

Building the

STUDENT VOICE

In 2003, the California Student Association of Community Colleges organized 17,000 students to march on the state capitol to defend higher education funding. Their actions helped to spare system budget cuts and saved students hundreds of dollars in increased fees.

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri successfully lobbied and passed a bill to exempt textbooks from sales tax; collectively, this saves students \$6 million each year.

A Guide to State Student Associations

In 2003, the Oregon Student Association successfully fought to restore \$4 million in funding to the Oregon Opportunity Grant, a need-based grant program that aids thousands of Oregon students.



Student Empowerment
Training Project

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A Guide to State Student Associations



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About the Student Empowerment Training Project

The Student Empowerment Training (SET) Project has a 20-year history working with student government and state student association leaders and is dedicated to the mission of strengthening these institutions so that they may function as effective vehicles for student engagement. The SET Project was started in 1983 by student government presidents attending a national student voter registration conference who decided a permanent institution should exist in order to train student leaders and provide them with effective organizing and advocacy skills. The SET Project offers a wide variety of skills trainings for student government leaders and also trains a broad base of student leaders at national conferences around the country. Additionally, we publish materials and manuals to train and network student leaders, as well as to further enhance their ability to advocate on behalf of their campus constituents.

Project Director: Emily Francis

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Summary of State Student Associations	2
Independent State Student Associations	3
Independent State Student Association Current Staff	15
System Organized State Student Associations	16
Informal State Student Associations	21
States Without a State Student Association	24
Appendixes	
I: State Student Association Member Schools	26
II: Quick Reference Guide to SSA Characteristics	32
III: SSA Contact Information	34
IV: National Resources for SSAs	38
Index	39

Introduction

Each fall, 15 million students start their semester of college with optimism and hopefulness for what the year will bring. Students are looking for academic success as well as personal enrichment and growth. Colleges and universities offer many opportunities for young adults to encounter a marketplace of ideas and new experiences.

However, these college years are not free from challenges. For example, it is becoming increasingly hard to finance a college education. **The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education found that 250,000 students were shut out of higher education in the fall of 2003 because of financial constraints or reductions in admissions.**¹ The College Board found that tuition rates at public 4-year institutions increased 14% between the 2002–2003 and 2003–2004 academic years (from \$4,115 to \$4,694). Over the past ten years tuition and fees have risen 47%, in constant 2003 dollars.²

The maximum Pell grant, the cornerstone of need-based financial aid, covered only 39% of a student's tuition, fees, and room and board costs in 2001. Twenty five years ago, the maximum Pell grant covered 84% of these costs.³ Not only are federal financial aid programs not keeping pace with the increasing costs of higher education, but state funding for higher education is also declining.

For decades, state student associations (SSAs) have been the #1 voice advocating on behalf of students to create a higher education system that is affordable and accessible to all. They not only advocate for lower tuition costs and more financial aid programs, but they also fight for student representation on university governing boards and committees, better student services, a higher quality of education, and students' rights to organize on campuses. State student associations also work to engage students in the political process through higher education policy debates, grassroots organizing, and advocacy efforts.

SSAs have been winning victories and defending students for more than 30 years. Each one has a rich history and many stories to tell. This *Guide to State Student Associations* and its companion report *Building the Student Voice: An Investigation of State Student Associations and Their Ability to Engage Students* are designed to act as a resource for SSAs in a few key ways.

Building the Student Voice: A Guide to State Student Associations is designed to:

- catalog and describe specific SSAs in existence;
- describe campaigns and issues that have been successful in states;
- act as a collective institutional memory for the SSA community; and
- offer current contact information.

This guide also serves as an expanded update to an original guide — *Building the Student Voice: Assessing the Health of Statewide Student Associations* written by the Center for Campus Free Speech and the United States Student Association (USSA) in 1999.

Building the Student Voice: An Investigation of State Student Associations and Their Ability to Engage Students is designed to:

- quantify the level of student engagement that occurs within the SSA community;
- identify SSA trends associated with high and low levels of engagement; and
- make specific recommendations to the SSA community to increase civic engagement.

¹ *Responding to the Crisis in College Opportunity*, The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, 2004.

² *Trends in College Pricing*, The College Board, 2003.

³ *Access Denied*, The Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, 2001.

Summary of State Student Associations

Surveying all fifty states, the Student Empowerment Training Project identified 41 state student associations in 34 states. These SSAs represent more than 6.3 million students around the country at 634 college campuses and manage more than \$4.5 million annually. SSAs employ 47 full-time professional staff to further advance the mission of the associations. SSAs fall into one of three categories:

1. those that are incorporated as a non-profit and are independent of a university system;
2. those that are organized by its university system and therefore, an official part of the university system; and
3. those that are informal networks and not an official part of the university system.

