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Student Government Association Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE

The Student Government Association of Drury University (SGA) is established to address the rights and concerns of the entire student body. This Code of Ethics is an agreement by senators and executives of the Student Government Association to preserve the faith of the student body in their elected officials. Senators and executives of the Student Government Association claim responsibility for the student experience, as well as the ideals and values of the institution.

VALUES STATEMENT

The Student Government Association of Drury University strives to understand, uphold, and embody the values of HONESTY, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, LEADERSHIP, and PROFESSIONALISM. These values represent the core beliefs and values of the organization, and--by extension--the members, leaders, and officers of the Student Government Association.

SGA defines these values as follows:

1. HONESTY: thinking, acting, and speaking in a manner that demonstrates honorable principles and intentions while showing straightforward conduct of upright and fair treatment of peers and constituents.
2. INTEGRITY: an adherence and willingness to stand up for what is right, just, and moral, demonstrating sound moral and ethical decision-making, and fortitude of character, especially when facing significant temptation to do otherwise.
3. RESPECT: showing esteem toward and valuing all peers, constituents, organizations, and persons regardless of personal feelings, biases, or opinions.
4. RESPONSIBILITY: understanding and exhibiting extreme caution, care, and restraint for the power and control given to a person through their position and exhibiting transparency and accountability when using that power and control.
5. LEADERSHIP: the utilizing of one's power, position, relationship, and other attributes, both inherent and learned, to create change and progress in the best interest of others.
6. PROFESSIONALISM: upholding the highest standards of performance, conduct, maturity, and cooperation both within and outside of the Drury community.

STATEMENT ON EXPECTATIONS OF SGA VALUES

The Student Government Association of Drury University has created a set of expectations to guide members and hold them accountable for upholding these values. These expectations are considered as examples of actions and behaviors in support of the demonstration of these values, and should not be considered an exhaustive list, but a set of guidelines for members to follow to exhibit these values daily.

Just as the mantle of SGA follows senators and executive council members wherever they go, so should representatives of SGA follow these values throughout their daily lives during the tenure of their term regardless of their location, presence, or purpose in conducting business for SGA, other entities, or personal endeavors.

HONESTY

A. I will be straightforward and sincere in expressing my opinions and executing my responsibilities. As I conduct my duties, I will seek to be transparent in my dealings, and will make sure to keep accurate and thorough records of my decisions and actions.
B. I will seek the merit of actions, decisions, and interpretations I do not understand, and will strive to listen and understand the perspectives and experiences of others, even if I hold differing viewpoints.
C. I will hold myself and others accountable for their actions and recognize my responsibility to inform others when they are not upholding the values of this organization, or their personally expressed values and beliefs.
D. I will operate and uphold my duties as an elected representative, honoring my obligation to accurately and thoroughly represent the best interests of those who elected me to office.

INTEGRITY

A. I will uphold and maintain my values and beliefs, and those held by the Student Government Association.
B. I will abide by the Student Code of Conduct as provided in the Community Standards Handbook.
C. I will respect my reputation and that of the University by avoiding unethical behaviors and circumstances that tempt or encourage me to make decisions contrary to my value system.
D. I will seek to stand up for what is right, fair, and just--even at times when it is difficult and when there may not be an outside source of accountability.
E. I will not let the values and beliefs I hold interfere with my ability to represent a wide variety of individuals with unique interests, attributes, and needs.

RESPECT

A. I will seek to understand the perspectives and differences of a diverse society. I will treat others well and strive to find commonalities with those who differ from me, while seeking to learn about their experiences to improve my understanding of the world in which I reside.
B. I will take pride in my university by working to protect and improve our facilities and their surroundings.
C. I will suspend my assumptions about individuals, organizations, or persons--and seek factual information when making decisions as their elected representative, as these decisions affect their Drury experience and life.
D. I will treat my fellow members of SGA with dignity, giving value to their opinions, when debating legislation, working on committees, and performing the duties of our respective offices.
E. I will recognize the value and importance of student organizations and will uphold SGA's responsibility to represent them, support them, and establish a space for them to express their purpose.

RESPONSIBILITY

A. I will utilize the power given to me by my elected position for the good of those I represent and will keep their benefit in mind when acting in my official and unofficial capacities through this office.
B. I will exercise caution and care when utilizing the power and control given to me by my position and will fulfill my responsibilities to the best of all my inherent and learned talents and abilities.
C. I will fulfill my term in my elected office and will make the Student Government Association a personal priority when scheduling and conducting my personal business to best represent myself and my constituency.
D. I will fully and properly execute the duties of my office as described in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

LEADERSHIP

A. I will continually seek to better myself through learning skills, reflecting on experiences, and finding opportunities for personal and professional growth both within SGA and my personal experiences.
B. I will make understanding the needs of my peers and constituency a priority when seeking to conduct the duties of my office and will advocate thoroughly for the needs of those depending on me.
C. I acknowledge my position will require me to make tough, and sometimes unpopular decisions. I will hold myself and my peers accountable for making these decisions and will seek to understand the nuances and effects these decisions may have on those who depend on me to be their voice.

PROFESSIONALISM

A. I will maintain the highest standards of performance, conduct, and cooperation with my fellow students, faculty, staff, and co-workers.
B. I will perform my duties with due diligence and make a continuous effort towards improvement.
C. I will seek input and feedback to better represent the needs of my constituents.
D. I will conduct my affairs with dignity and recognize that I represent the people and purposes of SGA regardless of my location, presence, or purpose in conducting business for SGA, other entities, or personal endeavors.

OATH OF OFFICE

To understand and uphold these values and expectations, the Student Government Association of Drury University requires all members to read and understand the following Oath of Office. This Oath is the same used to swear in new members and officers to the organization and should be fully regarded before it is taken.

> "I do affirm, as an elected representative of the student body, I will represent my constituency to the best of my abilities; I will seek to set an example for leaders across Drury University; I will represent and uphold the values of this organization; I will support and improve the Drury University community; and I will faithfully execute the duties of my elected office."