



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

POLICY BOOK

This policy book should not contradict the SGA Constitution in any way and is not meant to replace that document. The policy book is meant to clarify, as well as, explain many of the day-to-day, operational and procedural issues for members of the SGA and those that they represent.

Adopted Fall 2006, updated December 2017

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Amending the Policy Book

The SGA Policy Book may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Senate, with any changes having been read aloud at two consecutive SGA meetings prior to a vote.

Annual SGA Events

The following list of events should not be considered as all-inclusive but should serve as a guide to the SGA in planning their annual events.

Fall Semester

- A. Fall Elections—held per constitutional guidelines (see also Homecoming). The SGA also assists in coordinating Honor Court elections at this time.
- B. High School Leadership Retreat- traditionally held one month after the Student Leadership Retreat in late October/early November. This retreat is advertised to local high school student councils and is a one-day retreat usually on a Friday and is free of charge to all participants.
- C. Football Homecoming—celebration of the College’s Alumni Homecoming. This weekend is set in advance by the Office of Alumni Relations. The SGA sponsors several events during this week to show school spirit and build community:
 - a. Homecoming King, Queen and Court nominations are held by the SGA each fall. Once candidates for King and Queen are determined, the SGA coordinates the election for the Homecoming King and Queen with winners being announced at half time of the Homecoming Football Game.
 - b. The Homecoming Court includes: Five each, King and Queen candidates from the Senior Class. Two Male and two female representatives from the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes, who will serve as members of the homecoming court. All Homecoming King candidates should be male and all Homecoming Queen candidates should be female.
 - c. The SGA provides flowers for the event: 1 dozen red roses for Queen, 9 boutonnieres for male representatives and previous homecoming King, 10 corsages for female representatives, previous homecoming queen and Chancellor.
 - d. The Homecoming Dance is traditionally held the Saturday night of Homecoming Weekend.
- D. Silver Saber Spirit Contest—annual event sponsored by the SGA to encourage school spirit during Homecoming Week. Silver Saber events are traditionally held on Thursday evening during the Meet the CAVS Pep Rally. Monetary prizes are awarded by the SGA to the top 3 groups who earn the most points through their participation in events. **Examples of such events are as follows:** Banner

- Competition, Crazy Boat Competition, Dance Off, Fear the Cheer, Cavalier Twitter Challenge, and Food Drive, etc.
- E. Winter Spirit—in an effort to encourage a surge of spirit prior to exams, the SGA sponsors campus decorations including a tree in the Slemp Student Center, lights around campus and coordinates the annual lighting of Crockett Hall. Winter spirit should be inclusive of all winter holidays and festivals.
 - F. Commuter Appreciation Week- the SGA shall sponsor a week dedicated to the involvement and appreciation of the commuter students. It shall be at the discretion of the event coordinator as to what date(s) will be chosen and what event(s) will take place.
 - G. Fall 5K Race—5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk held the week of homecoming. Registration fees benefit the SGA Student Leader Scholarship Fund.

Spring Semester

- A. Talent Show- The SGA traditionally hosts a Spring Talent Show.
- B. Student Leadership Awards Banquet—traditionally held the last Friday in April, SGA Member of the Year and participation awards are presented at this event.
- C. Basketball Homecoming--celebration of the College's Alumni Homecoming. This weekend is set in advance by the Office of Alumni Relations. The SGA sponsors several events during this week to show school spirit and build community.
 - a. Homecoming King, Queen and Court nominations are held by the SGA at the beginning of the spring semester. Once candidates for King and Queen are determined, the SGA coordinates the election for the Homecoming King and Queen with winners being announced at some point during the men's or women's basketball game on Homecoming Day.
 - b. The Homecoming Court includes: Five each, King and Queen candidates from the Senior Class. Two Male and two female representatives from the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes, who will serve as members of the homecoming court. All Homecoming King candidates should be male and all Homecoming Queen candidates should be female.
 - c. The SGA provides flowers for the event: 1 dozen red roses for Queen, 9 boutonnieres for male representatives and previous homecoming King, 10 corsages for female representatives, previous homecoming queen and Chancellor.
 - d. The SGA typically gives out t-shirts and plans other spirit related events for Basketball Homecoming.