Independent state student associations tend to:

- have an institutionalized student fee. For example, in Minnesota, the two SSAs (MSUSA and MSCSA) have a funding system that is mandated by state statute.
- have full-time professional staff. Some SSAs have a sizable staff; for example, the Oregon Student Association has 10 full-time staff members.
- have a full-time consistent presence in the statehouse. This is a core component of each independent SSA.
- have multiple statewide campaigns or priority issues.

Current Independent SSAs:

- total 13 associations in 11 states;
- represent 1,608,000 students;
- include 152 member campuses;
- employ 42 professional staff; and
- manage \$3,758,000 in annual budgets.

System Organized state student associations tend to:

- be created by an act of the state legislature or the university governing board. For example, the Coalition of Student Leaders is an official coalition within the University of Alaska Board of Regents System Governance Office.
- receive money directly from the university system or expenses are covered by the individual student government.⁵
- meet in conjunction with the university governing board.
- have part-time university system advisors that work with the association.⁶

Current System Organized SSAs:

- total 17 associations in 17 states;
- represent 1,919,765 students;
- include 264 member campuses;
- employ 5 professional staff; and
- manage \$814,241 in annual budgets.

Informal state student associations tend to:

- vary in activity and membership year-to-year based on the interest from individual student body presidents.
- have no full-time staff.
- receive annual dues from individual student governments.

Current Informal SSAs:

- total 11 associations in 11 states;
- represent more than 2,915,000 students;
- include 218 member campuses; and
- employ no professional staff.

⁵ The major exceptions to this are the University of North Carolina Associated Student Government (UNCASG) with a \$1 mandatory fee, the Associated Students of Missouri (ASUM) with a mandatory refundable fee, the CUNY system University Student Senate (USS) with a \$.85 mandatory fee and the North Dakota Student Association which just won the passage of a \$.03 per credit student fee.

⁶ Again the exceptions are UNCASG, ASUM and USS which all employ one or more full-time professional staff.

Independent State Student Associations

Arizona Students' Association www.azstudents.org

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Associate Executive Director	Funding: \$1 per student mandatory refundable fee	Members: represents 105,000 students
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Campaign Victories

Historically, ASA has done a lot to give students in Arizona more of a voice. ASA successfully lobbied the state legislature and governor to place a student regent on the Arizona Board of Regents in 1978. Because of a continued lobbying effort by ASA, the student regent became a permanent position and in 1989 a full voting member. ASA also helped create the Arizona Financial Aid Trust Fund (AFAT) in 1989, which is a need-based grant program funded by a student tuition surcharge and matched by state monies.

Current Programs

- ASA is working to strengthen the Arizona Financial Aid Trust Fund by increasing the amount of state dollars dedicated to the program. ASA is sponsoring a bill in the statehouse to increase the state's matching money, currently set at a one to one ratio.
- ASA is monitoring 40 federal bills related to higher education, such as accessibility, student loans and privacy.
- ASA is participating in a steering committee for the Arizona Community Foundation, the first major state public/private scholarship program.
- ASA awards three annual Community Action Grants to student organizations at its member schools. The grants are up to \$1000 and fund community service projects in the area.
- ASA runs an annual legislative conference for students across the state. The conference provides students with leadership skills, workshops and educational information about issues in higher education.
- ASA coordinates "SAVE"-Students Are Voting Everywhere-regular voter registration and education campaigns to increase the amount of students engaged in the political process. In 2002, ASA registered 15,000 students.

Structure & History

ASA was founded in 1974, has six member campuses and represents 105,000 students. The ASA board of directors is composed of 18 students with voting privileges; six students represent each of the three statewide districts (Central, Northern, Southern). The board meets monthly and is composed of student body presidents from each member school and student body president appointees. The board currently has four committees working on various issues: Tuition, Legislative, Events & Projects, and Bylaws/Policy & Procedure. ASA has two full time professional staff members: executive director and associate executive director. The executive director chairs the regular board meetings and works directly with the associate executive director to manage the day to day advocacy and organizational activities of the association.

When founded in 1974, ASA was the state's second state student association. The first, the Arizona Student Federation, had dissolved in the early 1970s due to a lack of staff and financial resources. When students organized to start a new statewide organization, they raised money by block-booking concert tickets and then through student fee allocations. Early in ASA's history, the Board of Regents' legal counsel challenged the use of student fee dollars for ASA's advocacy purposes. Students successfully questioned the logic of allowing the University to lobby but not students and raised the possibility of legal action to stop this selective enforcement. Because of this dispute, the Regents approved an annual allocation of University dollars to fund ASA until ASA could create a stable funding base. In 1997, students voted to create a \$1 per student mandatory refundable fee, which allows ASA to have a \$270,000 annual budget.

