



MIAMI

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**A guide to Student Government at the
University of Miami**

Introduction

Welcome to Freshman year at the University of Miami! You are about to embark on an incredible journey. Here to help you along the way is Student Government. SG represents every student on campus and its purpose is to:

- Provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests
- Foster greater educational standards, facilitates and teaching methods
- Maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility and student rights
- Engender multicultural and multinational understanding and fellowship at the student level
- Actualize the rights and responsibilities of students to the university, the community, and humanity
- Enlighten and further student cultural, social, and physical welfare

Ultimately, Student Government is here to help give you the best experience possible at the University of Miami.

Student Government also happens to be one of the best ways to get involved on campus. It is such a broad and diverse organization that just about any student can find something they are interested in within the umbrella of Student Government. On the following pages, you will find a description of different areas of Student Government, what they do, and most importantly, how you can get involved.

Here is a basic breakdown of the different parts of Student Government:

Branches:

Judicial Branch

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Agencies:

Elections Commission

ECO Agency

Category 5

Committees/ Councils

Campus Liaison
Council

Programming
Committee

Freshman
Leadership Council

Executive Board

The Executive Board forms the core leadership group of Student Government. It consists of three officials elected by the student body (President, Vice President, and Treasurer), their 5 appointees, and the leaders of the other branches of Student Government. This group meets weekly to set guiding policies for Student Government, to work on school wide projects, and to ensure that all parts of Student Government are on the same page.

President:

Leads 120 members of SG working on 6 branches on campus wide initiatives and programming, acts as student representative to the faculty, administration, Board of Trustees, and Coral Gables City Commission

Vice President:

The head of the Freshman Leadership Council and steps in for the President when necessary

Treasurer:

Manages and executes the budget of a majority of Student Government's branches

Chief of Staff:

Supervises the Campus Liaison Council and manages all Presidential appointments both internal and external to Student Government

Category 5 Chair:

Facilitates the growth of the University of Miami student community through athletic spirit and tradition and is responsible for representing the students to the UM Athletic Department

Speaker of the Senate:

Directs the Senate and presides over Senate meetings

Elections Commission Chairman:

Plans, executes, and enforces all aspects of Student Government elections

Press Secretary:

Works on all Student Government promotional and marketing efforts

Executive-at-Large Internal:

Responsible for facilitating communication between the branches of Student Government and arranging SG-wide events

Executive-at-Large External:

Responsible for planning and coordinating campus wide student government programs and overseeing the Programming Committee

Executive Secretary:

Maintains minutes of SG proceedings, processes correspondence including agendas/notices for meetings, and maintains records of attendance

ECO Agency Chair:

Create, plan, and manage programs that get students involved with becoming more eco-conscious

Speaker Pro Tempore:

Helps direct the Senate and is responsible for overseeing all four committees in the Council of Chairs

Chief Justice:

Manages the various functions of the Court and is responsible for updating the Constitution after receiving legislation passed by the Senate

Executive Branch

The Executive Branch focuses on completing projects and initiatives to improve campus life for all students. It consists of three councils/committees:

Freshman Leadership Council

Members of the Freshman Leadership Council will be able to gain hands-on experience in working with UM Administration and members of Student Government in completing projects and initiatives to enhance student life on

campus. Members will also work on planning campus-wide events like the annual Spring Kick-Off and Leadership Development Seminars. Finally, members will be paired with an older SG member as a mentor.

Programming Committee

The Programming Committee plans and executes campus wide Student Government events. For instance, this committee works on events like UFactor, a fall speaker event, Spring Kickoff, and more. The board also has the flexibility to create new programs. All positions, though they each have specific roles, will be involved in the creative planning process throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, Student Government brought MTV's The Buried Life to campus as the Fall Speaker event

Campus Liaison Council

The Campus Liaison Council is a committee that serves as a board of liaisons responsible for fostering communication and productive relationships between various areas of campus and Student Government. Liaisons regularly communicate relevant Student Government projects and initiatives to their respective

departments and serve as the student body representative to those departments. Two liaisons work with each area of campus. The areas that the Council works with are: Auxiliary Services, Campus Facilities and Security, Dining Services, Health and Wellness, Information Technology, Library, and Parking and Transportation.

Legislative Branch

The Senate is responsible for passing legislation presented by students and members of Student Government. The Senate has the power to approve the Student Government Budget, the Elections calendar, Student Government appointments, and other legislation presented to the Senate. All Senators are responsible for attending one committee meeting each week, as well as the weekly Senate meeting.

Senate is made up of four committees that are responsible for initiating projects and legislation. The four committees are the University Affairs Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, the Policy and Finance Committee, and the Public Relations Committee. Each committee has a Chair and a vice-chair. These chairs, along with Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate make up the Council of Chairs.

SG Initiative Highlight: UM Safe Ride



The Safe Ride is an initiative designed to help students get around campus easier than ever before. Students can just call (305)-298-6128 and the Safe Ride will pick them up and drop them off anywhere on campus and certain nearby areas.

This program began as a piece of legislation in the Senate and through countless hours of work by Senators and campus Administrators, the program became a reality.

Judicial Branch

The Supreme Court is the judicial body of the University of Miami Student Government, charged with upholding the provisions and powers of the Student Government Constitution and Statutes. With this responsibility, the Court has the power of judicial review over all pieces of legislation passed by the Student Government Senate. The Court is also responsible for hearing and deliberating on any Elections Codes violations filed throughout the year.

Category 5

Category 5 is the spirit programming board focused on preserving and implementing traditions related to sports and spirit at the U. It represents the student body and is the link between the Athletic Department and the students. Category 5 focuses on improving the in-game experiences for students to promote love of Alma Mater

and cultivate supportive, notable, and fun student sections. Through student-to-student communication, watch parties, giveaways, away trips, and events hosted in conjunction with Athletics, Category 5 aims to foster an infectious culture within the student body dedicated to supporting our 'Canes.



ECO Agency

ECO Agency is dedicated to environmental sustainability that formulates projects recommended by the student body and ECO Board. Its purpose is to build an environmentally friendly campus by promoting green habits and educating the student body. ECO Agency promotes and implements feasible sustainable projects to “green” the U. For example, initiatives like recycling in all dorms and classrooms, recycling in fraternity houses, a reUse store, a sustainability certificate program, and reusable boxes in dining services have all been implemented recently.

Elections Commission

The purpose of the Elections Commission is to organize and coordinate all aspects of Student Government Elections in the fall and spring. The duties of Elections Commission are to review and approve all SG applications and campaign materials, to plan and organize elections events including Meet the Candidates and presidential debates, to enforce elections codes, and to present all violations to Trial Court for hearings. In addition, the Elections Commission determines the polling times and locations, oversees polling sites, tabulates all votes, and announces elections results.

OPEN POSITIONS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Freshman Leadership Council:

Numerous positions available for Freshmen and non-Freshmen

Programming Committee:

Logistics Coordinator

Marketing Coordinator

Outreach and Sponsorship Coordinator

Freshman Leadership Council Programming Coordinator

Senate:

Numerous positions that both Freshmen and non-Freshmen can run for

Court:

Three Associate Justice positions

Category 5:

Women's Basketball Chair

Secretary

ECO Agency:

Four Board Positions

Elections Commission:

Numerous commissioners positions

To apply for these, or any other positions, please visit www.miami.edu/sg and click on the "Get Involved" tab, or visit the Student Government office in SAC 210

Want to get involved but none of the positions seems like the right spot for you? Send an email to sgpresssecretary@miami.edu and we will help find the right match for you!