

# **FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**Election Packets and Nomination  
Form Available on-line: July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Campaigning Starts: August 10<sup>th</sup>**  
(Nomination Forms must have been submitted)

**All Nomination Forms Due:  
August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Voting Occurs: August 19-21**

**COME JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**Return completed Nomination Form to SGA Advisor (Robin.Yeager@fairmontstate.edu)**

### **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 2.75 cumulative GPA at the time of their nomination, unless there is no credit hour requirement for the position.

### **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.
- 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 Social Media sites for important communications.
- Attend any and all 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)*

#### **Positions**

- **House of Representatives:** Will Elect 10 in spring – 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 August to May.

- **Senior Senator:** Will Elect 2 in spring - Must have completed required credit hours for senior rank at FSU by the end of this semester. They must be invested in their classmates in order to bring their prospective to SGA and create the best experience possible for members of their respective classes. The term of office is from August to May.
- **Junior Senator:** Will Elect 2 in spring - Must have completed required credit hours for junior rank at FSU 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. They must be invested in their classmates in order to bring their prospective to SGA and create the best experience possible for members of their respective classes. The term of office is from August to May.
- **Sophomore Senator:** Will Elect 2 in spring - Must have completed 24 credit hours at FSU 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 August to May.
- **Freshman Senator:** Will Elect 2 in fall - Must be considered a freshman at FSU. Completed fewer than 29 credits. No previous credit hours are required for this position. The term of office is from August to May.
- **Faculty Senate:** Will Elect 1 in Fall, 1 will be appointed - Must have completed 30 credit hours by the end of this semester and be an FSU student. Must attend all Faculty Senate meetings. Faculty Senate is comprised of FSU faculty members from the various schools & departments of FSU. The term of office is from August to May. Faculty Senate generally meets once a month throughout the academic calendar.
- **Staff Council:** 1 will be appointed - Must have completed 30 credit hours by the end of this semester and be an FSU student. Must attend all Staff Council meetings. Staff Council is comprised of FSU staff members from the various schools & departments of FSU. The term of office is from August to May. Staff Council generally meets once a month throughout the academic calendar.
- **Fairmont State University Board of Governors:** Will Elect 1 in spring - Must have completed 30 credit hours by the end of this semester and be an FSU student. Must have served a previous term in Student Government. Must be able to attend all FSU BOG meetings and serve on the FSU BOG from August to July. Will become a voting Student Government member from August to May. Will be expected to report to the weekly SG meetings during the entire BOG term. The BOG Representative helps determine & interpret policy and budget issues for FSU. BOG generally meets once a month throughout the academic calendar. Must remain an FSU student in order to remain the FSU BOG student representative.

- **Treasurer:** Will elect 1- Must have completed 30 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester. Must have served a previous semester in Student Government. Assumes the role of President in the absence of the President and Vice President. Shall serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and oversee SGA budget in conjunction with the SGA Advisor. The Treasurer serves on the Executive Committee. The term of office is from August to May.
- **Secretary:** Will elect 1- Must have completed 30 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester. Must have served a previous semester in Student Government. Assumes the role of President in the absence of the President, Vice President, & Treasurer. Keep an updated list & directory of all current SG members, take roll at all SG meetings and functions, turn in weekly attendance reports, maintain correspondence and communications between SG, its members and campus, keeps & posts minutes from all SG meetings and Retreats and keep all records in permanent form. The Secretary serves on the Executive Committee. The term of office is from August to May.
- **Vice President:** Will elect 1- Must have completed 30 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester. Must have served a previous term in Student Government. Assumes the role of President in their absence & assists the President in implementing policy. The Vice President serves on the Executive Committee. The term of office is from August to May.
- **President:** Will elect 1- Must have completed 30 credit hours at FSU by the end of this semester. Must have served a previous term in Student Government. Sets the SG meeting agenda & leads the meetings, calls special meetings, appoints special committees & positions in SG, serves on various campus committees, attend & provide reports to FSU Board of Governors. The term of office is from August to May.

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

- Complete a nomination form and return it to the Student Government Advisor by the due date (attached document).
  - 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 can I begin campaigning?**

- You cannot campaign until you have been officially nominated and completed a nomination form. (Form attached at the end). Specific dates to begin campaigning are listed on the SGA website.

## Who can vote?

- 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: A Freshman cannot vote for any other senator but a Freshman Senator.

## 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.
  - 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 (Robin Yeager). Banners in the Falcon Center track must be approved and hung by the Director of the Falcon Center. (Robin Yeager) (One banner per executive ticket.)
  - Link for banner specifications: <https://www.fairmontstate.edu/falconcenter/about-us/announcements-inside-falcon-center>
  - Banners are limited to no larger than 39 inches by 75 inches, (6ft.3in. by 3ft.3in), the size of twin flat sheet and 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 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.

*\*Extreme violation of institutional policies and/or local, state, and federal law may constitute removal from office or candidacy 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 how to campaign in the past. This section is added to the packet to aid students with ideas on 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.
- Make memorable campaign posters. Successful campaigns in the past have been fueled from interest in a funny campaign slogan or sign. Use trending things 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.
- Utilize SGA social media

### **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.