



Office of the Student Body President
Student Government Association
Middle Tennessee State University

Whereas, the Student Government Association approaching its 85 Congressional year has no visible traditional symbol to represent its achievements, authority, or seniority as a cornerstone organization within the fabric of Middle Tennessee State University; and,

Whereas, the creation of a new traditional symbol in the form of a ceremonial gavel will reaffirm the organization's commitment to advocacy as a constant reminder of our shared purpose;

THEREFORE, I, Winton Cooper, by the power vested in the President of the Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University, do hereby order, and authorize the ceremonial gavel "the gavel" be named as the traditional symbol of the Student Government Association effective immediately. The order shall be constituted on the following:

Section 1: Gavel Citation

"A symbol of the authority and confidence placed in the Student Government Association for the right to act and advocate on behalf of the students at Middle Tennessee State University."

The ceremonial gavel shall be 36 inches in length. The gavel shall be made of American red oak (*Quercus rubra*) – symbolizing the truthfulness, steadiness, wisdom, and longevity associated with the grandeur of oaks. The gavel's band shall henceforth be engraved with the seal of the Student Government Association and bear the year of the establishment of the symbol.

Section 2: Traditional Usage

The ceremonial gavel shall be used at all formal gatherings of the Senate of the Student Government Association that are presided over by the Speaker of the Student Government Association.

During the transferring of office, the ceremonial gavel shall be transferred from the outgoing to the incoming President as a visible symbol of the transference of the trust embodied by the gavel to the new officeholder. By virtue of this Order, the gavel shall be present at all inaugurations/oath taking ceremonies of the Student Government Executive.

Section 3: Special Usage

Upon the occasion of the passage, signing, and *University adoption* of a Student Government Association Senate Resolution, the principal sponsor(s) is/are entitled to handle the gavel.

The sponsor(s) is/are entitled to tap the gavel onto a prepared surface to celebrate the achievement of having made a change to the operations, functioning, policy, and/or programming of the University in pursuit of improving the experience of students. This shall be the only

opportunity the gavel is handled by a non-stakeholder as prescribed in Section 4 Section A of this Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall be responsible for the security and maintenance of the gavel within the Senate chamber. In the absence of the Speaker, the gavel shall not be present within the Senate chamber without the expressed consent of the President. The President, using their discretion, may make provisions for the gavel to be displayed at any other gathering at their discretion.

Section 4: Treatment

The gavel shall be displayed for public viewing in a place of prominence within the precincts of the Student Government Association office.

Section A: Stakeholders: The following stakeholders are allowed to handle the gavel by virtue of this Order:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Student Government Association Advisor

Subsection A: Exception: A gavel handler ‘the handler’ may be selected amongst the most senior of senators for the transportation of the gavel. Seniority shall be defined as length of time in the Student Government Association Senate. In the event of equal time spent amongst candidates within the Senate, the individual with the earliest participation in the Student Government Association shall earn the privilege to transport the gavel. In the rare occurrence that the selection criteria cannot be determined by virtue of the previously outlined, a simple majority vote of the Student Government Association Senate shall determine the accordance of said privilege amongst those that tie for earliest participation in the organization.

Section B: Destruction or Repair: In the event of the destruction of the gavel, the largest remaining portion shall be kept in archive and the remaining portion recycled where appropriate. Shall the need for repair arise, the gavel shall be expeditiously repaired by the Senate.

WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially on this 19th day of November 2021 at Middle Tennessee State University.



Winton Cooper
President
Student Government Association