

**COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF MERCER UNIVERSITY**



Ratified April 2022

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
ARTICLE I: Committee Overview	3
ARTICLE II: Subcommittees	3
ARTICLE III – Campus Safety and Improvements Committee	4
ARTICLE IV – Heritage Life Committee	5
ARTICLE V – Organizational Affairs Committee	5
ARTICLE VI – Public Relations and Elections Committee	6
ARTICLE VII – Student Affairs Committee	7
ARTICLE VIII – Rules Committee	9
ARTICLE IX - Ratification	10
ARTICLE X - Amendment	11

ARTICLE I: Committee Overview

1. Committees shall, at a minimum:
 - a. Serve as bodies that encourage collaboration within the Student Government Association, as well as between student organizations, and the general student body.
 - b. At the first Senate meeting, committee chairs shall give a brief report about their purpose, goals for that year, and any initial progress that has occurred thus far;
 - c. All successive meetings must include reports from each participant's activities since the last meeting, and progress towards the goals presented at the first meeting.
2. Committees Chairs selection
 - a. The President shall submit to the Senate the name of each committee and an outline of the goals and responsibilities of each Committee and an application for Senators who would like to chair each new legislative committee.
 - b. The President and Current Committee Chairs shall conduct interviews with Senators interested in serving as a committee chair.
 - c. The President of the Senate shall submit appointments to the Senate no later than the last Senate of the spring semester.
3. Control of Funds
 - a. Committee chairs shall keep a detailed budget of all expenditures.
 - i. These budgets shall be made public at the end of each year.
 - ii. These budgets shall be made available to Senators at all times.

ARTICLE II: Subcommittees

1. Committee chairs shall make subcommittees as they so see fit.
2. Subcommittee chairs shall be selected by the committee chair.
 - a. Subcommittee chairs shall be a Senator or student correspondent.

ARTICLE III – Campus Safety and Improvements Committee

1. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall be charged with the investigation of all issues of student concern regarding safety, campus security, campus improvements, campus beautification, Mercer technological issues along with all services for which the university obtains contracts with outside firms. These include, but are not limited to, food and cafeteria services, cable services, vending services, bookstore services, and postal services.
2. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall serve as a liaison between the student body and Mercer University Police and the Director of the Physical Plant.
3. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall be responsible for conducting semi-annual Campus Safety Walks in conjunction with Mercer Police to evaluate the state of campus safety and beautification.
4. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall voice student concerns in all areas affecting these issues to the administration and university officials.
5. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall be responsible for representing student interests in those aspects of Mercer which have outside contracts. These services include food and cafeteria services, cable services, vending services, bookstore services, postal services, etc. Student Concerns and complaints regarding Caf food, hours in the UC food court, workout machines, and mailroom issues will be investigated.
6. The Campus Safety and Improvements Committee shall be charged with the investigation of a suitable gift to be bestowed to the university on behalf of the graduating class.
 - a. All Senators that serve as on the senate body (either as a senior senator, a senator at large, or on the executive committee) shall meet to determine an appropriate gift for the senior class.
 - b. All gift ideas from the senior class shall be approved by the Dean of Students and any other office required for approval on Mercer's campus.

ARTICLE IV – Heritage Life Committee

1. The Heritage Life Committee shall be charged with promoting and developing the heritage and traditions of Mercer University to and for the student body and the Mercer community at large.
2. The Heritage Life Committee shall work with the Office of the President and the university archives in developing an appreciation among the student body for the history and customs of Mercer University.
3. The Heritage Life Committee shall be charged with organizing the annual celebration of Pilgrimage to Penfield, the founding site of Mercer University, to foster an appreciation of the history of the university.
4. The Heritage Life Committee shall be charged with organizing the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, to promote university unity during the holidays.
5. The Heritage Life Committee shall be charged with organizing the annual celebration of Founders' Day, to commemorate the work and vision of the university's founders and to celebrate the continuation of its original mission and purpose.
6. The Heritage Life Committee shall be exempt from Article 1 Section 3 Subsection b.

