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# Student Government in a Virtual World

Presented by the American Student  
Government Association

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## What are Student Governments:

Student governments (SGA) are the organizations on college campuses that \_\_\_\_\_ students, serve as their voice, and exists to enhance the educational \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone that attends their college or university.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- \_\_\_\_\_ of student needs, desires, and concerns to faculty, administration, the community, and elected officials.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of clubs and organizations to exist on campus, based on established criteria, allowing access to meeting facilities, posting of flyers, funding, etc.
  - Budgeting and \_\_\_\_\_ of activity fees.
  - Providing \_\_\_\_\_ and educational options to engage students and \_\_\_\_\_ campus life.
  - Participation on college/university \_\_\_\_\_ to provide student perspectives and to protect the rights and interests of students.
  - Bringing students together as a campus.
  - What else: \_\_\_\_\_
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## Student Government Legislation

Proposals that SGA members should make:

- Items for \_\_\_\_\_ on campus
- Support of causes and \_\_\_\_\_ of students and clubs/organizations

- Positions on \_\_\_\_\_ at local, state, and national levels of interest to students
- Honoring significant \_\_\_\_\_ of those in the campus community
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Events of 2020**

- Start with having a \_\_\_\_\_ about the events of 2020
- Give each person a chance to \_\_\_\_\_, either with the whole group or by breaking out into smaller groups
- Discuss how your \_\_\_\_\_ will address these events in the fall in new student orientation, club and org recruitment fairs, programs, and leadership training
- Have a plan for review of new \_\_\_\_\_ that may seek recognition
  - Are they \_\_\_\_\_ with a predominance of student members?
  - Are they \_\_\_\_\_ and open to all members?
  - Is your campus prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ groups that meet your criteria but may have a mission and/or objectives you disagree with?

**Building Your Campus Leadership Program**

- Meet your students where they \_\_\_\_\_ – how can you address their needs and situations?
- Actively engage the \_\_\_\_\_ and involve them in increasing participation

- Promote campus leadership \_\_\_\_\_ through advisors, departments, and staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ with other similar types of institutions, or those of geographical proximity, to conduct leadership and issue-oriented programming
- Promote campus \_\_\_\_\_ starting at new student orientation and with all on-boarding activities
- Create an \_\_\_\_\_ program
- Hold a leadership conference or retreat that \_\_\_\_\_, informs, and is interactive
- Consider \_\_\_\_\_ events to bring exciting aspects to your trainings and programs
- Make leadership opportunities \_\_\_\_\_ to all students, regardless of involvement levels
- Make leadership \_\_\_\_\_, not just an unpaid job!
- Use incentives and \_\_\_\_\_, not rules, regulations, and punishments
- Build your leaders in the current, \_\_\_\_\_ world:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ appointments to get them talking and away from their screens
  - Do \_\_\_\_\_ by phone, text, social media, email, driving by
  - \_\_\_\_\_ sessions to help them find their strengths and areas for improvement – individual and intentional
  - Consider using a 10-question leadership \_\_\_\_\_, e.g. “I am confident in my ability to motivate students to be involved”
  - Connect and build \_\_\_\_\_ with other groups on campus

### Virtual Recruitment Fairs

- Students have access to clubs and organizations that they are \_\_\_\_\_ in by recording or live video, 90 – 120 seconds, with Q&A during live video sessions
- Make use of Zoom Rooms, IG and FB Live, other features of your school’s \_\_\_\_\_
- Ask your IT Department for help and \_\_\_\_\_ them to be creative!
- Create a \_\_\_\_\_ access point for clubs and orgs to post take-away info
- Have a system for students to win \_\_\_\_\_ by checking out different orgs
- Check out the Stanford University at <https://admit.stanford.edu/virtual-activities-fair/> and University of New Orleans <https://www.uno.edu/nse/virtual-involvement-fair>

### Membership Invitation Program

- Ask faculty (or high school counselors for incoming students) to \_\_\_\_\_ students for certain types of clubs and orgs, or even specific groups like student government
- Send a \_\_\_\_\_ to the student letting them know they have been nominated and invite them to join
- Download a template at <https://bit.ly/3ovZYXD>

### Retention: Teach Students How to Conduct Great Meetings

- Great meetings are vital to the \_\_\_\_\_ of organizations and maintaining members!
- Have an \_\_\_\_\_, with a clear call to order.
- \_\_\_\_\_ on time
- \_\_\_\_\_ on time

**Basic Agenda**

**Call to Order** – Start of the meeting

**Quorum** – The number that must be present to hold a meeting

**Reading of the Minutes** – Record of the previous meeting

**Officer Reports** – Officers report on their activities, concerns, needs, etc.

**Committee Reports** – Committees report on their activities, concerns, needs, etc.

**Old Business** – Items left over from previous meetings

**New Business** – New items for consideration

**Announcements** – Information for the benefit of the organization

**Adjournment** – End of the meeting

- Stay on \_\_\_\_\_
- Get \_\_\_\_\_ from a lot of people
- Make \_\_\_\_\_ feel welcome with a greeter and practical interactions (icebreakers)
- Play \_\_\_\_\_ before and after the meeting
- Provide \_\_\_\_\_ time as much as possible, either as part of the meeting or after

**Virtual Meetings and Events**

- Provide an emergency \_\_\_\_\_ number for people to call if they cannot access the meeting
- Check all the \_\_\_\_\_ before you start:
  - Run an \_\_\_\_\_ check
  - Test your \_\_\_\_\_
- Use an \_\_\_\_\_ cable for better internet connection
- Enable \_\_\_\_\_ controls to limit:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ between participants
  - The ability to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves
  - \_\_\_\_\_ on slides
  - \_\_\_\_\_

- Use the \_\_\_\_\_ room feature or password
- Suggest everyone keep their \_\_\_\_\_ on for accountability and personal connection
- Use \_\_\_\_\_ rooms for ice-breakers, work sessions, or focus groups
- Run \_\_\_\_\_ to help participants remain engaged
- Start the \_\_\_\_\_ by asking each person how they are doing and to find out what's new
- Encourage students to use the chat feature to ask questions and offer \_\_\_\_\_ to others
- \_\_\_\_\_ the session so members who could not attend live can watch it later

### **A few more ideas...**

- Create a wi-fi \_\_\_\_\_ in campus parking lots so students can connect and work from inside their own vehicle
- Encourage social \_\_\_\_\_ meet-ups:
  - Bring \_\_\_\_\_ to a park or section of campus and sit six feet apart
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for meetings and leadership sessions in on-campus parking or nearby churches, shopping centers that have not fully opened, or movie theaters
  - Create social distance zones on your campus by painting \_\_\_\_\_ six feet apart
- Get group pictures by using screen shots during meetings and events. Post to social media to show that your students are \_\_\_\_\_!