

Bylaws of WKU Student Government Association

As adopted, Fall 2005.

As amended, August 2018.

1. Purpose, Interpretation, Suspension, and Amendments

1.1 Purpose and Interpretation

These Bylaws shall provide the members of the Student Government Association with clear and uniform procedures for the conduct of business. This document shall be considered subordinate to the Student Government Association Constitution, as amended, all rules and regulations of the University as outlined in the student handbook, and all local and state laws.

All matters not covered within these bylaws shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be made by the Speaker of the Senate while the Senate is in session, the Chief Justice of Judicial Council, during meetings of the Judicial Council, the chair(s) of the standing and/or special committees while they are in session, and the President between meetings of the Senate.

1.2 Suspension of Bylaws

The bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of Senators, present and voting, in order to vote on an issue before the Senate, excepting any clauses that provide for their own suspension requirements.

1.3 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Senate, present and voting, provided that it has gone up for first reading at the previous meeting of the Senate.

2. Attendance Policy, Resignation, Censure, and Judicial Review

2.1 Attendance Required

Attendance and active involvement within the Student Government Association meetings shall be considered an expectation of all elected and appointed members.

2.2 Excused Absences for Senate Members

Members of the Senate shall be allowed no more than three (3) absences per semester, unless excused by the Judicial Council.

2.3 Judicial Censure Against Executive or Legislative Officers

Any official request for the censure of any executive or legislative SGA officer, made by no less than ten (10) students, shall be investigated by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council may also begin an investigation if a majority of the

justices believe it is necessary. If the officer in question is found to be neglecting or wanting in their duties, then the Judicial Council shall issue a censure.

2.4 Judicial Censure Against Justices

Any official request for censure of any justice, made by no less than ten (10) students, shall be investigated by the other six justices, with the president, or his/her designated representative, presiding and breaking any ties. The Judicial Council may also begin an investigation if a majority of the other six justices and the President, or his/her representative, believe it is necessary. If the justice is found to be neglecting or wanting in their duties, then a censure shall be issued.

2.5 Judicial Review of Excessive Absences

Any member of the Senate that has excessive absences, and/or has already received a Censure, shall be referred by the Speaker of the Senate to the Judicial Council, pursuant to Article III, Section 3.5, of the SGA Constitution. Once the member in question is notified of his/her excessive absences, he/she shall appear before the Judicial Council to explain why the member was so frequently absent, and provide information as why excessive absences on their part shall not occur again. The Judicial Council shall meet and decide on the matter within seven (7) days of receiving it and shall notify all parties involved as soon as possible.

2.6 Resignation

Any member of the Senate who resigns his/her seat shall notify the Speaker of the Senate as soon as possible. This shall also apply to the Chair(s) of the standing and special committees, who shall also notify the President and the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council.

2.7 Judicial Appeal Process

2.7.1. Any duly registered student of Western Kentucky University may file an appeal of a previous Judicial Council ruling when at least one (1) of following three (3) criteria are met: ONE (1) New facts are presented from the prior ruling, TWO (2) Procedural issues are presented from the prior ruling, or THREE (3) A petition to hear the appeal is signed by no less than ten (10) students

2.7.2. This appeal shall be submitted through the online 'Request for a Judicial Council Ruling' web page or through a written request submitted to the Student Government Association office addressed to the Chief Justice within 30 days of the original ruling date

2.7.3. "The Judicial Council will hold a formal vote to determine if the appeal will be presented. The Judicial Council will consider whether or not one or more of the three criteria established in Section 2.7.1 has been successfully met. With a majority vote to hear the appeal, the Judicial Council will hold an emergency meeting at a place and time

established by the Chief Justice, where the Judicial Council is required to formally invite, and make this meeting accessible for, the appellant, giving the appellant an established opportunity to justify their claim in person.

