

**Guide to the  
Women's Student Government Association papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by David Hadley  
Summer 2007**

## **MS-091: Women's Student Government**

(1 box, .27 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1939-1971

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### **Agency Sketch**

The Women's Student Government Association was founded in the 1930's to "enact and enforce rules agreed upon by the officials and students, as well as to carry on general business concerning the student body." (From the W.S.G.A. Constitution) The Women's Student Government Council, the elected board for the organization, oversaw regulations concerning the living condition for female students at Gettysburg College; specifically the hours that women students had to be in their dormitory, procedures for signing in and out during the evening hours and for arranging overnights, restrictions on male visitation, procedure for selecting rooms, proper attire for certain occasions, penalties for infractions, and to serve in judgment of those accused. In late 1968, the Women's Student Government proposed that all coeds except first-semester freshmen be allowed to regulate their own hours. In February 1969, 269 women signed a statement that "Gettysburg College discriminates against women." (From *A Salutary Influence*, pg. 1005) The Administration's counter-offer of giving second semester senior women the right to regulate their hours with parental permission did not appease them. Eventually, the female students would be freed from the regulations that had applied to them but not to the male student. By 1973, the Women's Student Government Association ceased to exist.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection was culled together from several disparate sources. The Vertical File Manuscript Collection provided the early Constitution of the Women's Student Government Association, a Record Book containing minutes from the late 1940's to early 1950's, and some early correspondence. The remainder of the collection consists of minutes from 1965 to 1971, with gaps in between, and documents pertaining to the activities and actions of the Women's Student Government Council from the files of the Dean of Women. This collection would be most useful to a researcher interested in how Gettysburg College fulfilled its *in loco parentis* obligation to women students during the decades of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. There are a few items pertaining to the women's interaction with campus men, but on the whole, the collection is focused on the year-to-year operation of the organization itself, not on events or factors outside of the organization.

## **Series Description**

The Women's Student Government Association collection is divided into six series by type of document: Series I: minutes; Series II: documents pertaining to the governing of the Association, such as the constitution and revision to rules; Series III: documents pertaining to the judiciary system of the Association; Series IV: housing documents; Series V: event announcements; Series VI: correspondence.

### **Box I**

#### **Series I: Minutes**

- 1/1: Women's Student Government Council Meeting Minutes- February 2, 1948 to March 10, 1952 (Removed from VFM-265)
- 1/2: 1965 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/3: 1966 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/4: 1967 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/5: 1968 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/6: 1969 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/7: 1970 Women's Student Government Minutes
- 1/8: 1971 Women's Student Government Minutes

#### **Series II: Women's Council Constitution and Governing Documents**

- 1/9: Women's Student Government Association Blue Book
- 1/10: Women's Student Government Council Objectives
- 1/11: 1939-40 Women's Student Government Constitution (Removed from VFM-266)
- 1/12: 1940-41 Women's Student Government Constitution (Removed from VFM-266)
- 1/13: 1941-42 Women's Student Council Meeting (Removed from VFM-266)
- 1/14: Women's Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws
- 1/15: Constitution of Women's Student Government Association
- 1/16: Memo to Women's Student Government Council Members Concerning Revision Project (two copies); Revision to Rules
- 1/17: House Council Establishment (two Copies)
- 1/18: Women's Student Government Operating Budget, May 1970
- 1/19: Petitions and Ballots for Women's Student Government Officers

#### **Series III: Women's Student Government Judiciary-related Documents**

- 1/20: Women's Student Government Judicial System
- 1/21: Women's Honor Board (Revised Women's Student Government Penalty Procedure) (two copies)
- 1/22: Women's Student Government Regulations and Procedures for Senior Women (three copies, two from 12/3/65, one date unknown)

1/23: Rules for Groups of or Individual Girl's Campus (5/13/66); and Women's Student Council Violation Form (11/19/66)

**Series IV: Housing Documents**

1/24: Clarifications Concerning Senior Hours; Women's Student Government Permission Request (two Copies); and Women's Student Government Council Special Permission Notice

1/25: Overnight Permission Form for Upperclassmen (6/16/64); Women's Housing Questionnaire

1/26: Gettysburg College Office of the Dean of Women (2/27/70); Results of Off-Campus and Cottage Living Questionnaire (11/5/70); Room Drawing Evaluation (10/27/70)

1/27: Summary of Women's Student Government Questionnaire for Girls Living Off-Campus (5/18/1970); Women's Student Government Petition for Honor Cottages; Application for Permission to Live of Campus (2/27/70)

**Series V: Event Documents**

1/28: Teen Scene at Gettysburg Flyer; Announcement of Small Sister Sibling Weekend (3/15/68); Attendance Form; Evaluation

1/29: Spring 1942 Freshman Class Custom (Removed from VFM-266)

**Series VI: Correspondence**

1/30: March 7, 1941 Letter to Ms. Hartzell from Thomas Kine; March 11, 1941 letter to Mr. Massoth from Josephine Fish (Removed from VFM-266)