

SGA SENATE TRAINING

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Spring 2020

SGA

SENATE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SGA Bylaws, Title 1.2

- Senators shall be responsible for sponsoring and/or cosponsoring at least one (1) piece of legislation per term in office.
- Senate members shall be required to hold at least one (1) regularly-scheduled-and-posted office hour per week, during regular business hours, 9:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

SENATE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SGA Bylaws, Title 1.2

- To keep up with his/her own attendance record.
- To submit when necessary a written excuse to the Senate in accordance with Title 2 of these bylaws.
- To resign the position of senator, a letter of resignation must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Senate.

SENATE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SGA Bylaws, Title 1.2

- Senators must belong to at least one (1) of the three (3) standing committees.
 - Academics
 - Campus Life
 - Finance
- Senators may submit a statement listing first and second preference for committee membership by the end of the first week of the academic year, or within two (2) weeks of being appointed to the Senate.

SENATE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SGA Bylaws, Title 1.2

- The Vice President shall assign each elected/appointed official senator to one (1) of the standing committees with consideration to the senator's preference before the first Senate meeting. For new appointments during the academic year, the assignment shall be made within three (3) weeks after the new senator takes office, regardless of submission of a preference statement.
- Any senator who desires to change committees shall be allowed to do so provided they have the majority approval of the Senate.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

- Legislation creates a document that codifies the Senate's intentions to act.
 - Merriam Webster: "The exercise of the power and function of making rules..."
- Bills and Resolutions require a simple majority of the senate to pass (50%+1).
- Either may originate with any person or group – students, organizations, committees.
- Must be sponsored by a Senator.

TYPES OF LEGISLATION

- Two major types of legislation:
 - **Bills:** Authorizes the expenditure of funds and guides their use.
 - **Resolutions:** Expresses the opinion of SGA on behalf of the student body. Must have an originator and a sponsor. Cannot be used to allocate money. Majority vote of the senate required to pass (by hand or voice vote).

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF BILLS?

OF RESOLUTIONS?

What are a few topics that might require
SGA to develop a bill or resolution?

TYPES OF BILLS

- **Budget Bill:** Either sets or modifies the budget of the Senate.
- **Finance Bill:** Authorizes or instructs the expenditure of funds previously budgeted by the Senate or entrusted to the Senate.
- **Senate Bill:** A Senate Bill amends the By-Laws of the Senate or other bodies of law under the discretionary authority of the Senate.
- **Government Bill:** Amends the Constitution of the Student Body

From sga.uncc.edu/legislation

PARTS OF A BILL

Date Introduced: _____

Date Voted Upon: _____

7th General Assembly of the
University of Baltimore
Student Government Association
Academic Year: 2018 - 2019



1		Bill Descriptive Title	
2		Bill # SP – 00 – 18	Title of Bill
3			
4	Bill Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Bill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senate Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Government Bill	Type of Bill
5			
6	Prime Sponsor(s):	Sponsor,	
7	Cosponsor(s):		
8	Committee:		
9		Co-Sponsor, Committee (who brought this bill forth?)	
10	WHEREAS,		
11			
12	WHEREAS,		
13			
14	THEREFORE LET IT BE ENACTED THAT:		
15			
16	SECTION 1.	Text of the Bill: What specific conditions led to the drafting of this legislation? What will be changed or enacted as a result of this bill? Break into separate sections. Action Taken: What actions were taken (passed, defeated, deferred, etc.)	
17			
18	SECTION 2.		
19			
20	ACTION TAKEN:		

WHEREAS CLAUSE

- Declaratory provisions
- Outline why your legislation should be passed
- No more than 3 or 4
- 1-2 sentences each
- Each ends with a semicolon
- Final one ends with a period

THEREFORE CLAUSE

- “Therefore, let it be enacted that...”
 - A call to action explaining what you wish to be done.
- Sections
 - Statements explaining what you wish to be done.
 - Section 1: Changes you wish to make
 - Section 2: Define terms that need further clarification
 - Additional Sections as needed
(Advising/Supervision, Funding, Penalties for Non-Compliance, any other relevant details)

DRAFT A BILL

- Think of a **sample legislative measure** you might suggest for SGA.
- Who would the **sponsor** be? What **committee**?
- What **conditions** would lead to the drafting of the bill (Whereas statements)
- What **actions** would SGA take as a result of the bills (Therefore let it be enacted that + sections 1 and 2)

LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION

- **WEEK 1:** Committee – Develop Draft legislation – send to Senate and Exec. Board for review at least 4-5 days ahead.
- **WEEK 2:** General Meeting – Review and discuss. Add ammendments or edits if necessary.
- **WEEK 3:** Committee – Make updates to legislation – send to Senate and Exec. Board, including any submitted amendments if applicable.
- **WEEK 4:** General Meeting – Review legislation as “old business” and vote to
 - If passed, legislation then signed or vetoed and posted on SGA Web Site/Org Sync.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Legislation should be flexible. Detailed enough to hold Senate accountable for its words and actions, but flexible enough to be realistic
 - Don't write a Bill for \$1,760.46, write it for \$2,000 in case there are additional expenses.
- Committees should work collaboratively to draft legislation, bringing multiple ideas and perspectives to the table.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Don't get caught up in the process and language of legislation and forget what you are trying to accomplish.
- Always ask the question: How is student voice represented here? How does this Bill advance the will of the student body?

ANY QUESTIONS?

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