2.7.3.1. Such a meeting must be scheduled within five (5) class days of receipt of an appeal. All meetings will be scheduled to allow at least 48 hours notice to all parties. If there are no objections from all parties involved, the Judicial Council may schedule a hearing prior to the 48 hour window. Because of time constraints and/or a dire need for timely rulings, the Judicial Council reserves the right to schedule hearings with only 12 hours notice when the appeals and complaints pertain to violations of the current Student Government Association election rules and procedures.

2.7.4. The Judicial Council will during the appeal meeting first discuss the appeal filed, then listen to evidence brought by the appellant. During the presentation of evidence, each appellant will be given the opportunity to give at least a two minute oral testimony and up to three written testimonials can be brought by others who are not appellants in the case in question. The Judicial Council must then revote on the issue in question, considering all new evidence brought forth in the appeal, and decide whether to uphold or reverse their previous ruling

2.7.5. Judicial Council is only required to revisit and/or revote on one appeal per case. After the appeals meeting, the decision is final.

2.8 Accountability

Any and all votes taken in SGA meetings of any branch shall be taken by roll call or electronic voting and recorded as such in the minutes from that meeting. These minutes must be posted by the Director of Information Technology, Secretary of the Senate, or a designated representative, within one week.

3. Meeting Procedure

3.1 Student Senate Time and Location

The Senate shall meet at 5:00 pm every Tuesday in the academic year in the Senate Chambers, unless otherwise agreed to by a majority vote of the Senate.

3.2 Executive Cabinet

The Executive Cabinet shall meet once a week at a time and location agreed to by its members.

3.3 Judicial Council

The Judicial Council shall meet at least twice a month at a time and location agreed to by its members; however, it can also meet on call of the Chief Justice,

provided twenty-four (24) hours' notice is given (i.e. calling of an emergency meeting).

3.4 Open Meetings

All meetings of all branches of Student Government Association shall be in full compliance with the Kentucky Open Meetings Law, KRS 61.805 and shall be scheduled and conducted in such a manner that all interested persons of the student body shall be given an opportunity to attend and have their views recognized at the discretion of the chair or code of conduct governing the body and given full and due considerations as specified in Article 1 of the Constitution under special orders.

3.5 Minutes of Judicial Council

The Judicial Council Clerk shall make copies of all minutes of Judicial Council proceedings available in the SGA office.

3.6 Agenda

There shall be a posted agenda containing all pending matters before all branches of SGA, and the agenda shall also be made available to the media and other interested persons.

3.7 "Seconds"

There shall be "Seconds" containing information regarding matters brought before the Senate available for distribution to members of the Senate and members of the student body. The Director of Public Relations shall be responsible for this duty.

4. Order of Business

4.1 Format

The following shall be the order of business at each weekly meeting of the Senate:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Officer Reports. Executive Cabinet shall render reports at this time followed by the reports of the Speaker of the Senate and the Secretary of the Senate.
5. Committee Reports. Reports shall be given by the chair(s) of all standing and special committees concerning committee business. The report shall include committee recommendations on pending legislation and any other business taken by the committee.
6. University Senate Reports. The five (5) student representatives of the University Senate shall report at this time.

7. Special Orders. Special Orders shall include the election and swearing-in of new members and the election of Senator/Committee Member of the Month. Members of the Senate or any chair(s) of any standing or special committee shall speak on topics not pending before the Senate for no longer than ten minutes. Any student of the University who has a matter to bring before the Senate shall be allowed to speak at this time for no longer than ten minutes.
8. Unfinished Business. Items considered at this time shall include items which have received first reading at the previous meeting.
9. New Business. Items considered at this time shall include any new business to come before the Senate including first readings of bills and resolutions.
10. Announcements. All announcements for upcoming activities shall be made at this time.
11. Adjournment.

4.2 Quorum

A simple majority of members of the Senate minus the number of vacancies in the Senate shall constitute a quorum for the consideration of business.

5. Legislative Procedure

5.1 Definitions.

"Resolution " is any act of Senate which recommends changes in University policy or which expresses the sentiments of Senate.

"Bill" is any act of the Senate which shall make changes that are under the direct jurisdiction of the Senate.

