

Student Government Association



**Fall 2017
Election Packet**

Why Should I Join Student Government?

Student Government is a great way to become involved on campus and in the community. You can help shape school policies and provide needed services to fellow students and the community. Additionally, we have a lot of fun, and it is a great way to get involved! Students involved in student organizations tend to do better in school – It's a fact!

Who is Eligible?

- Students enrolled in at least 12 credit hours this semester.
- Students must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of their nomination, unless there is no credit hour requirement for the position.
- Some positions are specific for either FSU or Pierpont students.

What do I have to do in Student Government?

All Student Government members upon winning their seat in Student Government Elections will be expected, regardless of position, to:

- Attend all weekly SGA meetings on Thursdays at 12:30-1:30 in 128 HB.
- Attend any special SGA meetings as called by the SGA President.
- Hold a weekly office hour. The SGA office is located on the 2nd floor of the Falcon Center next to Conference Services.
- Volunteer for various SGA sponsored events and community service initiatives.
- Serve on campus committees as appointed by the SGA President.
- Regularly check Email and Student Government Facebook and Twitter for important communications.
- Attend a SGA Fall & Spring Retreat & trainings.
- Should be professional, responsible, reliable, articulate, and able to reach out to students to bring a student perspective where is needed.

**Extreme violation of institutional policies (local, state, federal law) may constitute removal from office or candidacy.*

What SGA Positions are open?

**Open to students of Freshman Rank (Under 29 Credits)*

Pierpont Student Only Open Positions

- *** Pierpont Community & Technical College House of Representatives:** Will Elect 3 – Must be currently enrolled as a Pierpont student. No previous credit hours are required for this position. Will be considered an at large representative for Pierpont. Help provide Pierpont specific point of view to SGA. The term of office is from September to September. (Will fill these open seats until the Fall Election where one must run again to maintain seat.)

FSU Student Only Open Positions

- ***FSU House of Representatives:** Will Elect 4 – Must be an FSU student. Will be considered an at large representative for FSU. This is an entry level position to Student Government. Help provide FSU specific point of views to SGA. The term of office is from April to April. Does not normally require additional meetings.

Questions?

- Student Government Advisor, Meagan Gibson: Meagan.Gibson@fairmontstate.edu (222 TC) or contact the Executive Officers.

- **Junior Senator Will Elect 3** - *Must have completed 60 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester.* Pierpont does not recognize “Junior” as a class rank, therefore Pierpont students are not eligible to be Junior Senators. Will represent your class among SGA and will be expected to provide ideas for programming for your respective class. The term of office is from April to April.
- **Senior Senator Will Elect 1** - *Must have completed 90 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester.* Pierpont does not recognize “Senior” as a class rank, therefore Pierpont students are not eligible to be Senior Senators. Will represent your class among SGA and will be expected to provide ideas for programming for your respective class. The term of office is from April to April.
- **Graduate Senator Will Elect 3** - *Must be considered a Graduate student at FSU.* Must be enrolled in a graduate program. Position runs from September to September.

Joint FSU and Pierpont Open Positions

- **Sophomore Senator:** Will Elect 2- *Must have completed 24 credit hours at FSU and/or Pierpont by the end of this semester.* Will represent your class among SGA and will be expected to provide ideas for programming for your respective class. The term of office is from April to April.
- ***Freshmen Senator:** Will Elect 3- *Must be considered a Freshman at FSU and/or Pierpont. Completed fewer than 29 credits. No previous credit hours are required for this position.* The term of office is from September to September.

How do I get on the ballot to run for Student Government?

- Nominate yourself (or have a friend nominate you) during an upcoming SGA meeting and complete a nominee form and return it by due date. (attached document)
- Complete a nomination form and return it to the Student Government Advisor by the due date.
 - All nominees must sign in compliance on the nomination form that they will immediately begin following SGA policies and procedures. Failure to affirm will prevent candidates from appearing on the ballot.

When is the nomination period?

- **Start of Term – September 8th (Forms MUST be turned into Advisor by 4:00pm)**

When can I begin campaigning?

- You cannot campaign until you have been officially nominated and completed a nomination form. (form attached)

When are elections?

- **September 19th and 20th.**
- All voting is conducted online on each student’s FELIX account.
- There will be one physical poll location located on Main Street of the Falcon Center.

Who can vote?

Questions?

- Student Government Advisor, Meagan Gibson: Meagan.Gibson@fairmontstate.edu (222 TC) or contact the Executive Officers.

Return completed Nomination Form to Student Government Advisor

Due: September 8th by 4:00pm

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- All students! However, students may only vote for nominees who would directly represent them. The online voting system will set restrictions and only permit students to vote for whom they are eligible to vote.
- Ex 1: A Pierpont student cannot vote for an FSU only position such as FSU Faculty Senate.
- Ex 2: A Freshman cannot vote for any other senator but a Freshman Senator.

What is required during candidacy?

All candidates, for a seat in The Student Government Association, will be required to attend the **Meet the Candidates event on September 12th from 6:30pm-7:30pm** in the Falcon Center Conference Rooms. Presidential candidates will participate in a debate at this time. *The Advisor of SGA can issue an official excuse for candidates to must class to attend the event. For other time restrictions, such as athletic team practices and games, exceptions can be made with proof and consent of the Advisor.*

What are the campaign rules?

Many of these rules are not Student Government rules but campus policy or City of Fairmont Code. Please read carefully and be respectful of these policies. Failure to adhere may lead to removal from the election ballot at the discretion of the Executive Board and Student Government Advisor.

