

SGA Update/ASGA New York Conference Report

SGA Update

- A New Constitution is being created
- Elections will now be held in April
- SGA will hold fund raisers so that all future members can participate in ASGA trips
- Talent Show auditions were successful; talent show will be held March 25th
- There is a steady flow of applications to the SGA
- SGA has decided to fund coffee pots at each center, pending a test run at PDC
- SGA is Funding transfer road trips to ASU, NAU, Ft. Lewis and GCU

Report from ASGA New York Conference

Extreme makeover: Constitution Edition, *Chris Jachimowicz*

- Problems to fix
 1. Ease of reading
 2. Undue authority of the Executive Board
 3. Policy on Disciplining members
 4. Vote threshold- too much or too little
 5. Redundancy
 6. Limit the powers of the Chair
 7. Define Majority
 8. Set terms for office language
- Constitution
 1. Special legislative rules
 2. Officer's duties should be explained
 3. The constitution cannot be changed without a 2/3 vote.
- Bylaws
 1. Process by which funds are allocated
 2. Can be changed with notice

The constitution and Bylaws should be separate documents. Officers should have their term of office, vacancy, qualifications, duties, and timing determination explained. The executive board should have their composition, powers, meetings, special meetings and quorum detailed. A possibility of a stipend should be addressed. The secretary should be in charge of creating the agenda, the group should direct the meeting and the agenda should be approved. The entire student body needs to vote for all SGA members.

- Voting threshold
 1. Majority is more than 50%
 2. 2/3 (vote is only used for overriding laws in the constitution)
 3. Chair rule (used to break ties)
 4. Unanimous

The chair can choose to vote on any item, but that vote should stay private unless there is a tie. Each member of the SGA will hold their term for 1 year or until their successors are elected.

The 25 worst mistakes your student government can make, *Butch Oxendine*

25. Not focusing on classes
24. Wasting too much time on revamping the constitution
23. Keeping poor records
22. Drinking at an event or in office
21. Being wasteful/careless with student funds
20. Not training successors
19. Taking things personally
18. Allowing gossip and negativity on campus/ social media
17. Seeing administrators as the bad guys
16. Being isolated
15. Failing to understand that the student government exists to serve
14. Not picking battles with campus press and administration
13. Doing things in secret or behind closed doors
12. Failing to comply with college policies
11. Not showing up or being prepared for committee meetings
10. Failing to set realistic goals
9. Treating staff and faculty like servants
8. Focusing too much time on activities and programs, create a board to handle that.
7. Taking action before surveying the students.
6. Not following through

5. Not planning for the future
4. Going to the press or staging demonstrations
3. Poor publicity/marketing
2. Taking on too many projects
1. Poor communication (SGA website should provide important information for students)

Fighting Student Apathy: Engaging Your Peers, *Katie L. Dantsin M. Ed.*

- **Top**
Does most of the work, visibly busy leader, steps up, has opinions on direction, talks about the SGA, emotionally invested
- **Bottom**
Names on the roster but are never present, self-serving, complains without contributing, hurts SGA
- **Middle**
Cares about SGA, positive and contribute ideas, have other commitments, juggling priorities, wants to help more
- Approach the “middle” and strategize organizational goals based on ideas, wants and needs. Identify an ongoing problem and target the middle’s habits, behavior and opinion. Tap the willingness of the “middle” to engage on their own terms to move forward.

Leadership Transition: Developing Future Leaders, *Katie L. Dantsin M. Ed.*

- Identify emerging leaders
- Increase confidence in new leaders
- Build on previous knowledge
- Limit confusion