"Purpose Clause, " which shall be included in all proposed items of legislation, shall contain a statement of the concern the author of said legislation is addressing.

"Whereas Clause(s) " is/are statement(s) as to why the policy needs to be changed, and end with a "...and," except for the last clause, and be capitalized.

"Resolution Clause(s) " is/are statement describing the type of end result the author of said legislation is seeking shall begin with a "Therefore" and end with a period.

"Author " is any member of the Senate or WKU student who has written the item of legislation to be acted on by the Senate.

"Sponsor" shall be any standing or special committee of SGA that all legislation shall originate/derive from.

"Censure " is an act taken by the Judicial Council expressing disapproval of the action taken by an officer of the SGA.

5.2 Format for Proposed Legislation

All proposed legislation shall adhere to the following format:

1. Purpose Clause
2. Whereas Clause(s)
3. Resolution Clause

5.3 Stages of Proposed Legislation

1. All proposed Legislation shall be sponsored by standing/special committees and shall be referred to the LRC after the first reading before the Senate with the author, or a designated representative in attendance, pursuant to Article V, Section 3.3 of the SGA Constitution, as amended, and the person(s) so designated shall be well-versed on the legislation that is up for review.
2. Authors of legislation must attend a scheduled meeting of LRC and defend their legislation within two weeks.
3. Any member of the Committee from which the legislation originated that does not agree with the item may appear before LRC to give a minority report.
4. All legislation shall go through two readings; on the second reading, the author, or his designated representative, may speak in support of the legislation.
5. Once it has been approved by a majority vote of the Senate, the Executive Cabinet shall vote to either ratify or reject the legislation within 14 days of the legislations approval by the Senate. If it fails to act within that time, the legislation shall be considered approved.
6. If the Executive Cabinet approves legislation, the Administrative Vice President shall send the item for review, approval, and/or implementation to:
 - a. The office that will be responsible for enacting the approved legislation
 - b. The Vice President of the particular University department
 - c. The Vice President for Student Affairs
 - d. The Dean of Student Affairs
 - e. The Director of Student Activities
 - f. The University President
7. If the Executive Cabinet vetoes any legislation passed by the Senate, the President shall report to the author of said legislation within forty-eight (48) hours of its meeting and to the Senate at its next regular meeting. Two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, present and voting, can override vetoes of the Executive Cabinet, pursuant to Article III, Section 8 of the SGA Constitution.

6. Fiscal Policy

6.1 Funding Restrictions

The Student Government Association may allocate funds solely to areas which benefit student learning. All students may be required to finance a portion of these expenses by supplementary income.

6.2 100% Rule

A. If one hundred percent (100%) of an event's budget is financed by SGA, then all advertising and printed materials for that event must include the following words:

i. "Funded by your Student Government" or ii.

"Supported by your Student Government" or iii.

Include the SGA Logo.

B. If less than one hundred percent (100%) of an event's budget is financed by SGA, then all advertising and printed material for that event must include the following words:

i. "Funded in part by your Student Government" or ii.

"Supported in part by your Student Government" or iii.

Include the SGA Logo.

6.3 Non-Discrimination Clause

Events and/or organizations which discriminate against any group of students shall not be funded by SGA.

6.4 Fiscal Record Keeping

The chief financial officer of the SGA shall follow the guidelines set forth in Bill 02-07-F.

7. Committees

7.1 Committee Officers

Each standing or special committee shall have a chair who shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The election of a Vice-Chair, who shall be nominated by majority vote of the standing or special committee, and approved by the Senate, and a Secretary, who shall be approved by majority vote of the committee, shall be left to the discretion of the standing or special committee.

7.2 Duties of Committee Chair. Committee chairs shall:

7.2.1 Preside over all Committee meetings.

7.2.2 Be responsible for all Committee activities.

7.2.3. Meet with the Speaker of the Senate at least twice a month, pursuant to Article V, Section 2.1, of the SGA Constitution.

