

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
ETHICS CODE**

The Student Government Association of West Virginia University (herein referred to as “SGA”) is the official representative of the West Virginia University student body. Led by elected and appointed leaders, SGA is open to, and encourages active participation of, any student attending WVU.

Realizing that with along with such responsibility comes the obligation to embody a high standard of ethics and accountability, SGA hereby enacts and enforces the following ethics statements, pursuant to Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Student Body of West Virginia University:

1. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to abide by all federal, state, and local laws. This shall be applicable both on-campus and away from the campus. (Article III, Section B, Item 10 – WVU Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities)
2. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to abide by the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities for students at West Virginia University, including, but not limited to:
  - a. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to abide by West Virginia University standards and policies regarding academic dishonesty. (Article III, Section B, Item 1 – WVU Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities)
  - b. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to abide by West Virginia University standards and policies regarding behavior at athletic events.
3. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to abide by the Student Body Constitution of West Virginia University, specifically:
  - a. All persons having attendance requirements defined in the Student Body Constitution shall be expected to fulfill these obligations.
  - b. All persons having reporting requirements defined in the Student Body Constitution shall be expected to fulfill these obligations in a timely manner.
4. All persons affiliated with SGA shall be expected to conduct themselves in a manner suitable for student leaders.

As such, SGA establishes that those found to be in violation of these ethics statements may immediately surrender their duties, pending the outcome of a hearing before the SGA Judicial Board. The SGA President shall be responsible for notifying, in writing, the Judicial Board and SGA Board of Governors when a member of SGA is found in violation of the ethics statements. Should the Judicial Board find them guilty, they shall fulfill any sanction(s) deemed appropriate by the Judicial Board.

This ethics code/statement shall be applicable to all persons affiliated with SGA, including candidates for office. Upon declaration of candidacy for an elected office, or appointment to an appointed office, individuals will be required to sign an acknowledgement of their understanding of this statement.

The SGA Judicial Board shall be responsible for the interpretation of this ethics code/statement. This ethics code/statement may be amended, in whole or in part, by a majority vote of the SGA Board of Governors.

Drafted by the SGA Special Committee on Ethics 2008

Approved: *January 25, 2010*

Revised: *August 28, 2013*

### **Student Government Association Ethics Code Principals**

1. The Student Government Association will have the an ethics code and statement as approved by a majority vote of the SGA Board of Governors
2. All leaders within SGA, both elected and appointed, will be required to abide by said ethics code/statement. Upon declaration of candidacy for any office, or upon undertaking an appointed office, individuals will be required to sign an acknowledgement of understanding of said ethics code.
3. This ethics code/statement will provide expectations of student leadership and shall include sanctions for those found guilty of violating it.

### **Ethics Code Contract of Understanding**

I, the undersigned, hereby agree to the terms listed in this code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date