

Student Government Orientation

...or How I Learned How to Stop Worrying and Love Procedural Limitations

WHAT IS STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

The Student Government (SG) acts as an independent mechanism for unified student action and a voice for academic, government, political and social concerns. The general purpose of SG is to serve as a focal point for organizing the collective power and interests of the entire CUNY Law student body – over 400 students, all with a demonstrated commitment to justice and the service of human needs – in order to address the issues that matter most to students. SG bears a general responsibility to deliberate and act upon matters of obvious serious interest to the student community; it also has a responsibility to set an agenda which is at once proactive and responsive to student interests.

HOW DOES SG WORK?

- SG meets weekly or biweekly to talk about and do things related to student needs
- We can follow one of two categorical decision-making models:
 1. Robert's Rules Parliamentary Decision-Making; OR
 2. Consensus Model ("majority" decision-making with notable reservations on those who agree to disagree)
- SG hosts at least one Deans Forum and one Student Forum per year, preferably one or more of each per semester. The purpose of these forums is to provide a space for students to speak candidly with one another about issues faced by community members and the student body as a whole, and to have the direct attention of the deans to communicate these issues.
- SG has helped coordinate staff appreciation days, which occur once a semester.
- SG also organizes and hosts Community Day, held at the end of the second semester
- Sg hosts the student-only clinic fair
- SG drafts and adopts resolutions and creates petitions that help to hold the faculty and the administration accountable. The specific nature of these projects depend on the concerns that are brought to SG by the student body.
- SG members also serve on a number of important internal and external committees

INTERNAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- **Budget & Finance Committee**
- **Office and Records Management Committee**
- **Communications Committee**
- **Polling Committee**
- **Academic Affairs Committee**
- **CUNITY Committee**

- **SG Steering Committee (all officers and internal committee chairs)**

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- **Academic Standing (two 3L students)**
- **Admissions and Admissions Policy (2+ students)**
- **Art Committee (# students unspecified-- currently 2 students)**
- **Buildings Committee (# students unspecified-- currently not in operation)**
- **Committee on Committees (1 student)**
- **Curriculum Committee (2 students)**
 - Plus numerous subcommittees that are open to student involvement.
- **Faculty (3 students, 1 from each class)**
- **Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committee**
- **Law School Association (6 students, 2 from each class)**
- **Personnel & Budget Committee (one 2L or 3L): *Reviews applications for appointments and reappointments, and makes recommendations***
- **Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Prevention of Domestic Violence, Campus Security, ADA & Race Compliance (Two active student reps + Four contingency reps)**
- **Student Scholarship (2 students -- activity unknown)**
- **Sustainability Council (# students unspecified -- activity unknown)**
- **Technology Fee (2 students -- activity unknown): *Reviews policies and procedures, gathers information and makes recommendations concerning the technological concerns of the school***

SOUNDS GREAT...WHAT'S THE CATCH?

We have to be organized!