

Senate Committee Organization Act of 2007

Adopted March 7, 2007

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I. Application of this Act.

- A. This act shall govern how Student Government shall organize the Senate Committees within the Senate. Specifically, this Act shall establish permanent committees within the Senate.
- B. When there is any contradiction between this act and the Bylaws of the University of Kentucky Student Senate, these rules shall supersede those bylaws.

II. Standing Committees:

- A. The Senate shall establish the following standing committees:
 - 1. Senate Executive Committee
 - 2. Appropriations and Revenue Committee
 - 3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee
 - 4. Operations and Evaluations Committee
- B. For each respective committee, their primary responsibility shall be:
 - 1. Senate Executive Committee
 - a. Review legislation for proper form and sponsorship.
 - b. Meet prior to committee meetings to assign all bills to standing committees.
 - c. Have power to grant emergency status to bills.
 - d. Be responsible for selecting all committee memberships, and shall appoint all ad-hoc committees as needed.
 - e. Rule on excuses for absences at senate meetings, committee meetings, Senator office hours, and accountability.
 - f. Be responsible for approving Senate Legislative Assistant.
 - g. Oversee the general operation of the Senate.
 - h. Assign Senators to committees.

2. Appropriations and Revenue Committee

- a. Review and approve the budget of the Student Government Association.
- b. Review and grant allocation of money to student organizations as designated by the Student Government Association Budget.
- c. Monitor the allocation of funds by the Student Government Association.
- d. Review and approve any legislation that has a financial impact.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

- a. Review and draft resolutions concerning changes or recommendations to academic policy.
- b. Identify university wide academic issues and draft appropriate legislation to the Student Senate and University Senate.
- c. Maintain communication with the University Senate and Staff Senate through required regular meeting attendance.
- d. Report to the full Senate the activities of the University Senate and Staff Senate.
- e. Work for the betterment of student's campus and academic experience through drafting resolutions on behalf of the student body.
- f. Offer a forum before which students should bring their comments, concerns, and suggestions.

4. Operations and Evaluations Committee

- a. Review legislation affecting the structure of Student Government Association, Constitution, By-laws, and Senate Rules.
- b. Approve executive appointments and refer these to the full Senate.
- c. Oversight of action following the passage of legislation.

- d. Evaluation of programs undertaken by the Student Government Association, using form approved by committee.

III. Temporary Committees

- A. Temporary or ad hoc committees may be established for a particular purpose and a limited duration by resolution of the Student Government Senate of by the Senate Executive Committee.

IV. Committee Membership

- A. The Senate Executive Committee shall be composed of the Vice President of Student Government, the President of the Senate, the Senate Coordinator and an at-large representative of the Senate.
- B. Each committee will consist of a minimum of six (6) members to be assigned by the Senate Executive Committee.
- C. Senators may serve on more than one committee when it is requested by the Senator and approved by the Committee on Committee.

V. Committee Rules:

- A. Once the committee has been initially convened each school year, the committee shall elect a chair and a vice-chair of the committee.
- B. Committee meetings may be called by the Committee chair, or any two members of the committee. Committee meetings should be called in a timely fashion to allow for consideration of committee business prior to its due date.
- C. Quorum of the committee is a majority of the committee members.
- D. The chair of the committee, or a designee of the chair, must serve as the committee secretary. The purpose of the secretary is to record decisions of the committee, not the content of committee deliberations. Minutes of committee decisions must be provided to the Senate Coordinator after each meeting.
- E. Committee business is conducted under the following rules:
 - a. Members are not required to obtain the floor before making motions or speaking, and can do while seated.
 - b. Motions need not be seconded.

- c. There is no limit to the number of times a member can speak to a question, and motions to close or limit debate are not allowed.
 - d. Informal discussion of a subject is permitted while no motion is pending.
 - e. When a proposal is perfectly clear to all present, a vote can be taken without a motion being introduced. Unless agreed to by unanimous consent, however, all proposed actions of a board must be approved by vote.
 - f. The chair may speak in discussion without rising or leaving the chair and can make motions and vote on all questions.
- F. When making substantive recommendations or decisions on important Student Government Association matters, the committee should give students an opportunity to appear before the committee and present their views on the subject at a time scheduled by the committee.
- G. When reviewing proposed documents, such as constitutional amendments, legislation or resolutions committees shall:
- 1. Review the proposed documents and pass by majority without recommendation to the full Senate that proposed document be adopted.
 - 2. Review the proposed documents and pass by majority without recommendation to the full Senate as to whether the proposed document should be adopted or not adopted.
 - 3. Review the proposed documents and not pass the proposed document onto the full Senate for consideration.
 - 4. Review the proposed documents and decline to act.
- H. Committees may adjourn with a set time for the next meeting, or with the understanding that the committee will be reconvened with a fair notice.

VI. Sunset Clause

- A. According to Section V(a) of the Sunset Act of 2017, “All legislation presented to Full Senate [...] shall contain a “Sunset Clause,” in which an expiration date and renewal period are chosen.”
- 1. The expiration date for the Senate Committee Organization Act is November 30.

2. The renewal period for the Senate Committee Organization Act is three (3) years.