

# *Student Action Team*

## *Bylaws*

Eastern Illinois University Student Government



*These are the bylaws as they currently stand and will be enforced unbiased by the Executive Vice President*

**REVISED SPRING 2021**

## **MISSION**

The mission of the Eastern Illinois University Student Action Team is to represent the expressed interests of EIU students and present those interests to state lawmakers. The Student Action Team works closely with state and local lawmakers in the State of Illinois to improve the quality of education and financial support for EIU students. Members of the Student Action Team gain hands-on political experience advocating in the State of Illinois Capital — Springfield, Illinois on behalf of the EIU Student Body.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **A. Composition**

The Student Body Executive Vice President shall serve as Chair of the Student Action Team, provide direction for the Student Action Team, and appoint student members subject to a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate as defined by the Student Lobbying Team Act. The Executive Vice President will appoint the Vice Chair of the Student Action Team and all Committee Chairs, pending a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate on the Consent Agenda. The Student Action Team shall also consist of an unlimited number of members. The Vice president of University Advancement and University Chief of Staff is recommended to assist the Student Action Team in fulfilling their duties.

### **B. Qualifications**

All participants of Student Action Team shall meet the following requirements:

- Shall be a verified student at Eastern Illinois University
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing with Eastern Illinois University

Students appointed to the Student Action Team shall hold membership during good behavior and shall serve until they are no longer a student at Eastern Illinois University, or until their termination from the Student Action Team, through resignation or removal.

### **C. Duties**

The main function of the Student Action team will be to represent the Student Body of Eastern Illinois University social and political issues, which are not limited to, but include lobbying and voter registration. The Student Action Team chair shall establish priorities for lobbying each semester.

The Student Action Team will travel at least once per semester to Springfield to lobby student issues to the Illinois House, Senate, and the Executive Branch. Research on pertinent legislation will be done prior to the lobby date. Legislators will be contacted before and after the lobby date to setup appointments prior to going to Springfield and coordinate with follow up through thank you notes or other mediums. The Chair shall plan an alumni luncheon event in Springfield with Eastern Illinois University Alumni in coordination with the Director of Constituent Relations, during the fall semester lobby date.

Student Action Team will also conduct voter registration drives and will present information to students on how to obtain absentee ballots if they do not wish to register in Coles County. Student Action Team will also provide information to students about polling dates and places. Along with this, Student Action Team will present non-biased, non-partisan information to students registered in Coles County about candidates running in the election.

The Vice chair shall assist the Chair with all duties. They shall oversee the newsletter that will be dispensed to the legislators on lobby days in Springfield. The Vice Chair needs to gather the Student Action Team member contact information to find jurisdiction of their representatives using the Illinois Board of Elections database. The Vice Chair shall provide resources and trainings for Student Action Team members to work on lobbying skills, techniques, and strategies.

#### **D. Meetings**

Full meetings shall be conducted at least bimonthly or as deemed necessary by the Chair and be held in accordance with public law. Further, meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Chair. Lobby dates shall be scheduled by the Chair.

#### **E. Funding**

The Chair shall propose Bills to the Student Senate, which must pass with two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Budget Requests shall be submitted to the Student Body President on an as-needed basis. Budget requests must be submitted to the executive board meetings before official proposal to the Student Senate.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **A. Committees**

#### **1. Voter Outreach Committee**

- a) Shall administer voter registration forms in a manner accessible and convenient to students.
- b) Shall be in constant contact with the Coles County Clerk's office.
- c) Shall meet at the pleasure of the Chair.
- d) Shall present students with non-biased information on party candidates to encourage informed voting.

- e) Shall engage with the student body to encourage participation in the political process at all levels.
- f) Shall hold annual voter registration drives to encourage registration in Coles County and present students with information on absentee voting.

## **2. Legislative Research Committee**

- a) Shall divide Student Action Team members based on issues affecting higher education for research and presentation.
- b) Shall research the Illinois state budget and compare it with the University, as well as other higher education budgets and work with the Vice President of University Advancement and University Chief of Staff to present the asking budget for the forthcoming fiscal year.
- c) Shall obtain demographic and personal data about University students, faculty, staff, and administrators in relation to social and political issues affecting Eastern Illinois University
- d) Shall obtain specific data on University academic procedures, financial aid, and student life in relation to social and political issues affecting Eastern Illinois University
- e) Shall research Illinois state legislation that directly affects the University and/or higher education.
- f) Shall convene meetings at least once a month.
- g) Shall work with Legislative Action Committee to find information needed and will give such information to the Committee.
- h) Shall prepare a closing report upon return from Springfield, which highlights successes and failure of the day.

## **3. Legislative Action Committee**

- a) Shall work closely with the Vice-Chair of the Student Action Team in scheduling and planning all activities during trips to Springfield.
- b) Shall present information collected by the Legislative Research Committee to representatives in order to achieve the goals of the trip to Springfield.
- c) Shall always conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing EIU in public and private occasions.
- d) Shall convene meetings at least once a month.
- e) Shall work with the Legislative Research Committee on preparation and presentation of the closing report.

# **ARTICLE III**

## **A. Deputy Registrars**

- 1) As a bona fide State Civic Organization, the Chair of Student Action Team shall act as and may appoint other Deputy Registrars for Voter Registration, in consultation with the Coles County Clerk.
- 2) These Registrars must be registered to vote in Coles County, and will serve for the term prescribed by law.
- 3) All Deputy Registrars must conform to all regulations set forth by state law and the State Board of Elections. Failure will result in immediate removal by the Chair or the Coles County Clerk.

#### **B. Election Judges**

- 1) In consultation with the Coles County Clerk, the Chair may serve as or suggest members to be Election Judges for the student precincts in Coles County.
- 2) Such Judges must be registered to vote in Coles County, shall serve for the term prescribed by law, and shall conform to all regulations set forward for the position.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **A. Removal/Resignation Process**

- 1) Removal of a Student Action Team Member shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Student Senate with recommendation provided by the Chair of Student Action Team.
- 2) Removal of Student Action Team Vice Chair shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate with recommendation provided by the Chair of Student Action Team.
- 3) Student Action Team Members or Vice Chair may also present a letter of resignation to the Chair of Student Action Team stating their reasons for resignation.
- 4) Student Supreme Court will handle the appeals process.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **A. Bylaw Revision Process**

- 1) The Bylaws of the Student Action Team shall be reviewed yearly, beginning at the first meeting of the Student Action Team each year.
- 2) Any changes of the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Chair for discussion.
- 3) Changes shall be subject to a 2/3 vote of all members of the Student Action Team.
- 4) Approved changes shall be enforced immediately.
- 5) The revised bylaws shall be announced at the next meeting of the Student Senate.
- 6) The revised bylaws shall be made public in accordance with any laws regarding public bodies.