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## What is SGA?

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Student governments (SGA) are the organizations on college campuses that \_\_\_\_\_ students, serve as their voice, and exists to enhance the educational experience for everyone that attends their college or university. Specifically, the Constitution of the MWCC Student Government Association states that it is the mission of SGA to:

- “ \_\_\_\_\_ the student body to the faculty, staff, and administration;
- Increase and promote \_\_\_\_\_ between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the SGA;
- establish and protect the student \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; and,
- foster a positive campus environment that encourages student \_\_\_\_\_ in all events, activities, and programs.”

Further, the bylaws provides the following requirements for SGA members:

- “Members \_\_\_\_\_ belong to one standing committee or ad hoc committee as appointed by the SGA president or committee chair and attend \_\_\_\_\_ SGA meetings.
- Members shall be solely responsible to the needs of the \_\_\_\_\_ and shall regularly consult with the students on all matters.
- Members are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ in all SGA sponsored events.
- Members must be available to \_\_\_\_\_ at the SGA Booth and/or in the SGA Virtual Office.

- Members must be available to attend meetings during scheduled academic calendar days as long as the meetings \_\_\_\_\_ conflict with class commitments.”

**Student Government Legislation**

What kind of proposals should SGA members make?

1. Items for \_\_\_\_\_ on campus
2. Support of causes and \_\_\_\_\_ of students and clubs/organizations
3. Positions on \_\_\_\_\_ at local, state, and national levels of interest to students
4. Honoring significant \_\_\_\_\_ of those in the campus community
5. Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Civil Discourse**

American Social Psychologist and Professor at Swarthmore College (PA) Kenneth J. Gergen describes it as the “language of dispassionate objectivity”. Key components include:

1. Requires \_\_\_\_\_ of the other participants
2. Does not diminish the other’s \_\_\_\_\_ worth nor questions their good \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Avoids \_\_\_\_\_, direct \_\_\_\_\_, or excessive \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Requires \_\_\_\_\_ and an appreciation of the other participant’s \_\_\_\_\_.
5. **BONUS** (one of Dave’s): Keep \_\_\_\_\_ in check and \_\_\_\_\_!

**Basic Meeting Agenda**

1. **Call to** \_\_\_\_\_ – Start of the meeting
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – The number that must be present to hold a meeting
3. **Reading of the** \_\_\_\_\_ – Record of the previous meeting
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Reports** – Officers report on their activities, concerns, needs, etc.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Reports** – Committees report on their activities, concerns, needs, etc.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **Business** – Items left over from previous meetings
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **Business** – New items for consideration
8. \_\_\_\_\_ – Information for the benefit of the organization
9. \_\_\_\_\_ – End of the meeting

**Parliamentary Procedure | Basics**

*Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* is typically defined as the resource for anything not covered in the governing documents.

Members can:

1. Present motions: “ \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Second motions: “ \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. Debate motions: “ \_\_\_\_\_”
4. Vote on motions: “ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_” (or “Yes/No/Meh”)

**Motions are how things get done!**

**Parliamentary Procedure | Proposals**

To get a \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor:

1. The chair recognizes the speaker.
2. The speaker says, “I move.”
3. The chair calls for a second.
4. Someone says, “I second.”
5. The chair calls for discussion.
6. The motion is discussed.
7. The chair calls for a vote.

**Parliamentary Procedure | Tips**

1. A motion should be made before \_\_\_\_\_ of a topic.
2. Only \_\_\_\_\_ motion can be considered at a time.
3. The person making the motion gets to \_\_\_\_\_ about it first, then the person who made the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Motions can be \_\_\_\_\_ if members want to make changes to it. Amendments are done the same way as motions. Once a motion is amended, you can only talk about that part of the motion.
5. Amendments to the motion must be \_\_\_\_\_ on before going back to the main motion. If the amendment is \_\_\_\_\_, then it becomes part of the main motion. If \_\_\_\_\_, then you go back to the original, main motion.
6. After all of the discussion, take a vote: usually a \_\_\_\_\_ vote passes the motion.
7. There are four common ways to move to a \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. By \_\_\_\_\_ consent
  - b. By seeing no \_\_\_\_\_ discussion, the Chair calls for a vote
  - c. By reaching a \_\_\_\_\_ for debate on a motion.
  - d. By \_\_\_\_\_ debate
    - i. “\_\_\_\_\_ the question”: requires there to be no objection to ending debate. If there is a single objection, debate must continue.
    - ii. “\_\_\_\_\_ the previous question”: requires a second, there is no debate on the motion, and takes a 2/3 majority to approve.

**Your Turn**

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