



What is SGA? Student Government 101

Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities

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.

Importance of Committees

1. Opportunity for various aspects of the college/university 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/university
5. Students will grow as people, leaders, and be more _____ to the college/university
6. Can serve as a _____ for future SGA executive officers, Senators, Directors, etc.
7. Gets students _____ !!!

Successful Committees

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

Recruitment Committee for SGA

1. _____ individuals – not all Executive Board members – who focus on recruitment.
2. The committee prepares a semester-long and year-long recruitment _____ based on these ideas and other best practices.
3. Serve as an _____ for interested students.
4. Can also work to _____ students to run for elective and/or higher office.

Tabling for SGA

1. No _____!
2. Be in _____ of the table
3. _____ your SGA (Tri-board, scrapbooks, videos)
4. Wear proper _____ (t-shirts) or a _____ look.
5. Several _____ should participate.
6. Sign-up information - Use _____, _____, or _____ to a Google Doc or similar platform. Get this info:
 - a. Student _____
 - b. _____ Status
 - c. _____ number
 - d. _____ address
 - e. Areas of _____
 - f. _____!
7. Have a defining _____ or question:

Think Outside of the Box

1. Ask your current members for _____ and _____.
2. Post current members testimonials and _____.
3. Have a “_____” section on your website or social media pages where students can request information – usually it is “Contact Us”
4. Meet your SGA members on _____.
5. Ask potential _____ for their ideas – then put them in _____ of it
6. Provide fun and meaningful membership _____, such as certificates, induction ceremony, name badges, and more.

Engagement and Advocacy

Civil Discourse

According to American Social Psychologist and Professor at Swarthmore College (PA) Kenneth J. Gergen, civil discourse contains these components:

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 _____!

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 the result you want.
4. Engage in _____ thinking.

Your Turn

Write down 3 ideas you have for your SGA for this year – no idea is too small or big!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