- D. Spring Event—The SGA will traditionally host a large spring event towards the end of the semester. Examples of such events are as follows: Spring Formal, Cavapalooza (Carnival), etc.
- E. Spring Elections—held per constitutional guidelines.
- F. Day of Service—annual event held to encourage community service amongst the College’s students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. The SGA provides t-shirts for volunteers and plans their own event to participate in.
- G. Leadership Roundtable—traditionally held during the mid-semester, the leadership roundtable provides an opportunity for the SGA and other college and university SGAs to interact, share ideas and opportunities.
- H. Student Leader Scholarship—established in 2013, the SGA Student Leader Scholarship is presented to a student who excels as a leader in the classroom, on campus and in the community. Application forms are made available in the spring and the recipient is chosen by a committee made up of the SGA President, SGA Advisor and the Dean of Students.
- I. Commuter Appreciation- the SGA shall sponsor an event dedicated to the involvement and appreciation of the commuter students. It shall be at the discretion of the event coordinator as to what date(s) will be chosen and what events will take place. The SGA has previously held weeklong or day-long events, budget allowing.

Awards

The SGA annually presents the followings awards:

- a. SGA Member of the Year—The SGA will elect by secret ballot one member who has gone above and beyond during the year to receive this recognition. All members of SGA (Senate, Executive Board and appointees) get to vote. The recipient will be announced at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet and will receive a plaque.
- b. SGA Participation Awards—presented to all members of the SGA at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet in recognition of their service to the SGA.
- c. “SGA Award of Special Recognition”—These awards are presented to members of the campus community who have given the SGA special support and assistance during the year. The Executive Board determines

recipients after receiving input from the Senate. Certificates are presented to each recipient at the last SGA meeting of the academic year.

- d. From time to time the SGA has presented a resolution honoring the contributions of someone or some group. See sample in Appendix A.

Budget

- A. The SGA Budget is derived from student fees and is annually set by the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management.

- B. SGA Request for Funds Process and Form
 - a. Any request for money from the SGA must be accompanied by the online submission of the “SGA Request for Funding” form and must be received at least 21 days prior to funds being used.
 - b. The online form must be submitted by noon on the Thursday prior to the SGA meeting in which the organization wishes to present their request to the Senate. The online form will be submitted to the President, Treasurer and Advisor. The President will add them to the agenda and confirm that the group is to present their funding request to the Senate at the scheduled meeting.
 - c. The request will be presented at the meeting following receipt of the online form. A vote will follow at the next SGA meeting.
 - d. All funds should be distributed in such a manner as to do the most good and benefit for the greatest number of students.

- C. Unless in extreme circumstances, the SGA will use the following guidelines in an effort to be consistent and fair. These guidelines are meant to assist the Senate in reviewing funding requests. The guidelines are merely that, guidelines. They do not have to be followed exactly and may not be applicable in all cases.
 - a. Organization Special Events—The event must open to all students and is of benefit to the student body.
 - i. The event must be open to the entire UVa-Wise Campus
 - ii. Other funding sources and efforts are recommended
 - iii. A detailed list of costs and other contributions must be provided with the proposal.
 - b. Trip/Conference Grant—The SGA will generally assist with paying up to 50% for hotel, travel and conference fees when it is deemed those involved will bring back helpful information to the college community. The SGA will pay the same amount for one advisor.
 - i. Grants are generally used for service trips, conferences, etc. for individual students (may be representing an organization) to enrich their college experience.

- ii. Group must provide a list of all of those attending, total costs, and any contributions received as well as all sources for funding. Other funding efforts are recommended.
 - iii. Group must comply with giveback policy by detailing how those involved with the conference will share their experience and what is learned with the campus community.
 - iv. A giveback must be completed within one month after the event and may include a newspaper article in the school or community paper, a session/program for other students, an art or photo display, or any other way to share the conference experience with the UVa-Wise community. An organization is not eligible to request additional funds until a giveback has been completed.
 - c. Other Programs/Events (not sponsored by a student organization)—groups of students and other entities may submit a request to the SGA to fund activities, events, or equipment which will benefit the Student Body.
 - d. Other—the SGA will consider other request not fitting in one of the above categories.
- D. Funding Source—Any event or activity sponsored by SGA funds must include the following statement on all publicity and or advertisement: *“Co-Sponsored by the UVa-Wise SGA and Student Fees.”*
- E. SGA “Request for Funds” Form—The SGA “Request for Funds” form is available online and is submitted electronically in order to request funds from the SGA.
- F. 20% Rule: The SGA incurs expenses for the day to day operations and as such will set aside 20% of its budget each semester for SGA expenses. This money may be allocated at a later time if it is unused for SGA expenses. This money is controlled by the SGA treasurer with consent of the Executive Board and/or Senate.
- G. Summer Funds—The SGA annually has a need to expend funds for day to day operations during the summer months when the Senate is not in session. Any member of the Executive Board may make a request for expenditures which may be approved with the consent of the majority of the Executive Board.