California State Student Association www.csustudents.org

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Government Relations Director, University Affairs Director	Funding: \$.60 per student from student government allocations and \$220,000 from the Chancellor	Members: represents 400,000 students
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Campaign Victories

Since its inception in 1959, the California State Student Association has tirelessly advocated the student perspective. CSSA represents students to California State Universities, the Board of Trustees, state legislators and the governor. Between 1969 and 1979, no piece of legislation dealing with higher education opposed by CSSA became law, and CSSA worked hard to ensure funding for disabled students and the International Studies Program. In the 1980s CSSA fought for students by reducing the State University fee increase. In the 1990s, CSSA adopted the Student Bill of Rights, implemented the state minimum wage for CSU student employees, and stopped the student fee increase for four years in a row.

Current Programs

- CSSA is a member of the “Protect the Future of California, Invest in Higher Education” coalition along with the University of California Student Association and the California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC). The Coalition is working to stop increases in university fees (the equivalent of tuition), protect financial aid and ensure adequate funding of all three college systems.
- CSSA’s Office of Government Relations monitors all state bills related to higher education issues including privacy, fees, and student services issues.
- CSSA’s Lobby Corps trains students from all member campuses how to lobby legislators effectively. CSSA works to have a constant student presence in the statehouse as well as at Board of Trustee meetings.
- CSSA has a Legislative Internship Program where students conduct structured legislative work to the benefit of all CSU students and acquire hands-on political experience.
- CSSA’s Office of University Affairs (OUA) coordinates shared governance and ensures students have a seat at the table on system-wide committees. Additionally OUA participates in collective bargaining between the system and its employees.
- CSSA holds the annual California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) Conference. It draws 200–300 students to discuss higher education issues, engage in skills workshops and briefings, and participate in a statewide lobby day.
- CSSA coordinates voter registration efforts on member campuses. In 2002, it registered more than 36,000 students.

Structure & History

The California State Student Association was founded in 1959 as the Student President’s Association. In 1963 the CSU Board of Trustees recognized it as the official voice of students. The Association began its first coordinated lobbying effort in 1970 when students secured student fees for a full time lobbyist. CSSA assumed its current name in 1979.

CSSA has 21 member campuses within the CSU system and represents 400,000 students. Each member campus has two members on the CSSA board but only one vote per campus. The board members are typically the student body president and an appointee. The board meets every month and has four committees: Executive, Internal Affairs, Legislative Affairs, and University Affairs as well as a Multicultural Caucus. The official voting members of the board make all policy, funding and personnel decisions for the association.

CSSA is funded in two distinct ways. First, member schools contribute \$.60 per student to the association’s budget. Second, CSSA has a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the Chancellor, whereby the Chancellor contributes \$220,000 each year to CSSA activities. CSSA is the only SSA to receive both a structured student fee allocation and system funds for its budget. CSSA has three full time staff positions working out of its Sacramento and Long Beach offices. CSSA recently expanded its staff structure by hiring a field organizer for a short period of time; the field organizer worked directly with student association members on campus based program work.

University of California Student Association www.uca.org

<p>Staff Positions: Executive Director, Legislative Director, Field & Organizing Director, University & Student Fee Affairs Director</p>	<p>Funding: \$1 per student fee allocated by each Associated Students</p>	<p>Members: represents 180,000 students</p>
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Campaign Victories

UCSA has been fighting for access to an affordable education in the University of California system for 33 years. UCSA successfully convinced the University of California system to increase its state budget request for student services. The statewide campaign included postcard drives and personal testimonials regarding the lack of student services; students worked with vice chancellors on each campus, created a report on the state of student services, and placed caution tape in front of programs that were in jeopardy; this included retention centers, counseling centers and health centers. UCSA won an increase in the university system’s budget, \$5 million each year over the next 4 years.

Most recently, UCSA helped to defeat Proposition 54, Classification by Race, Ethnicity or National Origin (CRENO), which would have eliminated the collection of racial and ethnic data in most state agencies including the UC system. Students ran highly visible "No on 54" campaigns on campus leading up to the vote, ultimately defeating the proposition in November 2003.

Current Programs

- Each year the UCSA board chooses three important and timely student issues to prioritize and around which to develop strategic campaign plans. The action agenda for 2003–2004 includes the following programs:
 1. campus environmental sustainability
 2. protecting education and freezing the fees
 3. student outreach
- UCSA is actively involved in actions taken by the University of California Office of the President and the Regents to ensure decisions are in the best interests of students. UCSA regularly participates in Regent meetings and, as the voice of UC students, is officially designated four representatives.
- UCSA coordinates voter registration drives on its member campuses. In 2002, UCSA registered 25,000 students.
- UCSA is a third party participant in collective bargaining negotiations between the University of California and its employees. Students are, obviously, affected by negotiation outcomes and therefore, benefit by having UCSA at the table.

Structure & History

UCSA started its history as the Student Body Presidents’ Council (SBPC), which sought to voice concerns of students to university administrators, the Regents, and the state legislature. In 1971, SBPC created the UC Student Lobby to have a full time presence in the capital and influence the decisions that affected students. During these early years, the Student Lobby began to gain tremendous momentum and influence statewide budget and higher education issues. In 1985 the UC Student Lobby officially changed its name to the University of California Student Association.