- Posters, signs, and public notices or other campaign materials of any type may be displayed only on the general-purpose bulletin boards provided for that purpose on campus. No such notices may be displayed on any internal or external walls, doors, windows or any other surfaces including sidewalks and other walkways. Materials found incorrectly displayed will be removed by the Executive Officers, the Advisor and/or facilities directors.
 - Within residence halls, candidates must follow residence hall visitation policies while campaigning and request permission to hang campaign signs from the Director of Residence Life and Housing and/or the ARD of the building.
 - Within residence halls, students may choose to post campaign materials on their personal doors and windows. Candidates must ask permission of each student to post materials upon their doors or windows.
- Nominees are permitted to hang one banner in select locations on campus; however, each banner must be approved for content and display location by the Student Government Advisor. Banners in the Falcon Center track must be approved and hung by the Director of the Falcon Center. (One banner per executive ticket.)
 - Banners are limited to no larger than 39 inches by 75 inches, (6ft.3in. ○ by 3ft.3in) This is the size of twin flat sheet.
 - Banner must be oriented horizontally.
- Posters, signs, and public notices or other campaign materials of any type are not permitted to be displayed on public property, which is not intended for public signage. Materials found incorrectly displayed will be removed without notice.
- Candidates may not create campaign websites linked to any FSU or Pierpont websites.
- Students and candidates may not campaign using mass email to any part of the campus community.
- Students and candidates may not obstruct or interfere with other campaigns.
- Students and candidates must follow reservation policies of the campus when utilizing space and tables to campaign in campus facilities. Look at the website for how to make a reservation.

Questions?

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- No students or candidates are allowed to campaign on the same floor of official voting tables on election days. Tables are traditionally placed on the second floor of the Falcon Center and the first floor of the library.

**Extreme violation of institutional policies and/or local, state, and federal law may constitute removal from office or candidate on ballot.*

What you *can* do to campaign!

Some students are stumped or frightened to violate the rules above, so we've witnessed general lack of campaigning in the past. This section is added to the packet to aid students with ideas on how to campaign for their seat.

- Use your personal Social Media accounts or a Wiki page to campaign. Create a Facebook page and invite your friends and other students to vote for you, or create a Twitter tag. I.e: #bobby4senate.
- Handout swag or food: Students in the past have had free ice-cream sundaes or cookies to students. You can rent a table in the Falcon Center Main Street for free and campaign the days leading up to the election. (Candy is popular, too)
- Make memorable campaign posters. Successful campaigns in the past have been fueled from interest in a funny campaign slogan or sign. Use Grumpy Cat to your advantage than just traditional posters (just remember to keep it appropriate for campus).
- Assemble an election team! You may feel weird talking with students by yourself and asking them for their vote so get your best friends to help shoulder your awkward burden. Get t-shirts made and meet and greet students in front of the fountain or Falcon Center on a day(s) before the election. This will make you more visible and show you already have some support; others will be more likely to follow.

Questions?

- Student Government Advisor, Meagan Gibson: Meagan.Gibson@fairmontstate.edu (222 TC) or contact the Executive Officers.

Remember what you're signing up for!

SGA isn't your typical campus club or organization. You have important responsibilities and to make sure you fulfil your duties you *must* sign off on your nomination form. Below is the agreement you will turn into the advisor upon your nomination form:

“I assert that if elected I will immediately adhere/attend all Student Government policies and events listed below. I understand that failure to do so could result in removal from office.”

- Attend all weekly SGA meetings on Thursdays at 12:30-1:30 in 128 HB.
- Attend any special SGA meetings as called by the SGA President.
- Hold a weekly office hour.
- Volunteer for various SGA sponsored events and community service initiatives.
- Serve on committees as appointed by the SGA President.
- Check email, SGA Facebook and Twitter for important communications.
- **Attend an SGA Fall & Spring Retreat & Trainings TBA** (Excuses will be made on a case by case scenario for missing each event vetting rational and unavoidable situations with other inexcusable ones.)

*Extreme violation of institutional policies and/or local, state, and federal law may constitute removal from office or candidate on ballot.

Important Election Dates:

September 8th: Nomination Forms Due

September 12: 6:30 in FC Conference Rooms “Meet the Candidates”

September 19th – 20th: Elections via FELIX

Questions?

- Student Government Advisor, Meagan Gibson: Meagan.Gibson@fairmontstate.edu (222 TC) or contact the Executive Officers.

Nomination Form

Full Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email:

Address:

Date of Birth: _____ Gender _____ Shirt Size: _____

Select Only ONE of the following offices in which you intend to run: *(Position descriptions listed above. Please verify that you qualify to run for the seat you select)*

Pierpont Students Only

- Pierpont Community & Technical College House of Representatives

FSU Students Only

- FSU House of Representatives
- Junior Senator
- Senior Senator
- Graduate Senator

Joint FSU and Pierpont Open Positions

- Sophomore Senator
- Freshman Senator

If appointed, please list position title here:

- _____

Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement. You should rate the extent to which the pair of traits applies to you, even if one characteristic applies more strongly than the other. This evaluation merely serves to find the best fit for tasks and committees for each individual:

Questions?

- Student Government Advisor, Meagan Gibson: Meagan.Gibson@fairmontstate.edu (222 TC) or contact the Executive Officers.

Disagree strongly	Disagree moderately	Disagree a little	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree a little	Agree moderately	Agree strongly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

I see myself as:

1. _____ Extraverted, enthusiastic.
 2. _____ Critical, quarrelsome.
 3. _____ Dependable, self-disciplined.
 4. _____ Anxious, easily upset.
 5. _____ Open to new experiences, complex.
 6. _____ Reserved, quiet.
 7. _____ Sympathetic, warm.
 8. _____ Disorganized, careless.
 9. _____ Calm, emotionally stable.
 10. _____ Conventional, uncreative.
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**Extreme violation of institutional policies and/or local, state, and federal law may constitute removal from office or candidate on ballot.*

Candidate’s Signature:

Important Election Dates:

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Questions?

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