Clubs and Organizations

New clubs and organizations should follow these guidelines:

- A. Student clubs and organizations must be officially recognized and initially chartered by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life to receive funding, reserve campus facilities, sponsor college events, hold an organizational mailbox, or publicize on campus. Each year, chartered

organizations must re-register with the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life by the second week of the fall semester. Organizations that are not registered by this deadline will not be considered in good standing and will lose all privileges of being a recognized Student Organization.

- B. The SGA has the right to annually review all clubs and organizations and to revoke their recognition.

- C. New organizations must do the following:
 - a. Recruit at least 5 members
 - b. Recruit a faculty/staff advisor
 - c. Draft a constitution
 - d. Complete the “Request to Charter a Student Organization” form
 - e. Turn in the form and new constitution to the Assistant Director of Student Leadership & Greek Life.
 - f. Upon approval by the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life, the request will be forwarded to the SGA President to be added to the next SGA meeting agenda.
 - g. The group should attend the scheduled SGA meeting and present about their new club or organization. They should be prepared to answer any questions Senators or SGA members may have. The request will be tabled one week to allow Senators time to review the Constitution.
 - h. The group should then attend the following SGA meeting where the organization will be voted upon.
 - i. Once the group has received approval, they are free to start recruiting members, eligible for a student organization mailbox, SGA funding, and are able to reserve on-campus space.
 - j. Upon approval, the SGA Secretary shall communicate to the Assistant Director of Student Leadership & Greek Life that the group is an official SGA sanctioned group.

- D. Requirements for Returning Organizations—already existing and chartered organizations must annually complete the “Student Organization Re-Registration” form and return it to the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life by the second week of the fall semester. If the organization has made changes to their Constitution, an updated copy shall be filed with the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life at this time.

Committees

- A. All SGA members will be assigned to serve on at least one committee each semester. Lack of attendance or participation in committee meetings will be reported to the Executive Board and may be counted as regular Senate meeting absences accordingly.

Any member with a valid reason for missing a meeting should issue a timely documented excuse to the committee chair.

- B. Just as it is the duty of the committee member to attend meetings, it shall be the duty of the committee chair to issue timely documented reminders to members of upcoming events and meetings.
- C. SGA members are expected to assist and help with all SGA functions. While no person can be at every single event, an effort must be made to assist the SGA with events and be supportive of SGA events. If unable to attend or help with an event, a member should let the secretary know.

Meetings

- A. Location—SGA meetings shall be held each Friday during the academic year at 1pm in the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center Dogwood Room (unless noted otherwise).
- B. Code of Conduct—As members of the UVa-Wise SGA represent the student body as a whole and are charged with speaking on behalf of and are representing the student body at all times, we will endeavor to follow Robert Rules of Order in our meetings, be attired in and speak in a professional manner at all times, to pay proper attention to those speaking and presenting to or during SGA meetings. Failure to follow these guidelines may mean the President can remove the offending member during a meeting. The offending member will have their absence counted as unexcused.
- C. Seating Order—In an effort to honor those with the most service to UVa-Wise SGA, Senators will be seated in order of length of service from most to least in their respective classes, with those being elected at the same time and with the same length of service being seated together in alphabetical order.
- D. Dress Code—the following dress code is to be followed at all SGA meetings unless otherwise noted:
 - a. Pants—inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans except when the SGA polo is worn, sweatpants, exercise pants, short skirts, bib overalls, leggings, and any other spandex or other form-fitting pants such as bike or exercise clothing.
 - b. Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits—short, tight skirts and shorts should be sufficiently long enough to cover at least half of the thigh.
 - c. Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets—Casual shirts, golf shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and turtle necks are acceptable. Most suit jackets or sport

jackets are also acceptable attire for the office, if they violate none of the listed guidelines. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops, sweatshirts, midriff tops, shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops, tops with bare shoulders, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt or jacket or jumper.

- d. Jewelry, Makeup, Perfume and Cologne—should be in good taste and not affecting others.
- e. Hats and Head Coverings—hats are not appropriate for meetings. Head coverings that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural traditions are allowed.
- f. Conclusion—if clothing fails to meet these standards a warning will be given. A second offense will result in a member being removed from the meeting resulting in an unexcused absence. As stated in the constitution, two unexcused absences may result in impeachment proceedings.

