

Governmental Relations Bylaws

Article I: The Purpose of the Governmental Relations Committee

- A. The Governmental Relations Committee exists to promote student awareness and participation in the local, state, and federal levels of government.
- B. The committee shall exist as a standing committee of the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh.

Article II: Duties and Responsibilities

- A. The committee shall promote student awareness of all levels and areas of government.
- B. The committee is responsible for holding forums, conducting debates, and other functions that serve to educate and demonstrate concern for student interests in a reasonable and constructive manner.
- C. The committee must reflect students' opinions and interests as reflected through the student government board.

Article III: Membership

- A. Any non-CGS undergraduate student of the University of Pittsburgh may attend a committee meeting and participate in discussions.
- B. To obtain registered status, which enables a committee member to vote, one must attend at least three committee meetings within a six-week period.
- C. Attendance at additional meetings and informational/planning sessions may count towards registered status at the discretion of the committee chairperson.
- D. After obtaining registered status, a committee member must attend a minimum of four meetings per semester to retain the registered status.
- E. Registered members are the only committee members that are granted voting privileges.

Article IV: Responsibilities of Officers

A. Chairperson

- 1. The chairperson shall be selected in accordance with the Student Government Bylaws.
 - a. The position of chairperson can be split into two acting co-chairs if deemed by

the SGB. Both positions will be selected and act in accordance with responsibilities of the chairperson.

2. Shall serve as the official spokesperson(s) for the committee.
3. Must attend all public Student Government Board meetings and present a report.
 - i) If the committee is governed by a co-chairpersons, then at least one of these individuals must attend and present a report.
4. Shall keep five office hours per week.
5. Shall appoint the other officers of the committee, subject to future approval by the members of the committee.
6. Can create temporary officer positions with the approval of the Board Liaison.
7. Reserves the right to set up ad hoc committees under the committee.
8. Shall coordinate the activities of the committee.
9. Shall set meeting times in a designated place.
10. Shall create and follow agendas for committee meetings.
11. Shall supply the SGB President, Board Liaison, and staff specialist with copies of meeting minutes and any other relevant paperwork and change in meeting times.
12. Shall report to the Liaison assigned to the Governmental Relations Committee.

B. Executive Vice-Chair

1. Shall serve as chairperson in the absence of the chairperson(s).
2. Presiding at meetings when the Chair is absent.
3. Assume any duties delegated by the Chair.

C. Vice-Chair of Administration

1. Shall submit all budgets and financial requests from the committee.
2. Shall work with the chairperson(s) and the business manager of Student Government Board to formulate an operating budget.
3. Shall record minutes from all committee meetings.
4. Shall work with the chairperson(s) to record meeting attendance.
5. Shall handle all secretarial work for the committee.

D. Vice-Chair of State Relations

1. Shall assist Chair in coordinating efforts with state government.
2. Assume any duties delegated by the Chair.

E. Vice-Chair of Local Relations

1. Shall assist Chair in coordinating efforts with local government.
2. Assume any duties delegated by the Chair.

F. Vice-Chair of Operations

1. Shall organize voter registration drives.

2. Shall organize on-campus programs and seminars.
3. Oversee the operations of the GRC infrastructure.
4. Assume any duties delegated by the Chair.

Article V: Removal Process

- A. The chairperson(s) reserves the right to remove any committee member who is acting inappropriately, as he/she sees fit. Additionally, any committee member may motion to remove another committee member but this action must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the committee.
- B. A removed committee member may appeal his or her removal by appealing to the Judicial Chairperson in writing within one week of being removed.

Article VI: Meetings

- A. A meeting in which voting takes place must have a Quorum of 30% of registered members.
- B. Meeting shall be conducted in a professional manner. All committee members are asked to respect one another and to discuss matters in a orderly manner.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority

- A. The Chairperson(s) shall have the power of conducting the business of the committee as defined in the most recently revised version of Robert's Rules of Order. ~~In cases where the newly revised version of Robert's Rules of Order are inconsistent with the bylaws or constitution of the Student Government Board, the bylaws or constitution shall take precedence over Robert's Rules of Order.~~

Article VIII: Ratification and Amendments

- A. Any modifications to these bylaws must be made by the Governmental Relations Committee and approved by a 2/3-committee vote.
- B. They shall then submitted to the Judicial Committee Executive Council for review and approved by a committee vote before the approval of the Student Government Board.
- C. These bylaws shall be effective upon approval by the Student Government Board.
- D. The Student Government Board Constitution and Bylaws set all absolute precedents.