

Student Senate for California Community Colleges

Supporting Student Leaders:

What Classified
Professionals Need to Know



Agenda

01. Who We Are?

02. SBA and You

03. Shared Governance

04. Collaboration

05. Activity

06. Discussion

07. Key Takeaways

08. Q&A

Nice To Meet You!



**Dr. Julie
Adams**

Executive Director



**Sage
Beamon**

Engagement &
Development Manager

Let's Get To Know Everyone!

Name and College of Employment

What is your role and how do you work with students at your campus?

What is your favorite part about working at a community college?





Who We Are?

Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that represents all 2 million students in California community colleges.

Our Vision

The guiding vision of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is to communicate a unified student perspective to relevant constituent groups and elected officials in all matters directly affecting all California community college students.

Our Mission

To enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students by pursuing policies that will improve student access and success while engaging and empowering local student leaders, as well as honoring equity and diversity.

Our Pillars.

- **System Participatory Governance**
 - Provide recommendations on policy decisions that impact students
 - Appoint students to over 30 participatory governance groups
- **Legislative and Policy Advocacy**
 - Introduce, sponsor, and advocate for legislative measures
 - Act as the collective voice of students at the capitol
- **Regional Support**
 - Provide resources, training, and support to SBAs
 - Engage students in conversations about current issues
 - Empower students through policy development, issue discussion, and other venues





Understanding The Student Body Association



How Student Body Associations Function

Student Body Associations are officially recognized student governments that represent the interests of students in campus decision-making, advocacy, and governance. Their structure and authority are grounded in California law and local district policy.

The main purpose is to participate in the college's governance, as stated in **Education Code 76060**.

How They Function

Student body associations generally exist to:

- Represent all student interests
- Advocate for student needs and equity
- Provide student input on campus decisions

Participatory Governance (9+1 Student Rights)

Students are legally entitled to participate in decisions involving:

- Student services
- Fees
- Campus policies affecting students
- Educational planning
- Equity initiatives

Shared Governance: Where Students Participate

Student Body Association

This group serves as the official voice of the students on your campus.

Board of Trustees

Most districts have a student board member who can participate in discussions and cast advisory votes.

Governance Committees (9+1 Student Rights):

Campus-wide committees cover budget, planning, equity, and accreditation. Students have formal representation on all of them.



9+1 Rights

01 Grading Policies

02 Codes of student conduct

03 Academic disciplinary policies

04 Curriculum development

05 Courses or programs which should be initiated or discontinued

06 Processes for institutional planning and budget development

07 Standards and policies regarding student preparation and success

08 Student services planning and development

09 Student fees within the authority of the district to adopt

+1 ...and any other district or college policy, procedure, or related matter that the district governing board (aka the Board of Trustees) determines will have a significant effect on students.

HOW DOES STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIFFER FROM CLUBS?

Governance

Most districts have a student board member who can participate in discussions and sometimes cast advisory votes.

Leaders of the Campus

This group serves as the official voice of the students on your campus.



Representing Students

Students and the Academic Senate often work in joint sessions on curriculum matters and student success initiatives.

Advocating

These campus-wide committees cover budget, planning, equity, and accreditation. Students have formal representation on all of them.



How All Classified Staff Can Support

Even staff that do not directly work with the Student Body Association can have an impact and role to play in their success.

ENGAGE

- Make sure student voice is at the table!
- Get to know the SBA and ensure they know how you/your department function.
- Invite them to events/opportunities you think the SBA would benefit from attending! (Give access to more student perspective!)

SUPPORT

- Offer to serve as a mentor for SBA students!
- Inform other students about the true role of the SBA and urge them to get involved!
- Support the initiatives the SBA has and invite them



When Working Directly With Student Governments

In The Room: Collaboration Is Key

Best Practices:

- Set clear expectations early
- Explain processes and timelines
- Avoid institutional jargon
- Follow through consistently
- Communicate proactively
- Treat students as partners



**Collaboration
Works Best
With
Transparency &
Respect**

Supporting Without Overstepping

Effective Support Looks Like:

- Coaching, not controlling
- Providing guidance without taking over
- Encouraging accountability
- Respecting student autonomy
- Helping students understand institutional systems



**YOUR
GOAL IS
TO
EMPOWER
STUDENTS
TO LEAD!**



When Challenges Arise

Common Challenges

- Communication gaps
- Leadership transitions
- Confusion about roles
- Conflict or frustration
- Competing priorities



Helpful Approaches

- Clarify expectations
- Focus on solutions
- Lead with patience and professionalism
- Re-center shared goals
- Follow up and give reminders



ACTIVITY:

Campus Partner Strategy Lab

Campus Partner Strategy Lab

Reflect

- How classified professionals currently interact with student leaders
- Where collaboration is working well
- Common communication gaps, misunderstandings, or recurring challenges
- What student leaders may need more support with

Improve

Identify two things to improve your working relationship with the campus Student Body Association

Strategize & Share

What are two tangible action items you can take when you return to your campus to make those improvements listed above?





Key Reminders

- Student governments are governance partners
- Student voice matters in institutional decision-making
- Classified professionals are essential support systems
- Strong collaboration improves campus outcomes
- Communication and clarity build trust

Student Senate for California Community Colleges

Thank You



Stay In Touch with the SSCCC!

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