Member Requirements

As a member of the UVa-Wise SGA, all elected and appointed members and officers must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA for the duration of their term in office and must be in good standing judicially and academically with the College.

Minutes

See appendix B for order of sample minutes. Minutes will be sent out after a meeting and before the next scheduled SGA meeting in a timely fashion to allow members enough time to review.

Office Hours

- A. SGA members are required to commit to work a minimum of 2 hours per week in the SGA office. Office hours allow opportunities for UVa-Wise students to speak with SGA members on issues or concerns they may have.
- B. All members should log in and out, and all members shall review any literature posted in the “For Review” Binder and sign and date that they have reviewed the information on the “SGA Review Form.” Those Senators who have failed to indicate they have done so preceding the meeting, shall be ruled ineligible to vote on that issue. It shall be the duty of the delegated Secretary to call the names of those ineligible prior to the vote being taken.
- C. Items in the “SGA Review Binder” will be discussed in the next SGA meeting. See Appendix C for the “SGA Review Form.”

Web Site

The website is the purview of the SGA Secretary who should provide weekly SGA meeting minutes, as well as updated Constitution, guidelines for funding, Senate and Officer names and email addresses, as well as other information as deemed appropriate to the SGA Advisor for posting on the website.

Attendance

In the event that a senator must miss a mandatory event, an excuse must be given to the Secretary twenty-four hours in advance before the event. The President does have discretion of excusing absences in cases or emergencies. The following are deemed to be excused absences; class, doctor's appointment, work, participating in an athletic event, and family emergencies. All other excuses are under the discretion of the Secretary to be deemed excused or unexcused.

Demerit System

The demerit system of the Student Government Association will operate as a three strike process. Once a Senator, Executive Board, or Cabinet member receives three demerits, he or she will be removed from office.

- A. What qualifies as a demerit is as follows.
 - a. Failure to complete office hours.
 - b. Unexcused absences.
 - c. Three tardies to regularly called meetings of the Senate will result in one demerit.
 - d. Failure of any duty assigned to a member of SGA.
- B. After second demerit, SGA members must present a written excuse by the administration of the event that is going to be missed. Failure to produce a written note shall result in a third demerit and he or she will be removed from office.
- C. If for any reason a member of the Student Government Association is arrested, he or she will automatically be given three demerits, and necessarily removed from position.
- D. Demerits are given out under the discretion of the Secretary.
- E. The Secretary has the power to assign a demerit for any other action done by a member at his or her discretion.
- F. Any Honor Court or Student Conduct violation will result in two demerits
- G. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and SGA Advisor have the power to call a special meeting to pardon one demerit for each member of SGA. Pardons need a unanimous vote. Demerits shall remain on record until the end of

each member's term. In the event that one of said voting members has a reason for bias either for or against the demerit in question, the SGA Advisor shall appoint a replacement from the Senate to vote. A quorum shall consist of all listed members and is necessary for a vote to take place. All information regarding pardons shall remain confidential.

Appendix A: Sample Resolutions

Resolution Honoring an Individual or Department:



The University of Virginia's College at Wise Student Government Association Resolution in Recognition of the UVa-Wise Campus Police Department

WHEREAS, the officers of the University of Virginia's College at Wise Campus Police Department put their lives at risk on a daily basis for the safety of the campus, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department have dedicated their lives to protecting and serving, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department continually work to provide a safe campus for living, socializing and learning, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department take special interest in building relationships with the students of The University of Virginia's College at Wise, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department responded timely and selflessly to protect the students from the false report of an unknown threat on January 23rd, 2013, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department worked collaboratively with surrounding law enforcement agencies to restore campus security after the aforementioned threat, and;

WHEREAS, the officers of the Campus Police Department followed strategic procedure to ensure the well-being of the campus community on the above mentioned threat, therefore;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the students, represented by their elected constituents of The Student Government Association, recognize the efforts and sacrifices made on a daily basis by The University of Virginia's College at Wise Campus Police Department on this day, February 8, 2013.

