function as the lobbying efforts for the S.G.A.
  3. Coordinate voter registration drives and voter information tables, as to encourage student civic engagement.
  
6. Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall:
  1. Be responsible for advancing the diversity and inclusion efforts of the S.G.A.
  2. Coordinate efforts to encourage underrepresented minority involvement in S.G.A. positions and programming.

## -ARTICLE VI. JOINT COMMITTEES

### Section A. University Committees

1. The student representatives to the University Committee shall be selected by the President from the members of the S.G.A.
2. The term on the University Committees shall parallel the term as a Senator.
3. When assigning committee representatives, the President should take care to select a diverse group of individuals to represent the student body.



## Section B. Academic Council

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

## ARTICLE VII. QUORUM

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

## ARTICLE VIII. VOTING AUTHORITY

Section A. The voting membership of the Senate shall be the Senators elected from the university colleges, "freshman senators," residential colleges, and the Senators elected at-large from the campus, and the Executive Council of S.G.A. The President of S.G.A. shall only vote in the case of a tie.

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

## ARTICLE IX. ABSENCES AND VACANCIES

Section A. Absences.

1. Each member of the Senate shall be allowed two (2) unexcused absences per semester.
2. Excused absences shall be determined by the President of S.G.A. and the Vice President of Administration.
3. After the second unexcused absence, the Executive Council of S.G.A. must call this member before them and determine if the absences should result in dismissal from the Senate.

## Section B. Vacancies.

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