ARTICLE V – Organizational Affairs Committee

1. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall organize and conduct the biannual President's Round Table.
2. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall review constitutions of organizations seeking recognition by the Student Government Association. The Committee shall advise the Senate before the Senate votes to recognize a new student organization.
3. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall establish guidelines for the organizational constitutions submitted to it. These guidelines shall be made available to all organizations seeking recognition.
4. Policies for recognizing student organizations shall be found under Article 6 Section 2 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

5. The Organizations Affairs Committee shall distribute its funds in the forms of Bear Grants, Special Funding Requests, and Conference and Lodging Requests to organizations according to the guidelines of the Board of Appropriations and the fiscal policies of the Student Government Association.
6. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall have the power to research requests for Student Government Association funding and make recommendations upon such requests. Policies for this process are outlined in Title III, Article III of the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
7. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall not fund any group or organization that directly receives money from the Board of Appropriations.
8. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall conduct spring audits of all organizations to review appropriate uses of Student Government Association funding.
9. The Organizational Affairs Committee shall be charged with the investigation of all university fiscal policies that affect the student body. In this capacity, the Committee shall serve as a liaison between the student body and the office of the Vice-President for Finance, the Bursar's Office, and the Financial Aid Office.
10. Article 1 Section 3 subsection B does not apply.

ARTICLE VI – Public Relations and Elections Committee

1. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be charged with the scheduling and officiating of all campus elections. Policies for elections shall be found in the Election Code.
2. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be responsible for the advertisement and promotion of the Student Government Association and all related events and with the outreach of the senate body to all student groups, departmental organizations, and individuals by organizing events and outreaches to connect the senate body and the student body to encourage an active culture of awareness and involvement on campus.
3. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be charged with the collection and investigation of student concerns through, but not limited to: outreach events on campus, and the reports of the respective delegates and committee members. Significant concerns

shall be brought before the senate body for discussion and relayed to the relevant committees to be addressed.

4. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be charged with the creation and direction of initiatives designed to address those issues deemed relevant by the executive committee and senate body, with the intent that these initiatives become independent and self-sustaining without long-term committee involvement.
5. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be charged with the promotion of student representation on campus and the creation of positive relationships between individual students, student and departmental organizations, the administration, and the senate. In pursuit of enhanced communication, representation, and inclusion of Mercer's diverse student body, the Public Relations and Elections Committee shall actively encourage Senators and Executive Board members to attend and support the meetings and events of Mercer's student groups and organizations.
6. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall be charged with the responsibility for student interest in the areas of racial and cultural diversity and social equity. They shall consider and make recommendations on issues pertaining to racial diversity, cultural competency, provisions for disabilities, social health, and social equity: including but not limited to the promotion of equal treatment based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and economic status to foster a culture of socially responsible investment at Mercer University.
7. The Public Relations and Elections Committee shall work to encourage the Mercer student body to become involved in the Macon community and develop a positive relationship between Macon, Georgia, and Mercer University. By holding events and publicizing business in Macon, Mercer students are invited to discover Macon's treasures.
8. The Public Relations and Elections Committee will represent student and university interests by encouraging students to be on different governing boards in Macon.

ARTICLE VII – Student Affairs Committee

1. The Student Affairs Committee shall be charged with the investigation of all issues that affect the quality of student life and shall act as liaison to the Dean of Students, the Director of Campus Life, and all recognized campus organizations.
2. The Student Affairs Committee shall be charged with the investigation of all university academic policies affecting the student body.
3. The Student Affairs Committee shall serve as a liaison between the student body and the offices of deans and the undergraduate colleges, the Executive Vice-President, and the Provost of the university.
4. The Student Affairs Committee shall investigate all substantive student complaints against faculty members.
5. The Student Affairs Committee shall be responsible for leading the Senate in nominating up to five candidates for the Student Government Association's annual Student of the Year Award to be submitted to the student body for final consideration. All discussions regarding this award are to be held in a closed Senate. The description of the award is as follows:
 - a. "The Student of the Year Award shall be awarded to a graduating senior on the Macon campus of Mercer University in any of its undergraduate schools who exemplifies the qualities of a true Mercerian through character, actions, and words."
6. The Student Affairs Committee shall be responsible for leading the Senate in nominating up to five candidates for the Student Government Association's annual Professor of the Year Award to be submitted to the student body for final consideration. All discussions regarding this award are to be held in a closed Senate. The description of the award is as follows:
 - a. "The Professor of the Year Award shall be awarded to any member of the Faculty of Mercer University who goes above and beyond to guide students in their educational journeys both in and out of the classroom."
7. The Student Affairs Committee shall be responsible for leading the Senate to select one individual to receive the Dr. Barry Jenkins Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Life. Members of faculty, as well as employees contracted to work at Mercer University (e.g. Aramark and National Management Resources employees), are not

eligible. All discussions regarding this award are to be held in a closed Senate. The description of the award is as follows:

