Legislation is a way for the Student Government Association to express a sentiment of the Senate, request the assistance or action of a University department, require a mandate from Senate, or to amend the constitution of the Student Government Association.
RESOLUTION 1-20-F

No official response documented from VP IT; has been reached out to for comment.
Followed up with VP Thomas on 7/27/2021 who subsequently directed staff to identify designs and locations for placement.
On 8/17/2021 a representative from campus planning toured campus to identify problem areas, and areas for new signage of all sizes.
President McPhee addressed concerns related to an additional study day. A day was given during the semester as a mental health day.

SGA Resolution 1-21-S

A Resolution to Create Another Study Day

Whereas: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university has eliminated the traditional spring break.

Whereas: The March 12th Study Break is inadequate as a means to provide a mental health or study period for students.

Whereas: Students tend to be more stressed as we approach the conclusion of the semester.

Whereas: Giving students another study day will provide more of the downtime students are accustomed to during the semester.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 83rd CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: In addition to March 12th, Monday April 12th will be designated as a study day to prepare for the final weeks of the spring semester. All scheduled classes shall be suspended on this day. The James E. Walker Library and other academic resources will remain open for student use. All faculty and non-essential staff may also have the aforementioned day off from work.

Section 2: This resolution shall take effect upon favorable passage by the Student Government Association.

Sponsor: Senator Jada Powell (College of Basic and Sciences)
In response, an acceptable location has been determined for beverage and snack machines. The planned location is near the first floor east entrance. However, in order to proceed, electrical work will be required for machine installation. Facilities Services has been authorized to proceed with the required electrical work. Once this electrical work is complete, MTSU will contact the appropriate beverage and snack vendors for machine placement.

Alan Thomas, April 26th, 2021
SGA Resolution 2-21-S-FC

A Resolution to Remedy the Lack of Outdoor Seating Outside 'The Middle' Dining Area

Whereas: Many students need a space to eat lunch or dinner outside of 'The Middle'.

Whereas: The demand for outdoor dining has increased due to restrictions associated with COVID-19.

Whereas: Outdoor dining allows for socially distanced eating and safe interaction with peers.

Whereas: A lack of outdoor seating causes many to relocate to areas where students are in closer proximity when wishing to dine with each other.

Whereas: There are only two picnic tables located in the vicinity of 'The Middle' for outdoor dining purposes.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 83rd CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: MT Dining and any other relevant stakeholder shall increase the current number of outdoor picnic tables available for student use in the area outside of 'The Middle' to allow more students to have space to eat their meals.

Section 2: This resolution shall take effect upon favorable passage by the Student Government Association.

Sponsor: Councilor Grayce Sanders
RESOLUTION 3-21-S-FC

SGA Resolution 3-21-S-FC

A Resolution to Make Students Aware of Modifications to Classes After Registration Dates

Whereas: Students who register for classes intentionally select specific instructors and courses to fit their individual needs, such as teaching methods or instructor reviews.

Whereas: To have a course instructor change or cancel last minute without being alerted can cause stress to students who have to make unforeseen changes to their schedules.

Whereas: Last-minute changes can also cause stress to instructors whose classes get an influx of enrollment close to the first day of class.

Whereas: Students should be made aware of changes and other modifications involving enrollment through email, as Pipeline does not alert students of changes.

WHEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 83rd CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: When changes are made to the instructors or classes, students should be made aware of the situation through their MISTS email allowing them to have ample time to adjust. Students will be notified within 48 to 72 hours of changes being made.

Section 2: Departments should provide information on instructor/course related changes to students.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect after favorable passage.

Sponsors: Councilors Sarah Schneider, Jessica Rogers & Natiya Wilson

No official response documented by University Provost’s office; has been reached out to for comment.
I agree with the SGA that it is important for faculty to respond to student emails in a timely manner. I will add a statement to the Faculty Handbook setting the expectation that, during terms when they are teaching, faculty respond to student emails within 48 hours.

Mark Byrnes, 4/27/2021
In relation to this resolution requesting that security cameras be installed in all laundry locations on-campus to prevent the theft of clothes, I will take this request under advisement for future housing plans, but am unable to move forward with this project at the current time. Due to the pandemic, Housing and Residential Life, as an auxiliary unit at the University, took a significant financial hit during the past year which has limited the money that can be spent on new projects. In addition, I would like to further survey and speak with residential students next year to advise the department on if this request represents the majority of residential students. While some laundry room locations are set off from residential living spaces, in several buildings the laundry rooms are on the floor and might potentially invade the privacy of students.

Michelle Safewright, 4/28/2021
Responsibilities of Board Members are outlined in state law and in the By-laws of the MTSU Board of Trustees. It is not within the purview of either the university president nor the Student Government Association to impose additional requirements.

However, I’m certain that our student trustee would be interested in your feedback, and might positively receive a suggestion from SGA that you would like to invite her to an SGA meeting to discuss issues on the minds of our students.

Debra Sells, 3/26/2021
We met recently and discussed your resolution and how we might all work together to best support our students during periods of heightened stress, as well as proactively year round. To that end, we are suggesting a two-pronged approach:

1. Expansion of the semi-annual De-stress Fest to take place mid-November and mid-April each year to best support students’ mental health prior to final exams each semester. The current version takes place over one to two days, but we could partner with SGA and student organizations to stretch the programming into a week-long observance.