UCSA represents 180,000 students at nine UC campuses. Each UC member school has two seats on the UCSA board — one graduate and one undergraduate seat — totaling 18 directors. This is a unique feature of UCSA; most SSAs officially represent undergraduates only. A representative from each member school, typically the External Affairs Vice President, sits on the UCSA board. Leaders from the association meet every month to discuss UCSA’s action plan, coordinate statewide campaigns, and conduct official business. There are four standing committees of the board: Campus Action, Legislative, Media, and University Policy. The UC Student Congress is held every July to determine the action items for the coming year. Representation at the Student Congress is proportional to the student population at each member campus; the number of votes range from two to ten. In addition to running statewide campaigns, UCSA is a member of the United States Student Association based in Washington, D.C. and participates in federal legislative campaigns. UCSA is funded by a \$1 per student fee from member schools; this fee is allocated through the associated student budget, giving UCSA approximately \$289,000 a year. Four full-time staff work with UC students to increase affordability and access within the UC system.

Colorado Student Association (CSA) www.coloradostudent.iwarp.com

Staff Positions: Executive Director	Funding: \$.50 per student mandatory fee	Members: represents 85,000 students
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Campaign Victories

CSA's mission is to advocate for better access to affordable, quality education for the people of Colorado by educating student organizations and promoting the student agenda to Colorado's lawmakers and policymakers. CSA focuses on financial aid issues, fee autonomy, access issues, and academic mobility between state institutions. During the 2003 legislative session, CSA won two major victories for students. It helped to protect students from identity theft by sponsoring and passing a bill that prohibits social security numbers from being used on class rosters, university ID cards and library accounts. It also helped to strike an amendment that would have reduced the Colorado Commission of Higher Education's budget and eliminated student-friendly programs. CSA also helped to pass the Students Bill of Rights in 2001 which ensures students can successfully transfer credits between colleges in the state.

Current Programs

- CSA's main legislative priority for the 2004 session is tuition stability. It is sponsoring a bill that would allow students the option of having a fixed tuition rate for the duration of their degree program that is not subject to annual tuition changes.
- CSA is also fighting to ensure financial aid programs are fully funded at the state level.
- Through the Colorado Student Leadership Foundation, CSA conducts monthly educational events and forums for student leaders across the state.

Structure and History

The Colorado Student Association was founded in 1988 and currently represents students from eight institutions, totaling approximately 85,000 students. CSA has two different governing boards. The Representative Assembly has representation from schools based on enrollment, ranging from four members at the largest school to one member at smaller schools. This is the body that takes stances on policy issues before each legislative session of the Colorado Legislature; the decisions here determine what the executive director and the board of directors spend time on. The second governing board is the official board of directors. This body has one director per member school, meets once a month and helps determine the day to day implementation of CSA's campaigns. Each member school assesses a fee of \$.50 per student which funds a full-time executive director. Students conduct campus based referendums every few years to reaffirm this fee.

In 1991 CSA created the Colorado Student Leadership Foundation, Inc. (CSLF) to further develop student organizations on colleges and universities around the state. CSLF promotes civic engagement activities and communication between various community and academic constituencies. CSLF meets in conjunction with the CSA board meetings once a month.

Florida Student Association www.fsa1.org

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Associate Director	Funding: Student government dues based on enrollment	Members: represents 245,000 students
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Campaign Victories

The Florida Student Association has been fighting for students’ rights for 28 years. In the last seven years, FSA has not only defended those rights but expanded the rights of students. In 1997 and 1998, students successfully fought state bills that would have stripped away student control over distributing campus activity fees. In May 2001 the state legislature approved an FSA-supported plan for all state university Boards of Trustees to have a voting student representative. Additionally, in March 2002 the Florida legislature unanimously passed a bill that codified student government’s presence at every state university. This granted students more flexibility and freedom to independently implement policies and procedures. FSA focuses some of its attention on campus-wide voting. FSA sponsors a program called Wake Up Wednesday, which is an annual event on member campuses to register new college voters; in 2002 student volunteers with FSA registered 4000 college voters. Also in 2002, FSA supported legislation that would establish polling locations on main campuses of each state university.

Current Programs

- FSA is fighting to ensure that the state legislature fully funds Florida’s public universities. It is looking to minimize an expected \$38.4 million cut to higher education.
- FSA is working to protect the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Florida Prepaid College Program. Approximately 98,000 students received a Bright Futures Scholarship in 2001-2002.
- FSA coordinates an internship program for students to learn valuable political and public relations skills while having an impact on student higher education issues.
- FSA holds an annual Legislative Reception and Distinguished Service Awards presentation to acknowledge state policy makers who continually support higher education.

