



What is SGA: Student Government 101

Wheaton College Student Government Retreat

Dave Kelly | America's Student Leadership Trainersm

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.

SGA is not something to be _____ by, but to be _____ in.

SGA is the first line of _____ against proposals and items that students would not want, and also the first line of _____ for things that they do.

Governing Documents

The Constitution defines the _____ and principles of the organization. It provides a _____ and framework for the organization such as _____ of government, line of succession, and creation of the _____.

The Bylaws are the document that sets forth _____, policies, regulations, _____ and responsibilities, and duties of officers, the executive board, and the Student Assembly.

_____ Rules and/or Policies and Procedures defines procedures, traditions, and decorum. Could include items such as:

1. _____ code
2. _____ hours
3. _____ and other compensation
4. Travel _____
5. Other?

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised is typically defined as the resource for anything _____ in the governing documents.

Wheaton College SGA Constitution

Article III: Mission

By the authority granted by the Board of Trustees, we the students of Wheaton College charge the Student Government Association to be _____, to our campus and the world.

The students commit the Student Government Association to _____ Wheaton’s living-learning community, to continue the mission of Wheaton College to _____ every student through the values of honor and integrity, diversity, engagement, creativity and academic excellence, and connection; and to _____ in which students “may have life, and have it Abundantly.”

The Student Government Association, in _____ with the Faculty and Administration of Wheaton College, shall be the model of fair _____, to preserve and uphold the _____. The Student Government Association shall _____ Wheaton for generations of students to come by developing leaders and enabling them to _____ at Wheaton and beyond. The Student Government Association will _____ for the interests of students.

Structure of the Senate

Article V: Wheaton College Senate All legislative powers shall be vested in the Senate. The senate shall dedicate itself to work to research, create and enact _____, and make decisions for the _____

of student life both academically and socially in accordance with the **mission of the SGA**

Section I: Officers of the Senate The SGA Vice President shall be the _____ of the Senate and has no voting rights unless in case of a tie.

Section II. There shall be _____ voting SGA members. Five representatives from the First Year and sophomore class, 4 representatives from the junior and senior class, in addition to a representative from each of the three identity based executive boards; Intercultural, Accessibility, and the Sexuality, Gender, Inclusion Board.

Section III. Executive Officers and Non Identity Based Executive Chairs shall serve as _____ members, attending Senate meetings as non-voting advisors

1. Committee of _____
 - a. Shall be Advised by the Student Body Vice-President
 - b. Shall be chaired by a voting member of the Senate.
 - c. This committee shall be in charge of the overall functioning of SGA.
2. Committee of _____
 - a. Shall be Advised by the Student Body President
 - b. Shall be chaired by a voting member of the Senate.
 - c. This committee shall be in charge of initiatives to improve student life and wellbeing on campus and updating students on all SGA related matters.
3. Committee of _____
 - a. Shall be Advised by the Executive Secretary.
 - b. Shall be chaired by a voting member of the Senate.
 - c. This committee shall be in charge of assisting with campus engagement.
4. Committee of _____
 - a. Shall be Advised by the Executive Treasurer

- b. Shall be chaired by a voting member of the senate.
- c. This committee has the responsibility of overseeing the allotment of the student activities budget

Structure of the Executive Board

Article VI: The Executive Board shall _____ the decisions made by the Senate, and provide _____ leadership and action across campus issues. The board shall be elected by a campus wide vote or appointed by the Committee of Operations and approved by a majority Senate vote in the case of a vacancy

Officers of the Executive Board:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Treasurer
- 4) Executive Secretary
- 5) The following Officers shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Board (each chairs the committee or board of the same name):
 - 1) _____ and Activities Council Wheaton Events Board Chair
 - 2) _____ Council Chair
 - 3) _____ Board Chair
 - 4) Student _____ Association Chair
 - 5) _____ Board Chair
 - 6) _____ Chair
 - 7) _____ Chair
 - 8) Sexuality, Gender, and _____ Chair

Class Councils

Article VIII: The Class Councils shall consist of 4 groups from the First-Year, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes and shall fall under the _____ branch, advised by the SGA President.

Section I: Powers and Responsibilities of The Class Councils

- A. Create class-based _____ at Wheaton through activities, events and opportunities specific to class.
- B. _____ for class based events, and a final Class Gift.

Section II - Officers of the Class Council

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. Communications and _____ Member
- D. Class Council Member(s) _____ (1 each for Junior and Senior classes, 2 each for First-Year and Sophomore classes)
- E. Class _____ Chair(s) (Two – Five)

Committees

Per Robert’s Rules of Order, committees are bodies that are often, but not necessarily very small and are subordinate to a higher authority. Most parliamentary rules apply, but greater flexibility and informality are commonly allowed. Committees are where boards and assemblies get the _____ of the organization done. They can give more attention and detail to tasks than is possible in a larger body.

There are two types of committees:

1. _____: These committees continue from year to year and perform continuing functions.

2. _____ or _____: This is a committee that is appointed, as the need arises, to carry out a specific task. At the completion of the task, the special or ad-hoc committee ceases to exist. Robert’s Rules indicates that these types of committees cannot be appointed to perform a task that falls within the assigned function(s) of an existing special committee.

Importance of Committees

1. Opportunity for various aspects of the college community to come _____ (students, faculty, staff, and administration)
2. The voice of students matters – _____, implemented through committees, gives a platform to that voice.
3. Committees give students a chance to _____ their leadership skills.
4. A chance for students to _____ with faculty and see the inner workings of the college.
5. Students will grow as people, leaders, and be more _____ to the college.
6. Can serve as a _____ for future SGA executive officers, Senators, class reps, etc.
7. Gets students involved!!!

Successful Committees

1. Are organized.
2. Have an agenda.
3. Seek and include participation from all members.
4. Engage through coaching and asking questions.
5. Make everyone feel comfortable in the committee space – all are on a level playing field.