Jane B. Student, President

Resolution Supporting or Against a Policy, Procedure, Event, etc.:



**The University of Virginia's College at Wise Student Government Association Resolution
in Support of On-Campus Day Care**

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia's College at Wise student population is diversified among transfer, traditional and non-traditional students and;

WHEREAS, a substantial population of non-traditional students, faculty and staff at The University of Virginia's College at Wise are parents, and;

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia's College at Wise currently has no daycare resources that accommodate students, faculty and staff who have children, and;

WHEREAS, a child daycare facility would offer accommodations for parents to continue their education, and;

WHEREAS, a child daycare facility would afford quality care for the children of faculty and staff, and;

WHEREAS, a child daycare facility would provide learning opportunities for students who are seeking a career involving child development and education, and;

WHEREAS, organizations at The University of Virginia's College at Wise would have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of children at a daycare facility through volunteer opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the students, represented by their elected constituents of The Student Government Association, recognize the need for an on campus daycare facility to accommodate the ever-growing need for quality daycare for our students, faculty and staff members who are parents.

Jane B. Student, President

Appendix B: Sample Minutes

Student Government Association Meeting #5 Minutes October 19th, 2012

I. Call to order

President Jane B. Student called to order the regular meeting of the Student Government Association at 1:01 on October 19th, 2012 in the Slemp Student Center.

II. Roll Call

Secretary Chemistry Book conducted a roll call. The following persons were present
The following persons were absent...

III. Approval of Agenda

Senator Student B made a motion to approve the amended agenda for September 28th, 2012 with consent. The motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Senator Student A made a motion

V. Secretary Report

Secretary Chemistry Book reported she needed to see everyone after the meeting to pick up the SGA contact sheets.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Banks reported the homecoming committee did a great job on staying under budget. The money received from the red and grey 5k and silver saber will be turned back into general allocations. There is \$5458.85 left to allocate.

VII. Vice-President's Report

Vice-President Cavalier reported thanks to all for attending the tobacco forum.
Committee Reports...

VIII. Executive Orders

- 360 Campus Preview
 - Be held on Saturday October 27th on the 5th floor of the Student Center
 - Need to be set up by 10AM.
- Dining Commons Meeting
 - There will be a meeting with Brett Lawson on Monday at 4PM
 - The meeting will be in the private dining's room in the café.
- Homecoming Events
 - Thanks to all the committee's and everyone who worked the events.
 - It was a tough week but was a huge success.

IX. Unfinished Business

- Student Forum—Tobacco Policy
 - Everything was kind of one sided with the majority being against the tobacco policy
 - At least 20 students were at the forum to speak
 - Notes were taken by the individual class Senators.
- Ultimate Frisbee—asking for money to buy the team jerseys, asking for \$430.
 - Senator Student B made a motion to approve \$430
 - There was a 2nd by Senator A Student
 - The vote was 12/1/2
 - Ultimate Frisbee was approved

X. New Business

- NRHH
 - Asking for \$166 to send two NRHH members to SAACURH.
 - Plan to do community service after the event.

XI. Advisor's Report

Advisor Faculty reported congratulations to all chairs during Homecoming they all did a great job. Basketball Homecoming will be on February 16th. Perhaps the day of the Homecoming, organizations could compete in banner competitions, school spirit and attendance at the game. There is a paperback copy of the policy book in the SGA office.

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

Senator Student B made a motion to adjourn the meeting with consent. The motion passed. President Jane B. Student adjourned the meeting at 1:46 PM.

Appendix C: SGA Review Form

UVa-Wise Student Government Association Document Review Form

Documentation for: _____ **Review By Date:** _____

The attached documentation should be reviewed by members of the SGA Senate during weekly officer hours and before the SGA Meeting date listed above. Please write your name and sign after reviewing.

Freshman Senator	Name:	Date:
Freshman Senator	Name:	Date:
Freshman Senator	Name:	Date:
Sophomore Senator	Name:	Date:
Sophomore Senator	Name:	Date:
Sophomore Senator	Name:	Date:
Junior Senator	Name:	Date:
Junior Senator	Name:	Date:
Junior Senator	Name:	Date:
Senior Senator	Name:	Date:
Senior Senator	Name:	Date:
Senior Senator	Name:	Date:
Senator-at-Large	Name:	Date:
Senator-at-Large	Name:	Date:
Senator-at-Large	Name:	Date:
International Senator	Name:	Date:
President	Name:	Date:
Vice President	Name:	Date:
Secretary	Name:	Date:
Treasurer	Name:	Date:

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE DOCUMENTATION FROM SGA OFFICE

Appendix D: Sample SGA Meeting Agenda



Senate Meeting #

Friday, August 2X, 20XX

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Vice President's Report
 - Committee Chair Reports
- Executive Orders
- President's Report
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Advisor's Report
- Announcements
- Adjournment