

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Policy # 2.005

Title: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SGA

Authority: Board Action	Original Adoption:	11/14/2012
	Effective Date:	11/14/2012
	Last Revision:	Initial

Background

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System recognizes that student organizations play a significant role in the education of students at the campus level. The LCTCS affirms the right of all students to join and participate in meetings of registered student organizations, including Student Government Association. Therefore, each community and technical college campus shall allow and promote student organizations. More specifically, the Board encourages the establishment of an SGA within each LCTCS college.

Types of Organizations

The college or campus may recognize the following types of student organizations:

1. Honor, Leadership, and Recognition Societies
2. Divisional Organizations and Recognition Societies
3. Political Organizations
4. Governmental Organizations
5. Specialty Organizations (religious, athletic, military, occupational/trade etc.)

Registration of Student Organizations

The registration of a student organization, including SGA is at the discretion of the college or campus and is dependent upon the successful completion of all required registration criteria. Colleges may set forth specific criteria for recognition as an official student organization. Such criteria shall be put forth in writing and must be standard for all student organizations on the college campus.

Membership

Membership in student organizations shall be limited to students, faculty, and staff of the college except for Honor, Leadership, and Recognition Societies that may include other persons as provided for in their national constitutions.

Advisors

Supervision of student organizations, including SGA shall be the responsibility of the Chief Student Affairs Officer, Campus Dean, or authorized designee. Each student organization must have an advisor who is a member of the faculty or staff of the college or campus. The responsibilities of the advisor are as follows:

1. Provide support and guidance to the organization in order to ensure that the purpose of the organization is being fulfilled.
2. Offer counsel and advice on the roles and responsibilities of the organization.
3. Attend regular and special meetings and events of the organization.

Requisitions for Equipment, Supplies and Operating Services

All student organization purchases must follow the Purchasing Procedures established by the respective college/campus. Requests for equipment, supplies, and operating services such as dues, subscriptions, rentals etc. must be submitted to the Controller/Accounting Office. The requests must be submitted on the College's requisition form, signed by the Student Organization President or Treasurer, and approved by the Student Organization advisor and the Chief Student Affairs Officer or Campus Administrator for the college/campus. Any documentation showing approval for the expenditure must be attached and kept on file in the respective Student Organization advisor office.

Policies Specific to the Student Government Association

SGA is recognized as the student governing body of each campus or college. The SGA shall operate under a constitution approved by the student government association and chancellor/director.

Credit-Hour Requirement

The position Student Government Association President requires that in order to be eligible to serve as Community College President a student must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and must maintain satisfactory academic progress. To serve as a Technical College President a student must carry a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester and must maintain satisfactory academic progress. At no time shall the President carry fewer than the designated hours.

Adequate Work Environment

Communication between the administration and Student Government Association is very important, and it is imperative that each campus/college provide an adequate and stable office environment for the association.

The following are the minimum mandated requirements for all SGAs in the LCTCS:

1. Assigned office space, which is defined as an office or cubicle.

2. A minimum of one computer with email and internet capability.
3. A separate phone line.
4. Access to office supplies (may be charged to the SGA budget).
5. Access to photocopier and fax machines.

Financial Matters

A college/campus is authorized to collect SGA fees and to maintain them in a separate account. Any college/campus without a student activity fee must coordinate a formal referendum to allow students the opportunity to vote on the assessment of activity fees. An affirmative vote of the student body for a student activity fee must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The SGA executive board must establish a budget approved by the SGA Senate and SGA Advisor each academic year. In cases where the SGA advisor is not the Chief Student Affairs Officer/Campus Administrator the budget must be approved by that individual as well. Funds may be expended from an SGA account by authorization of a legally-constituted officer of an SGA with co-approval of a college's chief student personnel officers/campus administrators or his/her official designee. SGA officers shall have access to monthly budget reports including monthly balance reporting.

At the end of each fiscal year, all unexpended monies will revert to a Reserve fund.

SGA Equipment

All property procured by or assigned to the SGA is property of the college/campus and will be tagged with a State of Louisiana identification tag and included in the College's master inventory file, in accordance with the College's Management and Control of State Property policy.

Before the end of each spring semester, the SGA advisor will obtain from the College's Property Control Officer the official list of all property assigned to that SGA Office. The incoming SGA President, under the supervision of the SGA Advisor will conduct a physical inventory of all property assigned to the SGA Office. Upon verification of the SGA inventory, the outgoing SGA President will be relieved of responsibility for this property. This shall include any keys issued to SGA executive board members.

Tuition Waivers and Wages for SGA Officers

A tuition waiver and/or salary may be provided to the president, vice president, treasurer, and/or secretary with specified office duties and office hours to be supervised by the SGA advisor and/or the chief student affairs officer/campus administrator of the college/campus. Each institution shall develop policies and procedures related to tuition waivers and/or salaries provided to the SGA executive officers listed above.

1. Tuition Waivers: A waiver of tuition, exclusive of student assessed fees, shall be granted by the college/campus under the jurisdiction of the Board to the SGA executive officers of those colleges not to exceed the value of four full-time equivalent values (LCTCS Policy # 2.0009 Scholarships) of tuition, exclusive of student self-assessed fees (i.e. Fall, Spring, Summer).

