



What is SGA? Development, Leadership, and Advocacy

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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 Student Government Association of HACC – Central Pennsylvania's Community College states, "The SGA...":

- "...represents HACC students in _____ their concerns";
- "...promoting the _____ and _____ of all students";
- "...advocating for student _____ and _____ concerns."

Further, the constitution provides that "The SGA Advisory Council shall:

- "Review and _____ upon issues and concerns that affect students at every HACC campus";
- "Provide student _____ to college-wide committees, task forces, and appeal forums";
- "Serve as the student representative to the HACC Board of _____"

I. Governing Documents

A. Constitution - is the framework of the organization

1. Defines the _____ and principles of the organization.
2. Spells out the _____.
3. Establishes the _____.

- 4. Provides a _____ for amendment and process for ratification/adoption.
- 5. May have a clause of _____. Look for inclusive terms such as “gender identity”.
- 6. _____ terms like “they/them” instead of “he/she” or “Chair” instead of Chairman, Chairwoman, or Chairperson.

B. Bylaws

- 1. Sets forth the _____ for operating the organization.
- 2. Defines the criteria to be a _____.
 - a. Requirements
 - b. Responsibilities
 - c. Guidelines for _____ of a member
 - d. Structure
- 3. _____ and other fees
- 4. Duties of the officers
 - a. _____
 - b. Responsibilities
 - c. _____ descriptions
 - d. Procedures for _____ vacant positions
 - e. _____ from office
- 5. Membership and duties of the _____ Board
- 6. _____

- a. Standing
- b. Creation of special committees
- c. Chair appointment and/or selection
- d. Meeting
- e. Powers and duties

7. Must provide for amendments and procedures for ratification/adoption

C. _____ Rules and/or _____

1. Defines procedures, _____, and _____

2. Could include items such as:

- a. _____ code
- b. _____ hours
- c. _____ and other compensation
- d. Travel _____
- e. Other? _____

D. Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised is typically defined as the resource for anything not covered in the governing documents.

II. Student Government Legislation

What kind of proposals should SGA members make?

A. Items for _____ on campus

- B. Support of causes and _____ of students and clubs/organizations
- C. Positions on _____ at local, state, and national levels of interest to students
- D. Honoring significant _____ of those in the campus community
- E. Other? _____

III. Advocacy and Activism

A. **Advocacy** is a _____
_____ by an individual or group which aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within _____, _____, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy may be motivated from moral, ethical or faith principles or simply a desire to protect an asset of interest. *(Source: Wikipedia.com)*

B. **Activism** consists of efforts to _____, _____, or _____ social, political, economic, or environmental change. Activism can take a wide range of forms. *(Source: Wikipedia.com)*

C. Forms and Methods of Advocacy/Activism:

D. Demands

1. Leave no room for negotiation, moderation, collaboration, adjustment, etc. They are _____ propositions.
2. Instead, offer “suggestions of _____” or “opportunities for _____”.
3. Don’t _____.

E. 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 _____!

F. Visionary Leadership

1. A visionary leader sees _____ for change, how the world could be, and courses of _____ to make change.
2. Seek to change culture from _____ to _____.
3. Have _____ on what the result you want.
4. Engage in _____ thinking.

G. Critical Thinking in Leadership

1. Requires a _____ for the company, group, organization that _____ and directs the work of those involved. _____ the problem-solving process in a _____, rather than _____ way.
2. Considers _____ and _____ of all decisions and which issues _____ action.
3. Recognizes that _____ events and issues can affect local concerns and acknowledges the importance of _____.
4. Knows when to be a _____ and when to _____.

H. Your Turn

I. What to do:

1. Know what your position is, _____, and support it with facts, _____ evidence, and data. Be concise and focused.
2. _____ with members of the opposition is of little benefit: they have their constituencies to represent, just as you do. Learn their positions so you can _____ them, but don't hope to sway them to your side.
3. Work your side but be _____ of those on the other. Your adversary on one issue may be your _____ on another.
4. If someone on the opposition side chooses to make a _____ of themselves, get out of their way and let them!

5. Just because your side did not _____ does not mean you were not heard. Take defeat _____ to preserve relationships for future issues.

J. What not to do:

1. Never _____. Integrity is all you have. Know your _____ and support and promote it even in the face of _____ from a representative.
2. Don't _____, _____, or lose your _____ with representatives! They have the power to get you what you _____!
3. Calling _____ is never useful or _____.