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The ABCs of SGA:
Or 'Committee Work at Its Best'

Virginia J. H. Cain

{First presented in a longer form at the 1988 spring SGA meeting in Athens, Georgia, 8 April 1988. Special thanks to Jane Powers Weldon for editing the text.}

A

Every committee is *Appointed* by the board;
it needs *Active* members so it can *Act* as an *Advocate*.

B

A committee may be provided for in an organization's *Bylaws*.
In SGA, *Both* chair and members serve *By* appointment; they all
have a *Big* job.

C

Every committee needs a *Charge* and *Commitment* and
Communication among members and the whole organization.

D

A committee makes *Decisions* and needs a *Dedicated* chairman
who can *Delegate*.

E

Serving on a committee requires *Energy* ; the *Experience* is *Educational*. Most committee work does finally reach a definite *End*.

F

Though members don't get paid, committee work isn't *Free*. Members sometimes have *Fun* and love the word "*Final*" when paired with "report".

G

Going to other people or other sources during the information-*Gathering* phase is a *Great* way to *Get* to know other SGA members and repositories.

H

Knowing *How* to do their work *Helps* prevent committee *Horror* stories so that committee service is an *Honor*.

I

Committees should not be *Inactive*: *Involvement* and *Interaction* produce good committee *Information*.

J

A committee and its members must *Jump* right in and believe that late-night work is *Jolly*.

K

Knowledge of all *Kinds* of facts and figures helps a committee produce a pleasing *Kaleidoscope* of a report.

L

Every committee needs a *Leader* and welcomes a certain amount of good *Luck*.

M

Committees help a group *Maintain* status, *Motivate* its *Members*, and *Move* to be effective. Completing a committee assignment should not require a *Miracle*.

N

Good committees work with *Nice* people and produce *New* ideas to report to the *Newsletter*.

O

Good committees work by an *Order* or plan. A committee is a great vehicle for *Outreach* to other *Organizations*.

P

SGA members who *Participate* in committee work need *Purpose*, *Priorities*, and *Plans*.

Q

A committee answers *Questions* and needs a *Quiet* place to meet.

It may feel its work is as difficult as the *Quest* for the Holy Grail!

R

Members must give and *Receive Respect* so that the organization gets a *Return* on their work. All committees must deal with *Reality* as well as ideals and goals.

S

A *Strong* committee can contribute to the *Stability* of an organization. The *Size* of the committee is important to its *Success*.

T

Every committee must *Try* its hardest, even when things are *Toughest*. It will get the most accomplished by working *Together*.

U

The work of a successful committee might be *Unbelievable*, the experience of working with a committee might be *Unforgettable*, but we hope that the experience won't be totally *Unnerving*.

V

Committee success thrives on the *Vitality* of the organization and the *Vigor* of individual members, but it keeps chairs and members *Very* busy and the organization *Visible*.

W

It's important to think seriously about *Who* should serve, *Why* their contributions will be useful, *Where* and *When* the committee will meet, and *What* it will report.

X

A committee should strive for *eXcellence*, require *eXpertise* of its members, and know when to make its *eXit*.

Y

SGA needs *Your* ideas for projects and *Your* support. We don't want an invitation to appointment to *Yield* the response "*Yuck*"!

Z

So help us *Zero* in on other groups we might reach and projects we might *Zip* right into, so our whole organization—committees and all—won't lack for *Zest!*

Virginia J. H. Cain is processing archivist in Special Collections, R. W. Woodruff Library, Emory University. She has held a number of SGA offices and served on numerous SGA committees.



Spring Meeting participants enjoy the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton, 13 May 1982. L-R: Kaye L. Minchew, Sheryl Vogt, Myron House, Minnie Clayton, Virginia Cain, and G. David Anderson. Photograph by Glen McAninch.