- a. “The Dr. Barry Jenkins Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Life shall be awarded to any member of the Staff of Mercer University for going above and beyond to guide students in their lives outside the classroom.”
8. The Student of the Year Award and the Dr. Barry Jenkins Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Life will be presented at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet. The Professor of the Year Award will be presented at the annual Honors Convocation. The President of the Student Government Association will have the discretion to change the time and place of the presentation of these awards as necessary.

ARTICLE VIII – Rules Committee

1. The Chairperson of the Rules Committee shall be the Chief Parliamentarian.
 - a. In the absence of the Chief Parliamentarian, the Rules Committee shall be chaired by the next most senior Parliamentarian present.
 - b. Unless otherwise stated by the Statutes at Large or procedures of the Rules Committee, in the absence of all Parliamentarians, the Rules Committee shall elect a temporary Chairperson.
2. Membership of the Rules Committee shall be selected as follows:
 - a. The individual cohorts of Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Senators, as well as the Senators at Large shall be permitted to elect one member each to the Rules Committee.
 - i. A member must receive a simple majority from the cohort nominating them to the Rules Committee in order to qualify for membership.
 - b. The President of the Student Government Association shall be permitted to appoint one member to the Rules Committee.
 - c. The President and Vice President of the Student Government Association shall serve as ex-officio members in the Rules Committee.
 - d. Members must be enrolled as an undergraduate student in one of the schools or colleges on the Macon campus and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average from the time of appointment through the duration of the individual’s time in the Rules Committee, as well as meet any other requirements laid out by the Student Government Association.
3. A quorum of all meetings of the Rules Committee shall be two-thirds of the qualified voting membership at the time of the meeting.

4. The Rules Committee may remove any member through a vote of no confidence. This motion shall require approval of two thirds of the Committee's membership.
5. The Rules Committee shall be charged with reviewing all legislation prior to its introduction to the Senate and shall hold the power to make any amendments to legislation for the following reasons:
 - a. correcting grammatical and clerical errors
 - b. ensuring the germaneness and constitutionality of legislation
6. Any amendments made to legislation by the Rules Committee must be read to the Senate upon the legislation's introduction to the Senate floor. However, the Senate may choose to forego the reading of amendments by the Rules Committee with unanimous consent.
7. The Rules Committee shall not hold the power to make general amendments to legislation, however the Committee may suggest further amendments to be voted upon in the Senate.
8. The Rules Committee shall be charged with creating the docket for Senate meetings.
 - a. The docket shall include all unfinished and new business of the Senate and shall indicate the sponsor(s) of all legislation and any specified rules that shall be used upon their introduction.
 - b. The docket shall be made available to the Senate no less than twenty four hours before Senate meetings.
9. The Rules Committee shall be charged with developing rules and procedures for the Senate body that shall ensure efficiency and fairness of its proceedings.
10. The Rules Committee shall designate no rule for a piece of legislation resulting in the following:
 - a. The denial of introduction or summation from the sponsor(s) of the legislation
 - b. The denial of questioning and/or debate time to any member of the Senate
 - c. Unequal distribution of legislative powers
11. The Rules Committee shall assist with the codification and recording of all legislation passed by the Senate.
12. The Rules Committee shall assist with the amending of the governing documents of the Student Government Association according to relevant motions and amendments passed by the Senate.
13. The Rules Committee shall be charged with conducting hearings for Judicial Review, and its members shall be permitted to question witnesses and examine evidence brought by the appellants and respondents of such hearings.

ARTICLE IX - Ratification

1. These Committee Directives become the official Committee Directives of the Student Government Association upon ratification by the undergraduate students of Mercer

University in Macon, Georgia.

2. Ratification of these Committee Directives shall be by the passage of the new constitution and approval of the Senate.
3. All previous Policies not expressly continued by these Committee Directives are hereby declared null and void upon ratification.

ARTICLE X - Amendment

1. Amendments to the Committee Directives shall be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, as dictated by the Constitution.
2. Proposed amendments to the Committee Directives shall be publicized per any publicity rules for general legislation.