Structure and History

The Florida Student Association was founded in 1976, currently has ten member schools and represents 245,000 Florida students. FSA works on a variety of issues in Tallahassee on behalf of students. Along with higher education state budgetary concerns, FSA tackles voting issues and polling sites on campuses, privacy issues related to using student social security numbers as identification, and student government fee control.

FSA has five councils: the student body president council, the council of vice presidents, the council of fiscal agents, the senate leadership council and the governmental relations council. The student body president council has one vote for each school and functions as the official board of FSA. The governmental relations council works with the board of directors to craft policy action agendas and develops local programs on each campus. FSA has two full time staff members. An internship program exists for students to gain hands on experience working with FSA. Member schools contribute financially to FSA on a scale based on enrollment; the annual budget comes close to \$200,000.

Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA) www.mscca.org

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Associate Director of College and Government Relations, Public Relations Associate, Administrative Assistant	Funding: \$.28 per credit mandatory student fee	Members: represents 110,000 students
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Campaign Victories

Because of the Minnesota budget shortfall, MSCSA has had to fight hard for students over the past couple of years. Advocates with MSCSA were able to recover \$15 million in University funding that had previously been cut. Responding to major cuts in work-study and childcare programs in 2002-2003, MSCSA fought and won full funding for these programs in 2004-2005. MSCSA consistently works to involve students in all systemwide decisions. Additionally, MSCSA has defended the rights of students to allocate student fees and express a wide range of viewpoints on college campuses; it recently successfully defended a challenge to the mandatory fee structure in the state.

Current Programs

- MSCSA is working to convince the state legislature to include \$186 million worth of unfunded University projects in the state's bonding measure.
- MSCSA conducts an annual state lobby day in St. Paul to further important higher education issues.
- MSCSA, in addition to state issues, monitors federal higher education legislation. MSCSA students and staff coordinate annual lobbying trips to Washington, DC to meet with federal legislators.
- MSCSA has numerous policy platforms. See them at www.mscca.org/platform.htm#
- MSCSA recently awarded the organization's first ever Leadership Scholarships. Six students received awards based on their leadership roles on campus or in the community.
- MSCSA helps to choose the student Board of Trustee members- one for the community colleges and one for the technical colleges- through an application and endorsement process. Top candidates are then sent to the governor for final approval.
- MSCSA publishes a monthly newspaper, The Students' View, keeping students updated on state and Board of Trustees actions.

Structure and History

MSCSA was formed in 1998 when Minnesota merged the community college and technical college systems. Prior to 1998, two distinct student organizations represented the two systems: the Minnesota Community College Student Association and the Minnesota Technical College Student Association. MSCSA represents 110,000 students at 46 institutions in the state. MSCSA is funded by a \$.28 mandatory per credit fee for all students in the community and technical college system, which allows MSCSA to have a \$700,000 annual budget. This mandatory student fee, along with MSUSA's fee, is legislatively mandated by the state of Minnesota. While regular funding challenges occur to weaken this strong fee system, MSCSA has repeatedly been successful at maintaining student fee autonomy.

The General Assembly (GA) is the main governing body that meets two times per year and determines all policies and budgets for MSCSA. Campuses have five votes at GA meetings. The GA elects the Governing Council, which consists of five executive officers, nine regional representatives, a member-at-large and a member from the group of student body presidents. The Governing Council (GC) helps to manage the month to month activities and communication of the organization. The GC also hires the executive director. There are eight committees within the GC: Diversity Committee, Editorial Board, Fiscal Committee, National Organizations Committee, Platform Committee, Scholarship Board, Steering Committee and the Student/Advisor Taskforce. MSCSA has four full-time professional staff based in its St. Paul office.

Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA) www.msusa.net

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Office Manager , Associate Director of: University & Government Relations / Research and Policy / Development / Communications / Advertising & Publications	Funding: \$.39 per credit mandatory fee	Members: represents 65,000 students
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Campaign Victories

MSUSA is intimately integrated into the Minnesota State College and University (MnSCU) system. It coordinates the representation of students on system committees as well as regularly meets with the university system Chancellor. Because of this relationship, MSUSA has a significant amount of input into systemwide policies such as financial aid awards and degree and academic requirements. Recently, MSUSA won passage by the Board of Trustees of a proposal to create a Revenue Fund Advisory Committee that consists of one student and one administrator from each state university; the original proposal was to have a fewer number of students. At the state level, MSUSA is consistently fighting for students' rights to organize and fund political activity. Almost every year, since 1992, legislation has been introduced that would limit how students may use their student fees. These bills have successfully been defeated each year, leaving a stronger voice for Minnesota students.

Current Programs

- MSUSA priorities for this year include:
 1. opposing any funding cuts for the MnSCU system.
 2. supporting full funding of MnSCU's bonding request.
 3. supporting student input into the decision-making process of the Board of Trustees and all levels of university system (i.e. consultations, shared governance).
 4. opposing changes to the State Grant program, implemented in 2003, that limits the number of students who can receive state financial aid.
- MSUSA, along with MSCSA, holds an annual lobby day at the statehouse. This usually includes a rally, press work, and individual meetings with legislators regarding upcoming higher education legislation.
- In addition to state level work, MSUSA monitors federal legislation and organizes an annual lobby trip to Washington, DC for student leaders.
- MSUSA runs two programs, the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship and the Penny Fellowship, that provide financial resources to students in need who demonstrate a strong desire for learning and public service.
- MSUSA coordinates an internship program out of its state office in St. Paul for students to learn valuable political and public relations skills while having an impact on student higher education issues. Students work directly with one of the full-time professional staff members.

Structure and History

MSUSA represents the seven state university schools and its 65,000 students; it was founded in 1967. Minnesota is the only state that codifies in state statute the existence of a state student association; every student at a state university in Minnesota will be a dues paying member of MSUSA. This code was created in 1995. The MSUSA board of directors meets monthly and consists of the seven student body presidents from member schools. Six standing committees conduct campaign work and coordinate most of MSUSA's activities. They are as follows: federal legislative affairs, state legislative affairs, academic affairs, student services, public relations/development and cultural diversity. Committees meet in conjunction with the board of directors' meetings and typically attract 50-100 students each month.

MSUSA has seven full-time professional staff who take direction from and work closely with the board of directors. All campaigns and program work are funded by a \$.39 per credit student fee. This funding system is part of the state statute that codifies MSUSA's existence at the state level. The board of directors recommend any fee increase to the university system Board of Trustees, which has final decision making power over all fees. The Minnesota Trustees have never denied MSUSA a fee increase. MSUSA's budget is approximately \$800,000.

Student Association of Missouri (SAM)

www.studentassociationofmissouri.org

Staff Positions: part time lobbyist	Funding: \$1 mandatory refundable fee per semester	Members: represents 60,000 students
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Current Programs

- SAM entered the Missouri legislative scene by “Storming the Capitol” in 2002 to protest budget cuts and meeting with legislators to discuss the importance of prioritizing higher education. “Storm the Capitol” has become an annual lobby trip.
- SAM is currently monitoring eight state legislative bills including a bill to freeze tuition and a bill that would give faculty representation on university governing boards.

Structure and History

The Student Association of Missouri is one of the newest additions to the independent state student associations. In 1991 students formed the Missouri Association of Student Governments (MASG); ten schools attended the first conference, which focused on getting a student voting member on all of Missouri’s university governing boards. MASG existed for only a few years before dissolving due to a lack of money and organizational structure. The idea to create a student association for the state institutions came back up in 2001 when students hosted a constitutional convention to create the Student Association of Missouri. SAM currently represents approximately 60,000 students and has three full member schools and four provisional member schools.

Each member school has proportional representative on the SAM Assembly, which is the body that determines organizational policies and budgets and elects the five executive positions of the board. Each member campus has one representative on the SAM board of directors, in addition to the elected executives. The board of directors meets monthly, represents the organization and executes the day to day activities of the organization. The Assembly meets four times per year.

SAM is funded by a \$1 per semester mandatory refundable fee that was approved by either a student referendum or a student government vote in addition to approval by the University Governing Board of each institution. This fee provides SAM with approximately \$30,000 to work on higher education policy. In 2002 SAM hired a part time lobbyist to represent the association at the capitol.

Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU)

Staff Positions: currently no staff	Funding: \$2 per student fee allocated by the student government	Members: represents 13,000 students
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Campaign Victories

SASU has a rich history of fighting for students in New York State. In 1972, SASU created the New York State Student Assembly (NYSSA) as a way to offer a student voice at the Board of Trustees level. At the time, students were not represented on the Board of Trustees. Because of SASU's lobbying efforts, students not only gained a seat at the Trustee table but gained a voting seat. NYSSA is now delegated the power to elect the student trustee. In addition, SASU's advocacy efforts helped start the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in 1974; TAP provided \$727 million to 368,000 students in NY during the 2002–2003 academic year. In 1991 SASU worked to gain legal recognition for the Graduate Student Employees Union.

Current Campaigns

- SASU is coordinating an Affordable Textbooks Campaign to reduce the price of textbooks by targeting publishing companies to incorporate student-friendly business practices.
- SASU is a member of USSA and is working on federal higher education legislation related to reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and financial aid spending.

Structure and History

The Student Association of SUNY was founded in 1970 and works to ensure residents of New York have access to an affordable and quality higher education. SASU is rebuilding after a couple of challenging years. Currently, SASU has one member campus at Binghamton University, which funds SASU through a \$2 student government approved allocation. The board of directors consists of member schools' student body presidents as well as elected representative members. The number of elected members on the board is determined by university enrollment— one representative for each 3500 students. In the past, SASU had full-time professional staff; currently it has no staff.