2. A collaboration with SGA to promote the ongoing stress management resources available to students throughout the academic year. We could use your help keeping students up to date on the many resources that exist in this area such as mindfulness workshops, health coaching, drop in counseling sessions, stress management support groups, etc.

Lisa Schrader, 6/11/2021
Unfortunately, current state law and policies of the state historical commission do not permit us to undertake even a temporary re-naming of the building.

I would urge you to review the complete history of our work on this issue, which you can find at https://www.mtsu.edu/forresthall/updates.php While President McPhee and I both continue to believe that renaming Forrest Hall is the right thing to do, we must take that action within the requirements of current laws within the state of Tennessee.

Debra Sells, 3/26/2021
In accordance with SGA Resolution 7-21-S, the Schardt Lot was officially changed to Residential Parking (RED) at the beginning of the Fall 2021 Semester. It was too late to have it changed on the campus map, but it is signed and has been enforced accordingly since August.

Ron Malone, 10/21/2021
If the SGA provides me a draft, I will be happy to include a statement about the SGA and its functions in the Suggested Syllabus Statements section in the MTSU Faculty Handbook.

However, I do not support requiring the inclusion of such information in all syllabi. Determining the contents of course syllabi is the responsibility of the faculty members teaching the classes. According to long-standing academic practice both at MTSU and nationally, the University administration does not dictate the contents of syllabi.

Mark Byrnes, 5/28/2021
RESOLUTION 9-21-S

No official response form VP IT; has been reached out to further information.

SGA Resolution 9-21-S

A Resolution to Implement a Panic Button into the MTSU Phone Application

Whereas: The remote parking lots lack significant security closed circuit television (CCTV) systems, and regular police presence.

Whereas: There are many users on the MTSU Phone application.

Whereas: The usage of phone applications is becoming more prevalent as technology adapts to needs of society.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 83rd CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: The Information Technology Department of MTSU shall create and implement a “panic button” for the MTSU phone application which shall connect the application user to a Safety Dispatcher of the MTSU Campus Police Department by means of audio communication as well as sharing the user’s phone location with the Safety Dispatcher. Campus Police will be dispatched to the users’ location, should the need arise. This will create a sense of safety for students, as well as faculty and administration.

Section 2: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon favorable passage by the Student Government Association.

Sponsor: Senator Marvin Miller, (Veteran Senator)
I have received and reviewed SGA Resolution 12-21-S – A Resolution to Allow Students to Vote in Person on Election Day and Super Tuesday Primaries by Scheduling Both Days as University Holidays. I want to thank you for the SGA’s interest in increasing the voting by our students in elections. The University currently has 13 holidays within a calendar year. Many of these coincide with holidays of the State of Tennessee as MTSU is a public university. However, there are some differences between the State and MTSU holiday schedules that have resulted from changes over the years by the University. We have been allowed to make these changes in the holiday schedule but not add to the number of holidays each year. The addition of these holidays would mean that other holidays would have to be given up.

We will continue to monitor any flexibility in the holiday schedule allowed as a public university for future additions to the schedule. We will also continue to promote and assist with getting our students to election polling places as we did this past year by providing round trip transportation on our shuttle buses.

Alan Thomas, 5/12/2021
University President addressed Resolution 13-21-S. Dr. McPhee addressed concerns and hinted at future action to be taken by the University's consul.
Clerical error; No official response from VP IT; has been reached out to further information.

SGA Resolution 14-21-S

A Resolution to Implement a Button for the Student Government Association Senator Suggestion Box on the MTSU Mobile App

Whereas: Students currently have limited knowledge, exposure, and access to the senator representatives of their college.

Whereas: SGA does not have an official and specific manner for students to offer their concerns and suggestions to the senators of their college.

Whereas: SGA Senators are public servants who are put in office to serve the needs of the students they represent.

Whereas: The MTSU website currently lists the MTSU emails of senators in each college, and has a general SGA contact box, but it does not have a form for student complaints/suggestions about their college for their SGA senator(s).

Whereas: A volunteer-based suggestion box would provide additional virtual volunteer hours for senators to meet the SGA senate volunteer hour requirements.
RESOLUTION 15-21-S

In my review of this resolution, it appears that the goal of the sponsors is to provide notification to students within the first four hours following the issuance of a Parking Services citation. The preferred notification method is identified as a text message, since student's phone numbers are linked to their Pipeline accounts, through which they can pay their fines.

Please know that for accuracy’s sake our system does not immediately access the MTSU Banner system, and therefore, unable to provide an immediate link to the student’s Pipeline accounts and cell phone numbers. All citations are downloaded and confirmed at the conclusion of the ticket writer’s shift and then uploaded into Banner during their overnight batch process. The earliest notification our system can possibly provide would be an e-mail the following day.

Since the second day, the student would have already received a citation notice on their car and the ticket information posted and accessible, on their Banner and Pipeline account, Parking & Transportation cannot address the need identified within this resolution.

Ron Malone, 5/7/2021
The university has been investigating the way to provide for the use of preferred name for some time. All of the directors in enrollment management are in favor. The resolution points to the Registrar as the person who should be responsible, however, the Registrar would be using legal names only.

Academic Affairs and ITD are working on a solution currently as outlined in the attached newsletter from the Provost’s office.

Laurie Witherow, 5/19/2021
84TH CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION