

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR INFORMATION PACKET

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STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES 1102 Q

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Getting Started

Brief History of the SSSCC

The first organization to represent California Community College students state wide was the California Community College Student Government Association (CCCSGA). They were around from the late 1960's to the early 1970's. They were an effective voice but question social values and authority.

In 1987 the Forum on Student Representation was held in Sacramento, California. The end result of this forum was a document outlining proposals for guidelines pertaining to student representation in governance and the process of policy making at the local, district and state levels. At the CCCSAA conference in 1987 the California Student Association of Community Colleges (CALSACC) was ratified. CALSACC was afforded the responsibility to nominate the BOG student representatives. CALSACC was responsible for several key pieces of legislation AB1725 – California Community College Reform Act, Mandating Shared Governance, Council of Student Body Government (CSBG) and eventually the Student Senate.

In 1988 CALSACC and CCCSAA dissolve their relationship and the California Community Colleges League (the League) enters into an agreement where the League will act as CALSACC's fiscal agent.

In 1991 CALSACC and the Chancellor's Office (CO) enter into an MOU. CALSACC and CCCSAA reestablished ties.

In 2000 participation in CALSACC had dropped to an all time low with only 27 colleges and 5 regions being active participants in the organization. In the later part of 2000 a "Student Senate Task Force" was created by the "CO". Members of the taskforce included representatives from CALSACC, the CO, CSCO, Academic Senate, CCCSAA and the Board of Governors (BOG).

In May 2005 Chancellor Mark Drummond dissolves the MOU the CO held with CALSACC. In October the Student Senate Task Force convened a Student Body Presidential Summit with an invitation to create the first Student Senate's Structure. At this summit representatives were elected for all 10 regions of the state. A model based off of the Academic Senate's structure was selected. In May 2006 the previous iteration of our consideration was ratified.

Between 2011 and 2012 the Student Senate adopted a new mission statement and a new vision statement.

In recent years the Senate has moved from a "senator" based representation model to a Board of Directors model.

In the 2017-18 cycle we gained our independent 501(c)3 status and have since entered into an agreement with the Foundation for California Community Colleges (the Foundation) to act as our fiscal agent. In 2019 we eliminated the system affairs director position and moved to implement AB1504 which would provide us with a more sustainable funding model.

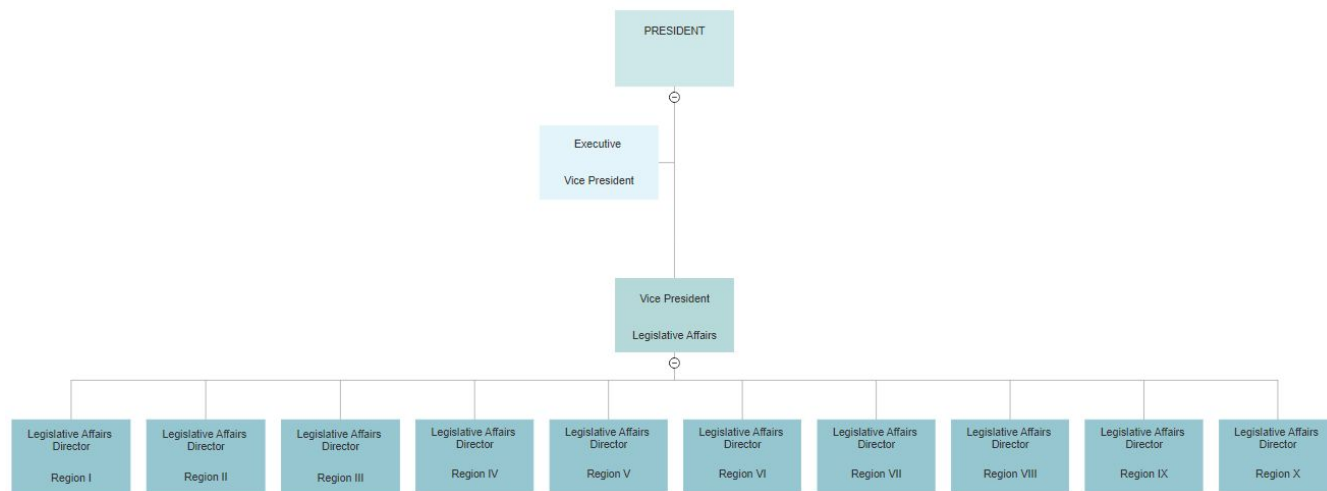
What is the SSSCC

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges works to promote and safeguard access for current and future students to California public higher education in accordance with the Master Plan for

Higher Education through system participatory governance, legislative and policy advocacy, and regional support and development.

Reporting Structure

While Legislative Affairs Directors (LADs) report to the Vice President of Legislative Affairs (VPLA), they ultimately report to both the Board of Directors (BOD) and their Regions. See the following organizational chart for Legislative Affairs Committee for more information.



Governing Documents

The Legislative Affairs Directors are responsible for knowing both their regional bylaws as well as the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Senate as well as any additional governing documents that have been adopted by the Board of Directors or the Delegate Assembly. The governing documents for the SSSCC are located on the SSSCC website as well as the master drive. The SSSCC governing documents can be found [HERE](#).

Roles & Responsibilities

The Senate is recognized by the California State Legislature, Office of the Governor, California Student Aid Commission, and other state agencies as the official voice of students in legislative and policy advocacy. The Senate shall maintain legislative and policy advocacy as one of its mission's three pillars of engagement and act through Legislative Affairs Directors from each Region to facilitate the involvement of students in the same. -SSCC Constitution

State Wide

In the state-wide aspect of legislative advocacy, Legislative Affairs Directors are responsible for making legislative visits to both capitol and district offices of state senators and state assemblymen. In these legislative visits Legislative Affairs Directors are expected to conduct themselves professionally and

accurately relay the student senate's position on key pieces of legislation and explain to legislators and their staffers how these pieces of legislation will affect their constituents.

Further LADs are required to attend meetings of both the Board of Directors and the Legislative Affairs Committee. If for some reason you are unable to attend these meetings you are expected to communicate this to the VP of Legislative Affairs and the EVP or President to be excused from the meeting. You should communicate planned absences as soon as you are aware you will be unable to attend a meeting.

In addition to serving on the Legislative Affairs Committee LADs are required to serve on one more internal operating committee, these committees include the Rules & Resolutions committee, the Events Committee, and Equitable Practices Committee.

Regional

From a regional standpoint the LADs are expected to be responsible for the participation of their region in legislative and policy advocacy. Further they are responsible for serving as the regional point of contact for the SSCCC's legislative activity. The LADs are also expected to lead local advocacy efforts and increase participation of local ASOs in regional legislative activities.

Basics of California Legislation

The California State Legislature is a bicameral legislature consisting of a lower house, the California State Assembly, with 80 members; and an upper house, the California State Senate, with 40 members. Both houses of the Legislature convene at the California State Capitol in Sacramento, California. The Democratic Party currently holds super majorities in both houses of the state legislature. Except for a short time period in 1995 to 1996 the state legislature has been in Democratic hands since 1970,

State Assembly

The California State Assembly is the lower house of the state legislature. The Assembly consists of 80 members with each representing approximately 465,000 people. Members of the State Assembly are referred to as Assemblymen (male), Assemblywoman (female), or Assemblymember (gender-neutral).

Every two years, all 80 seats in the Assembly are subject to election. The meeting chamber and Assembly offices tend to be decorated in the color green. Assembly bills are prefaced with "AB" for Assembly Bill.

The process for Assembly Bills are that they are first introduced to the floor and referred to their first policy committee from there they will have changes made and are either sent to their second policy committee or their first fiscal committee. After that the bill is sent to the Assembly Floor for a floor vote. If the bill is adopted on the floor it is then sent to the State Senate where it repeats the process the bill went through in the state Assembly. If it passes in the senate the bill is then sent for the Governor's signature where they can either sign the bill into law or veto the bill.

State Senate

The California State Senate is the upper house of the state legislature. Each of the 40 state senators represents approximately 931,349 people. The Lieutenant Governor is the ex officio President of the Senate and may only cast a vote to break a tie. The President pro tempore is elected by the majority

party caucus, followed by confirmation of the full senate. Members of the state senate serve 4 year terms.

The process for Senate Bills is the exact same as the assembly. Please review that section for the process of how a Senate Bill (SB) becomes law.

The Governor's Office

The Governor of California is the head of the government for the State of California. The Governor of California serves as the chief executive of the state government and the commander-in-chief of the California National guard and the California State Military Reserve. Established in the California State Constitution the Governor is responsible for the State of the State address to the Legislature, submitting the state budget, and ensuring that state laws are enforced. The Governor is elected by popular ballot and serves four-year terms with a term limit of two terms.

In regards to legislation the Governor has the ability to veto a bill, and also has a more unique ability known as the "line item veto" meaning the Governor has the ability to veto "lines" or "sections" of a bill while leaving the rest of the bill intact.

The Budget

The state budget has three critical points, the Governor's Proposed Budget, the May Revision and the Enacted Budget. The Governor's Proposed Budget is put forward in January. In May the Governor updates their proposed budget based on economic forecasts and in the Summer (June/July) the budget is enacted by the state legislature. Details on the state budget and past budgets can be found here:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/home.php>

Meetings

A large portion of the duties of the members of the Board of Directors is attending meetings. These meetings range widely from Board of Directors meetings, to General Assembly, Regional Meetings, Legislative Affairs Committee Meetings (both state and regional), and occasionally participatory (shared) governance meetings.

Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors meets once a month in Sacramento or occasionally via phone. The board is empowered to act on behalf of the Delegate Assembly in between meetings of the Delegate Assembly. Typically the LADS and Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) are responsible for bringing legislative updates and suggested stances to the BOD. LADS are expected to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.

General Assembly (GA)

During General Assembly Legislative Affairs Directors are expected to assist with setup, cleanup, and ensuring the event runs smoothly. LADs should follow the posted duty rosters for General Assembly and follow the directions of the events chair and events vice chair. The Legislative Affairs Committee is also responsible for drafting and presenting the General Assembly Legislative Update as well as hosting a Legislative Affairs Round Table at GA. LADS are expected to attend the General Assembly.

Regional Meetings

Legislative Affairs Directors are required to attend their Regional Meetings and report out to their regions the activities of the Board of Directors and the Legislative Affairs Committee. LADs should also provide routine legislative updates to their regions. It is suggested that Legislative Affairs Directors send out a newsletter of some type to their regions.

Legislative Affairs Committee (SSCCC)

Legislative Affairs Committee meetings are where the Legislative Affairs Director, the VP of Legislative Affairs, President and Executive Vice President meet to discuss matters pertaining to legislation and policy. The Legislative Affairs Committee puts forward proposed stances on legislation to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Legislative Affairs Committee (Regional)

Regionally Legislative Affairs Directors act as the Chair of their regional committee. The committee should discuss pending legislation, ideas for legislation and items that have been disposed to the statewide Legislative Affairs Committee.

Resolutions

The Legislative Affairs Committee is assigned resolutions by the Rules & Resolutions Committee. Individual Legislative Directors may be assigned resolutions to work on and keep track of. If assigned a resolution to track and work on directors should routinely update the legislative affairs committee and the VP of Legislative Affairs.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VNAgX-Vlt3xC3pCLa5IUejl_IySBsiD38qE9AE69Xg/edit?usp=s_haring

Resources

Master Drive

The Master Drive holds all of the Student Senate's records. It can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/0B92kx_RHkucBY0laY0hubUVjSDA

Leg-Info

Leg-info is a website published by the State Legislature to provide information on past and present bills as well as California State Laws. It can be accessed here: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

