By-Laws of the Student Governing Board

1. Meeting Procedures
   1. Any e-board meeting is open unless a 2/3 vote of e-board to close it.
      1. If meeting is closed, council observers will be asked to leave.
   2. Barring an extenuating circumstance, no SGB meeting shall take place in a space that is not accessible to students from all four undergraduate schools.
   3. If necessary and proper, there will be a motion to close debate and a simple majority will be required to close debate.
   4. Chair cannot make a motion.
   5. Conflict of interest: To protect the integrity of the SGB, all members should err on the side of caution in deciding whether there is a conflict of interest.
      1. If necessary, there can be a motion to remove a member from the room or prohibit them from contributing to the debate; a 2/3 majority will suffice. That member can vote on aforementioned motion.
      2. If the Chair has a conflict, the same procedure will be followed.
      3. If an SGB member is a member of a group applying for a co-sponsorship, he or she should stay out of the discussion about the co-sponsorship.
   6. The Chair or any three members of the board can call an emergency meeting at four hours notice.
   7. Any meeting-related follow-up emails, including minutes and co-sponsorship notifications, must be sent within 24 hours of the meeting.

2. New Group Recognition
   1. There should be at least two meetings of the e-board between the deadline for new group recognition and Town Hall.
   2. Guidelines for New Group Recognition:
      1. New groups should have missions significantly different from those of pre-existing groups.
      2. New groups should not advocate the use of violence in on-campus activities or intend to violate other university codes of conduct.

3. Town Hall
   1. Recognition
      1. Vice-Chair will run the section concerning new group recognition.
      2. Groups will be given two minutes to speak.
3. If the SGB recommends against recognition, the SGB must e-mail group with precise reason the SGB is recommending against recognition. At Town Hall, the procedure will be as follows: groups will have 2 minutes to present their group, SGB will give and explain its recommendation, and the group will be given 1 minute to follow-up.

4. While there is a preference that questions should not be limited, the Chair can limit questions if time does not permit.

5. E-mail mission statements to the entire listserv a week before Town Hall. The mission statements of the new groups should be provided on the tables at Town Hall.

2. Board Elections
   1. Candidates will give speeches. The board may establish the length for these speeches.
   2. The current board will disseminate an application for prospective candidates and set a deadline for the timely submission of said applications.

3. SGB Reps cannot represent their group at Town Hall; your group is penalized for absenteeism as any other group.

4. No individual may represent more than one group at Town Hall.

5. Groups will surrender their ballot at the door if they choose to leave early.

6. The date and time of Town Hall should be announced to groups at least three weeks before Town Hall is to take place, unless it is an emergency Town Hall.

7. The votes may be recounted at the Chair’s discretion.

8. Penalties for Groups Missing Town Halls
   1. After missing one Town Hall, the group will not be given any co-sponsorships for the following semester.
   2. After missing two consecutive Town Halls, the group will not be given a budget.
   3. After missing three consecutive Town Halls, the group will not be given a budget or have the ability to make space requests for a year.
   4. After missing four consecutive Town Halls, the group will be derecognized and must go through the full recognition process at a Town Hall to be re-recognized.

4. Transparency
   1. The SGB shall publish its line-by-line budget monthly.

5. Non-Cooperation of the SGB with a university policy
   1. Non-cooperation of the SGB with a university policy first requires e-board approval.
   2. The SGB must also obtain the consent of 2/3 of groups at a Town Hall
(emergency if need be) in order to pursue non-cooperation.

3. Non-cooperation is acceptable if the policy in question is in violation of the guiding principles of SGB and OSGA.

4. Non-cooperation must be in the form of peaceful refusal to abide by a University rule.

5. In refusing to cooperate with a university policy the SGB may not advocate violence or the destruction of personal or University property; the non-cooperation must be civil and respectful in nature.

6. Issuing a Statement

   1. A 2/3 majority of the SGB is required to approve the issuance of a statement. There should be an effort to respect dissenting views, for example by including such views in the statement or by making note of those who recuse themselves from the statement, if they choose to do so.

7. Budgets and Co-Sponsorships

   1. Budgets

      1. In general, budget packet rules apply only to budget packets and not to co-sponsorships, but can be used for co-sponsorships if desired.
      2. No T-shirts (they are permissible in co-sponsorships with a compelling reason)
      3. Money will not be allocated for webmasters.
      4. Budget Packet Guidelines:

   1. Determining Initial Allocation:

      1. Newly recognized organizations are on a trial basis over the period of their first two semesters. As such, they will receive an initial allocation not exceeding $350 for their first two semesters, and can apply for a full budget after that.
      2. The SGB will consider petitions to exceed this limit on a case by case basis.

   2. Dances / Cultural Shows / Any Large Party:

      1. Any dance/party that does not have a component of humanitarian, religion, activism, or politics must cover its own expenses (i.e. income – expenses = 0). YOU MUST BREAK EVEN!

   3. Conferences / Tournaments / Trips:

      1. The SGB will (within reason) try to subsidize registration fees, provided that the conference, tournament, or trip demonstrably benefits Columbia undergraduates.
      2. At most $25 per person of all travel expenses will be subsidized, unless the nature of the group precludes such a limitation being imposed.

   4. Charity Events:

      1. Organizations that hold an event which raises money for an outside charity or cause must cover the expenses of that event before donating money to
the outside charity or cause, unless that event has a significant benefit to student life that is independent from the fundraising nature of the event.

2. Groups can only donate to charities out of revenue.

5. **Policies on Non-CU and Non-CU Undergraduate Guests:**
   1. The admission prices for non-CU students and non-CU undergraduates should reflect the per-capita net costs of their participation in the programming open to them.

6. **Publications:**
   1. All publications should come out at least one week before the last day of the academic year.
   2. All publications must pay for at least 1/3 of their total costs for putting out an issue.

7. **T-shirts & Uniforms:**
   1. Sorry, the SGB will not fund T-shirts, unless a compelling reason is given in a co-sponsorship request.
   2. If clothing items are passed on from year to year, they will be considered equipment and are fundable.

8. **Summer Programming:**
   1. No part of the Allocation can be used for summer events. Orientation is not considered a Summer Event.

9. **Speakers:**
   1. The SGB will not pay a speaker’s honorarium or travel fees unless confirmed, and cannot commit to covering the full cost of either the honorarium or travel fees even if the speaker is confirmed.

10. **Contests and Tournaments:**
    1. All awards for contests and tournaments should be paid for from the profits generated by said event.

11. **Study Breaks & Flyers:**
    1. $2 per study break attendee is a reasonable food expenditure. b. $25 is the maximum expenditure for flyers for a single event. c. At most, $10 will be allocated for dinners.