Oregon Student Association www.orstudents.org

Staff Positions: Executive Director, Legislative Director, Communications Director, Field Director, Organizing Director, Administrative Director, OSCC Organizer, LCC Organizer, PSU Organizer, U of O Organizer	Funding: \$1.08 per student from student government allocation	Members: represents 100,000 students
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Campaign Victories

OSA has been a constant voice for students in the statehouse over the past 28 years. OSA staff and students consistently fight for the Oregon Childcare Block Grant, a program that helps to provide resources for childcare to student parents. In 2002 when the program was eliminated, OSA worked to have the program reinstated and helped to restore \$1 million in funding. OSA also helped restore \$4 million in funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, a grant program for the neediest students in the state. OSA recently had a major victory by defeating a bill that would have turned tuition control over to the universities and out of the hands of elected officials. Also, during the last two major election cycles, OSA helped to register 40,000 Oregon youth.

OSA also has been fighting for student fee autonomy over the years. In 1995 two lawsuits were filed that challenged the mandatory fee system used by students in the state. In both cases, District Court judges upheld the fee systems and the forums they create ([Hollingsworth v Lane Community College](#) and [Rounds v University of Oregon](#)). In 1997, OSA fought a bill to eliminate the mandatory fee system altogether. This “Gag Rule” failed after hundreds of campus and community organizations came out against it.

Current Programs

- OSA is fighting to minimize tuition increases.
- OSA continues to maintain and fight for full funding of the Childcare Block Grant.
- OSA through its Oregon Students of Color Coalition (OSCC) is working to allow undocumented students who attended Oregon high schools to have in-state tuition rates at Oregon universities.
- OSA through its Oregon Statewide Student Equal Rights Alliance (OSSERA) is working to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state’s non-discrimination policy.
- OSA hosts two annual conferences, the Northwest Student Leadership Conference attended by hundreds of students from the region and the Oregon Students of Color Coalition Conference.
- OSA coordinates an internship program with approximately 30 interns who participate in policy research, grassroots events, event planning and lobbying activities.
- OSA is a member of USSA and works on federal higher education issues.
- OSA runs active voter registration efforts on member campuses.

Structure and History

The Oregon Student Association was founded in 1975 and currently represents more than 100,000 students at nine member schools. The OSA board consists of the student body presidents of each member school plus one designee. The board meets monthly to discuss legislative action and campus organizing plans. In 1998 OSA made a commitment to organizing by hiring campus specific organizers that work with the local student government to run campaigns and programs. For example, in 2001, students at Portland State University, along with the local OSA campus organizer, organized and convinced the university to add dental coverage to the students’ health plans.

OSA coordinates the actions of two student coalitions, the Oregon Student Equal Rights Alliance (OSERA) and the Oregon Students of Color Coalition (OSCC). OSA organizes events and trainings with its member campuses on issues related to students of color and the LGBTQ community.

Member campuses support OSA’s actions through a student government allocation; currently the fee is \$1.08 per student. This fee allows OSA to function with a \$270,000 budget.

Texas State Student Association

Current Programs

- TSSA is coordinating voter registration efforts on campuses that are involved.
- TSSA is connected to USSA and working on federal higher education issues.

Structure and History

TSSA is another new addition to the independent state student associations. In 2002 students at St. Mary's University in San Antonio began working to revive the old Texas Student Association, which dissolved in 1996. Students are in the beginning phases of rebuilding the association, developing a constitution and reaching out to the 70 colleges and universities in the state. At the first meeting of students in 2003, approximately 75 students from 16 different institutions participated. TSSA is unique among the SSA community in that it will include public and private institutions.

Washington Student Lobby

Staff Positions: part time lobbyist	Funding: \$2 donation	Members: represents 100,000 students
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Campaign Victories

In the late 1990s, WSL successfully fought to have voting student representation on both the Board of Regents and on the Higher Education Coordinating Board. For the last ten years, WSL has been fighting local tuition authority. Local tuition authority would take the tuition setting authority away from elected officials and place it in the hands of the Regents. Just recently, WSL lost that battle. However, in the most recent legislative session, WSL was able to introduce an amendment into Washington's Education Strategic Master Plan that would return tuition control to elected legislators.

Current Programs

- WSL is supporting state legislation that would keep tuition low and stable.
- WSL is working to fully fund the Washington State Need Grant and the Washington Promise Scholarship.
- WSL is working to create a sales tax exemption for textbooks.
- WSL is working to make sure students are represented in University decisions.

Structure and History

WSL was started in 1982 and represents 100,000 students at five universities. Member schools' student governments elect representatives to the 12-member WSL board of directors. WSL is unique in the fact that it is the only independent SSA to be funded through a donation fee system called the "star system"; students may choose to contribute \$2 to WSL. When registering for classes, students choose to voluntarily donate a fee to specific groups. The star system generates approximately \$24,000 for the association. WSL has no full time staff, but it does hire a part time lobbyist to represent students in Olympia. Additionally, each student government office has a student lobbyist position. These students work together with WSL to push student legislative issues in the capital.

