

Delegate Roles and Responsibilities

Definitions and Role of the Delegate

A Delegate is a student selected by a local senate to represent that local senate in a voting capacity at the General Assembly of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. This delegate may be a local senate president, vice president, or any other student designated by the local senate.

A Delegate has the responsibility to operate in a truly representative capacity. In order for a delegate to fulfill this representative responsibility, the delegate must keep well informed of their local senate's positions on issues, as well as stay informed on the issues at the state level.

Title 5, §50002 states that, "A Student Senate for the California Community Colleges has been established in conjunction with local associated student organizations so that the community college students of California may have a formal and effective means for participating in the formation of state policies that have or may have a significant impact on students," and that "The Board of Governors recognizes the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges as the representative of community college-associated student organizations before the Board of Governors and the Chancellor's Office." The Delegate, therefore, represents the local senate's recommendations on matters that have or will have a significant effect on students at the system wide level, giving direction through the resolution process to the Student Senate Council of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

Serving in a representative capacity, the Delegate has numerous responsibilities that occur before, during, and after each General Assembly.

Before the Assembly:

1. Become familiar with the structure, purpose and history of the Student Senate.
2. Attend regional meetings to gain early information on statewide issues that will be addressed at the General Assembly.
3. Review pre-session materials and encourage students with subject matter expertise/responsibility to attend.
4. Discuss the issues with your local senate to identify student positions. Such positions may take the form of resolutions to be presented at the General Assembly.
5. Study, distribute and discuss pre-session resolutions with your local senate to receive direction prior to the General Assembly.
6. Attend your regional meetings representing the positions of your local senate and carrying forward local senate resolutions for the General Assembly.

During The Assembly:

1. Review documents in the session packet, e.g., pre-session resolutions, etc.
2. Network with colleagues, attending the Assembly for additional information and perspectives on issues.
3. Attend breakouts and divide up your college delegation among breakouts you cannot attend.
4. Participate in regional meeting/resolution writing sessions.
5. Write and sponsor resolutions based on discussions/issues in breakouts.
6. Sponsor and carry resolutions sent by your local senate to the assembly.
7. Represent the position of your local senate during the resolution debate and voting session on the last day of the General Assembly.

8. Vote for Student Senate Council members as defined in the Elections Procedures.

After the Assembly:

1. Report the results of the General Assembly back to your local senate.
2. Distribute appropriate information among the campus community.
3. Maintain contact with your Regional Senators and with other senate presidents in your region to remain current on state-wide issues and brainstorm local issues.
4. Continue to inform the local senate in preparation for the next General Assembly.

Tips For the Delegate

At the General Assembly it is important to focus your energies and become as informed on the issues as possible. The following is a list of tips for effective delegates:

1. Spread Your Team Around.

If more than one member from your college attends the Assembly, review the schedule of breakouts and prioritize the issues and challenges that your college has struggled to solve.

2. Get to Know Your Colleagues.

From discussions with other attendees, you may learn of senates that are working on similar issues and challenges that your college has struggled to solve. Schedule time to network during the Assembly.

3. Use Your State Representatives.

Your representatives on the Student Senate Council are ready to help you. Council members can be identified by their unique ribbons and a conversation with any one of them may provide you with needed information.

4. Attend the Delegate Orientation.

This orientation is provided at every General Assembly (usually in the pre-session) to review the process of the Assembly and to address questions delegates may have.

In order to be an effective delegate it is important to maintain contact with your statewide Student Senate representatives, your region colleagues, and to participate in region meetings every month.

Resolution Process

As a delegate you may write, propose, second and vote on resolutions presented at the General Assembly. Please refer to the Resolution Procedures in this packet for the description of the resolution process.