

Eastern Illinois University Student Action Team Bylaws

Revised Spring 2006

MISSION

The mission of the Eastern Illinois University Student Action Team is to represent the expressed interests of Eastern Illinois University students and present those interests to the government. The Student Action Team will work with the government of the state of Illinois and other local governments to improve academic and financial conditions for Eastern Illinois University students.

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.¹ The Executive Vice President of the student body will appoint the Vice Chair of the Student Action Team. The Student Action Team shall also consist of an unlimited number of members. The Vice President for External Relations shall assist the Student Action Team in fulfilling their duties.

B. Duties

The main function of the Student Action Team will be to represent the Student Body of Eastern Illinois University Student Action Team will represent the student's voice on both social and political opinions which are not limited to but include lobbying and voter registration.

The Student Action Team will travel at least once per semester to Springfield to lobby student issues to the House and Senate. 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 and follow up.

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.

C. Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted at least once a month 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 Student Body Executive Vice President.

¹ *Eastern Illinois University Student Body Constitution*, p. 6.

D. Funding

The Student Action Team shall propose a Budget Request to the Student Body President by the first week in February.

ARTICLE II

A. Committees

1. Legislative Action Committee
 - a) Shall work on lobbying skills, techniques, and strategies.
 - b) Shall assist the chair in scheduling lobbying dates.
 - c) Shall convene meetings at least one time per month.
 - d) Shall contact legislators prior to lobby dates and legislative showcases to introduce student lobbyists.
 - e) Shall maintain contact with legislators through letters, e-mails, and phone calls.

2. Voter Registration 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 Clerks 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 hold annual voter registration drives to encourage registration in Coles County and present students with information on absentee voting.

3. Legislative Research Committee
 - a) 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 External Relations to present the asking budget for the forthcoming fiscal year.
 - b) Shall obtain demographic and personal data about University students, faculty, staff, and administrators in relation to social and political issues affecting Eastern Illinois University.
 - c) Shall obtain specific data on University academic procedures, financial aid, and student life in relation to social and political issues affecting Eastern Illinois University.
 - d) Shall research Illinois state legislation that directly affects the University and/or higher education.
 - e) Shall convene meetings at least once a month.
 - f) Shall work with Legislative Action Committee to find information needed and will give such information to the Committee.

4. Committee of the Whole

- a) Shall convene meetings at least once a month.
- b) Shall establish priorities for lobbying each semester.
- c) Shall conduct lobby dates and/or legislative showcases at least once per semester.