

1 First Reading: 4/19/17
2 Pass:
3 Other:
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5 Bill 81-17-B1: Bill to Adopt the Amendments to the S.G.A. By-Laws
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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.
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10 WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of our Student Government Association to maintain up-to-
11 date governing documents,
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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.
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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

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87 **ARTICLE IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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89 **Section A.** Executive Council

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91 1. The President shall:
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93 1. Maintain a cumulative point standing (hereinafter G.P.A.) of at
94 least 2.7 on the 4.0 system.
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96 2. Act as the chief executive officer of the S.G.A., providing direction
97 and leadership for the entire organization.
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99 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

- 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.

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116 2.The Executive Vice-President shall:

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- 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.

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130 3. The Vice President of Finance shall:

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- 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.

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158 4.The Vice President of Administration shall:

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- 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.
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170 5. The Judicial Board Chief Justice shall:

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- 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.

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

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

199 **Section B. Senators**

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201 1. The Senators of the Student Senate shall:

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- 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

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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:
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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.
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269 Section B. Standing Committees

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271 1. The Election Ways & Means Committee shall:
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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.
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279 2. The University Affairs Committee shall:
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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.
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289 3. The Finance Committee shall:
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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.
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296 4. Publication Relations committee shall:
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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.
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- 307 5. Multimedia Committee shall:
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- 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.
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- 318 6. Residential College Association shall:
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- 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.
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- 327 7. Government Relations Committee shall:
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- 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.
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- 338 8. Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall:
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- 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.
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345 -ARTICLE VI. JOINT COMMITTEES

346 Section A. University Committees

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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.
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357 Section B. Academic Council

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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.
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370 ARTICLE VII. QUORUM

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372 Section A. In all cases a quorum shall consist of a majority of the total voting
373 membership of the Senate.
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375 ARTICLE VIII. VOTING AUTHORITY

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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.

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

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384 ARTICLE IX. ABSENCES AND VACANCIES

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386 Section A. Absences.

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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.

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396 Section B. Vacancies.

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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 the fill the vacant office.