

GRADE YOUR SG'S INFLUENCE



PROVE IT: IS YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT REALLY INFLUENTIAL?

Check off each item that currently applies to your Student Government. At the end you will have your influence score and will know what you need to work on to improve it.

1. EVIDENCE OF SHARED GOVERNANCE (10 Influence Indicators)

1. _____ You hold regular, scheduled one-on-one meetings with the university president/chancellor.
2. _____ Administrators proactively consult SGA before announcing any major student-related policy.
3. _____ SGA members serve on search committees for deans, provosts, vice presidents, and other senior roles.
4. _____ Your budget is large enough to negotiate directly with offices for policy or operational changes.
5. _____ You have the ear of key administrators and institutional leaders (they return your calls/emails immediately).
6. _____ University departments routinely request SGA's formal endorsement before launching new programs.
7. _____ SGA holds a formal advisory or consultative role in administrative decision-making processes.
8. _____ University leaders regularly attend SGA senate meetings and participate as equals.
9. _____ Joint SGA/administration task forces are common, and student recommendations drive final outcomes.
10. _____ Your successful SGA advocacy has directly caused reversal of unpopular administrative decisions.

2. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL POWER

(9 Influence Indicators)

11. ___ Your budget can independently fund important campus-wide services (shuttle, mental health, food pantry, etc.).
12. ___ SGA controls allocation of the student activity fee and sets campus funding priorities.
13. ___ You have authority to fund student organizations.
14. ___ You can fund & execute large-scale capital or programmatic projects on your own.
15. ___ SGA uses its budget to negotiate vendor contracts and secure better deals for the university.
16. ___ You directly manage and award student grants, scholarships, or emergency relief funds.
17. ___ Your budget process includes transparent oversight that other offices respect and emulate.
18. ___ You co-fund major university initiatives as an equal partner with administrative offices.
19. ___ SGA funding supports essential student services that would otherwise be cut or underfunded.

3. REPRESENTATION ON INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES AND GOVERNANCE

(11 Influence Indicators)

20. ___ You have student voting seats on key institutional committees.
21. ___ You have a student seat(s) (with voting privileges) on the board of trustees/regents/visitors.
22. ___ You have students filling 100% of all available institution-wide committee positions.
23. ___ You have authority to appoint students to serve on institution committees made up of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
24. ___ On some institutional committees, students you appoint make up the majority of the members.
25. ___ SGA representatives hold voting seats on the academic senate or faculty council.
26. ___ You sit on curriculum committees that shape course offerings and academic policy.
27. ___ You participate in university-wide budget planning and resource allocation committees.
28. ___ You have voting representation on student conduct, judicial, or disciplinary review boards.
29. ___ You hold seats on campus facilities, master-planning, and capital-improvement committees.
30. ___ SGA appointees chair or co-chair important university committees.

4. AUTHORITY OVER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (5 Influence Indicators)

- 31. ___ You have authority to recognize new student organizations.
- 32. ___ You have authority to derecognize student organizations.
- 33. ___ SGA is the primary (or sole) funding source for the vast majority of student clubs and organizations.
- 34. ___ Leaders of major clubs routinely consult SGA before launching significant events or campaigns.
- 35. ___ You provide leadership training, resources, and professional development to club officers.

5. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ELECTION DYNAMICS (8 Influence Indicators)

- 36. ___ You don't need to give away free food to get students to attend events or meetings.
- 37. ___ You have no uncontested races in your SGA elections.
- 38. ___ Voter turnout in your annual elections is consistently high (well above national averages).
- 39. ___ Student referendums on SGA initiatives regularly pass with overwhelming majorities.
- 40. ___ Independent campus climate surveys show high student approval and trust in SGA.
- 41. ___ SGA leaders are widely recognized and approached by students across campus.
- 42. ___ Every elected position attracts multiple qualified candidates who run competitive campaigns.
- 43. ___ You maintain a large volunteer and committee-member base that participates without incentives.

6. PARTNERSHIPS WITH CAMPUS MEDIA (6 Influence Indicators)

- 44. ___ Campus newspapers, radio, and TV stations give extensive, ongoing coverage to SGA initiatives.
- 45. ___ SGA has a standing opinion column or dedicated reporting segment in campus media.
- 46. ___ Student-media editorial boards consistently endorse or support SGA positions.
- 47. ___ SGA senate meetings and major events are routinely live-streamed or broadcast by campus outlets.
- 48. ___ Campus journalists automatically seek official SGA statements on every major campus issue.
- 49. ___ Your press releases and announcements are picked up and prominently featured by campus media.

7. COLLABORATIONS WITH CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(5 Influence Indicators)

50. ____ You co-sponsor high-visibility events with diverse student organizations, amplifying reach.
51. ____ SGA reviews and approves constitutions/charters for all new and existing student groups.
52. ____ You regularly lead broad coalitions that unite dozens of organizations around shared causes.
53. ____ Club funding decisions made by SGA are final and respected across campus.
54. ____ SGA acts as the central coordinating body for student organization activities and resources.

HOW INFLUENTIAL IS YOUR SG?

TOTAL CHECKED: ____ / 54

45-54 = EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL / TRUE SHARED GOVERNANCE

35-44 = STRONG INFLUENCE

25-34 = MODERATE INFLUENCE

15-24 = LIMITED INFLUENCE

0-14 = WEAK / SYMBOLIC STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Title: _____

Your E-mail: _____ Your Phone: _____