Each institution shall publish the SGA executive board positions eligible for the tuition waiver. The waiver of tuition shall remain in effect for the duration of the respective terms of office. Out-of-state tuition may be waived if deemed appropriate for the SGA President only.

2. Salaries: A salary may be paid, with SGA derived funds to the president, vice president, treasurer and/or secretary if adequate resources are available. If resources are available through student activity fees and a salary is to be paid, the salary amount shall be determined by the SGA at each institution with the approval of the chief student affairs officer. Salary amounts shall be in alignment with the State of Louisiana's scale for student employees.

Elected SGA officers may be paid for their services at an hourly rate using the following scale:

- 80 hours maximum per month for each member of the executive board.

Each college/campus shall publish guidelines regarding loss/reduction of waiver or salary based on failure to perform duties as outlined in the SGA constitution or failure to fulfill the responsibilities as set forth by the organization, college, or campus.

Representation on College Committees

To provide an avenue for students to connect with institutional decision-making, members of the SGA executive board or senate will be appointed, with voting privileges, to any College/Campus committees deemed by the Chancellor/Director of the College to be appropriate.

COSBP

In order to promote communication among students within the System and the State, students from the four higher education systems established the Council of Student Body President of Louisiana (COSBP).

Representation

Each year, the SGA President/CEO from each college shall represent the institution at COSBP. In cases where multiple student government associations exist within a single college, the college shall coordinate the selection of one representative for the institution. The college/campus shall publish the policies and procedures for the selection of this individual.

Each community college SGA president shall have one vote on the COSPB board. The Louisiana Technical Colleges shall elect one representative for the technical colleges within the system. The student government presidents representing the LTC will collectively have one vote at COSPB (according to COSBP by-laws).

Each institution is responsible for verifying that the SGA President is eligible to serve on COSPB according to the constitution of the SGA, the policies of the LCTCS, and the constitution of COSPB.

Student Board of Supervisors Seat

In an effort to strengthen communication between the Board of Supervisors and the students of its member colleges, the Board formally recognizes and supports the college/campus SGA and in turn has established guidelines for the selection of the LCTCS student board members in accordance with RS 17:1806.

1. LCTCS Student President's Council

The LCTCS Student President's Council shall consist of one SGA president from each of the community and technical colleges in the System. This group shall be charged with electing the Student Board of Supervisors members and will serve as a working group representing the interests of the students attending System colleges.

2. Number of Representatives

There shall be two student members on the Board of Supervisors of the LCTCS. One student member will be elected by the membership of the LCTCS Student President's Council for the community colleges. The other student member will be elected by the membership of the LCTCS Student President's Council for the technical colleges. Both elections will take place under the management and supervision of the System Office and Board of Supervisors.

3. Term of Office

The term of office for both LCTCS student board members shall not exceed one year.

4. Vacancy in Office

A vacancy in office of either student member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the manner as the original appointment was made.

Responsibilities of Student Organizations and Members

Student organizations including SGA are entities of the college/campus and therefore expected to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the college/campus catalog, student handbook, and other college related publications. In addition, student organizations, including their members, visitors and invitees are held to System Standards. Offenses are listed below:

1. Hazing by subjecting college students to unnecessary and excessive abuse, humiliation or physical danger or by committing any action or causing any situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of alcohol or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization.
2. Interference, coercion, or disruption that impedes, impairs, or disrupts the college mission, processes or functions, or interferes with the rights of others on college property, or the rights of registered student organization.
3. Conduct that is disorderly, abusive, drunken, violent or excessively noisy.

4. Discrimination against any person due to race, color, national origin, age marital status, sex, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliation or belief, except when the expressed and legitimate purposes of the organization require limitation as to sex or religion.
5. Knowingly enrolling as an official member or electing, appointing or retaining as an elected or appointed officer or committee chairperson, any student on academic probation or under any disciplinary sanction.
6. Organizing, sponsoring implementation or conducting programs or activities that are disorderly or that are violations of law or college regulations.
7. Distributing obscene matter or knowingly organizing, sponsoring, implementing or conducting programs or activities that contain indecent or obscene behavior.
8. Recurrent financial over-obligation and non-payment of debts financially delinquent to the college.
9. Any violation of college rules or policies that apply to registered student organizations.
10. Any behavior, actions, or activities that would bring public disrespect, contempt, or ridicule upon the LCTCS or College/campus.
11. Any violation of confidentiality with respect to information afforded based on official representation of the LCTCS or affiliated college/campus.

Sanctions

The chief student affairs officer or appropriate system personnel may impose sanctions up to and including refusal or cancellation of student organization recognition and/or membership within any organization.

Right to Appeal

Within 10 days of receipt of notice that an authorized representative has imposed a sanction on an organization or member, the organization or member may appeal the decision in writing to the Executive Vice President of the LCTCS.

The Executive Vice President may grant the appeal, uphold the decision, or modify the sanction. The decision of the Executive Vice President is final.