7.2.4 Meet with the other Committee Chair(s) on a regular basis.

7.2.5 Report to the Senate on a weekly basis on its legislation and activities.

7.2.6. Perform such other duties as directed by the Speaker of the Senate or the Senate.

7.3 Duties of the Committee Vice-Chair

Committee vice-chairs shall perform the duties of the Chair in his/her absence and perform other duties as designated by the Committee, or the Chair, between meetings of the Committee.

7.4 Duties of the Committee Secretary

The committee secretary shall regularly inform all members of all Committee meetings and shall keep a record of all business transacted at each Committee meeting.

7.5 Committee Recommendation on Legislation

After the Committee has debated and discussed the merits of legislation, the Committee shall vote to send the legislation to the Senate.

7.6 Service Requirement on Committees

Each member of the Senate shall at all times serve on at least one committee, standing or special, with the exception of the Speaker of the Senate and the University Senate Representatives.

7.7 Attendance Policy for Committees

Each standing and special committee may adopt an attendance policy, introduced by the chair and approved by the majority of the committee.

7.8 Quorum for Committee Business

Each standing and special committee shall determine what constitutes a quorum to conduct committee business.

8. Oath of Office

8.1. Eligibility

All duly elected and appointed members of all branches of Student Government shall be considered a member with all rights and privileges of the office in which they are about to enter upon taking the Student Government Association Oath of Office.

8.2. Administration of Oath

The Oath shall be administered by the Judicial Council Chief Justice, or by the President in his/her absence, and is as follows:

"I, state your name, do hereby affirm that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of state your position, and I also affirm to uphold and defend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association of Western

Kentucky University and to perform the duties of the office in which I am about to enter to the best of my ability.”

9. Constitutional Amendment Elections

- 9.1 Constitutional Amendment elections shall be held at the end of Fall and Spring semesters, where the majority of the student body must vote to approve the change to the constitution.
- 9.2 All approved amendments to the Constitution of the Student Government Association shall be added to the constitution by the end of the current semester.

10. Student Government Awards

Each year the Student Government Association shall bestow the following awards:

Dero Downing Award The Dero Downing Award, based on outstanding contribution to the university, is open to all students. Nominations are made by the Senate and voting is limited to Senators only.

Outstanding Senator This award is available only to Senators and is based on outstanding contribution to the organization. Nominations are made by fellow Senators and voting is restricted to Senators only.

Outstanding Committee Member This award is available only to committee members of Senate Committees and is based on outstanding contribution through work in a committee. Nominations are made by Senators and voting is restricted to Senators only.

Charles A. Keown Award This award was established in 1985 in honor of Dean of Student Affairs, Charles A. Keown, leader of the movement to establish student government at Western Kentucky University. This award is intended to be the greatest honor given by student government to the member of the Senate, Executive Cabinet or Judicial Council who has devoted the highest level of dedication to the organization. Candidates for this award are nominated and voted on by Senators only.

Kerrie Faye Steward Memorial Award This award was established in 1984 in memory of Kerrie Faye Stewart, who served as Public Relations Vice-President. This award is based on campus involvement, academic achievement, enthusiasm, and dedication. The characteristics describing the person for whom the award is named. Nominations of freshman and sophomores are made by Senators. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee made up of one administrator; one faculty member, and one Executive Cabinet member appointed by the Student Affairs Committee.

Mary Angela Norcia Award This award was established in 1988 in memory of Mary Angela Norcia, who served in various capacities on campus involvement. Similar to her characteristics this award is based on campus leadership, academics, charismatic personality, and having the "spirit that makes the master." Nominations of junior and senior Senators, Executive Cabinet members and Judicial Council members are made by

the Senate. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee made up of one administrator, one faculty member, and one Executive Cabinet member appointed by the Student Affairs Committee.

The Citizens Award The Citizens Award is for a person within the community that has displayed leadership and has been a big supporter of Western Kentucky University. Nominations will be made by Senators. A Student Government Association selection committee will choose the recipient.