United Council of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc. www.unitedcouncil.net

<p>Staff Positions: President, Legislative Affairs Director, Academic Affairs Director, Shared Governance Director, Organizing & Comm. Director, Women's Issues Director, Multicultural Issues Director, LGBTQ Issues Director, Executive Director</p>	<p>Funding: \$2 per student mandatory refundable fee each semester</p>	<p>Members: represents 145,000 students</p>
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Campaign Victories

In 2002, United Council won its statewide campaign to link financial aid to tuition increases; so as tuition increases within the university system, the state must find resources to increase financial aid to students. That same year, United Council successfully eliminated a non-resident tuition surcharge and limited tuition increases. For the past few years, United Council has run a statewide campaign to ensure that financial aid and higher education funding is prioritized in the state house. Also, student leaders have conducted very successful voter registration efforts that registered approximately 27,000 voters in the 2000 and 2002 election cycles. In 2001, students within the UW system and the United Council staff defeated a plan to give the University Regents full tuition flexibility; instead, tuition decisions will remain in the hands of elected officials. Additionally, in 2003, United Council protected segregated fees used for student services from a raid that would have used the fees to fund financial aid instead.

Current Programs

- United Council is working to fully fund financial aid programs in Wisconsin. Recently the state raided the university system's auxiliary funds to cover the costs of the financial aid programs. UC is working to make sure that doesn't happen again and students receive the resources they need to attend college.
- United Council is working on a state version of the Dream Act, which would allow undocumented students who graduated from in-state high schools to receive in-state resident tuition instead of non-resident tuition.
- United Council is working with USSA to strengthen the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- United Council is working to add a second student regent onto the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.
- United Council organizes two annual conferences: Building Unity and Women's Leadership. These conferences are attended by 300-600 students and include workshops, briefings, and planning sessions.
- United Council coordinates shared governance activities within the system, ensuring that students have a voice on systemwide committees.
- United Council is working to incorporate gender identity into the Board of Regents' non-discrimination policies.

Structure and History

The United Council (UC) has been fighting for students' rights since 1960 and represents 145,000 students from 23 of the 26 University of Wisconsin schools. The UC board is made up of approximately 165 voting members (each school's representation depends on student population) also known as the General Assembly. The General Assembly meets almost every month and it is the sole body that determines policy stances, as well as elects and hires the most senior professional staff member, the President. Each year, the General Assembly chooses one major statewide campaign as well as 3-5 smaller initiatives to work on in the interest of UW students.

A Wisconsin state statute (WSS 36.09(5)) gives the United Council the legal right to be involved in state level issues. This statute recognizes the association as the official voice of students in the university system. UC has eight committees to address different student concerns including Legislative Affairs, Multicultural Issues, Academic Affairs, Executive Committee, LGBTQ Issues, Women's Issues, Shared Governance and the President's Committee. Each of the eight committees is chaired by a full-time staff member; UC employs nine full-time staff members. Students fund UC through a \$2.00 per student per semester mandatory refundable fee. Just recently, the Board of Regents approved this fee increase; previously, the fee was \$1.35 per semester. United Council must re-affirm support for its fee every two years by conducting referenda on each campus. Currently United Council's budget is approximately \$405,000.

Independent State Student Association Current Staff

Arizona Students' Association:

Executive Director: Maceo Brown

Associate Executive Director: Amy Hicks

University of California Student Association:

Executive Director: Liz Geyer

Legislative Director: Amalia Chamorro

Field and Organizing Director: Matt McFeeley

University and Student Fee Affairs Director: April Labbe

California State Student Association:

Executive Director: Susana Gonzalez

Director Governmental Affairs: Laura Kerr

Director University Affairs: Joan Hemphill

Colorado Student Association:

Executive Director: Ryan McMaken

Florida Student Association:

Executive Director: Scott Ross

Associate Director: Michelle Doss

Minnesota State College Student Association:

Executive Director: Brent Glass

Associate Director of College

& Governmental Relations: Brian Axell

Public Relations Associate: Amanda Mark

Administrative Assistant: Linda Olson

Minnesota State

University Student Association:

Executive Director: (vacant)

Office Manager: Kathy Hanon

Associate Directors of:

University and Government Relations: JJ Jouppi

Research and Policy: Elsbeth Howe

Development: Karen Matthew

Communications: Shannah Moore

Advertising and Publications: Anna Greenwald

Oregon Student Association:

Executive Director: John Wycoff

Legislative Director: (vacant)

Organizing Director: Melissa Unger

Communications Director: (vacant)

Field Director: Rocky Dallum

Students of Color Coordinator: (vacant)

Lane Community College Organizer: Brett Rowlett

Portland State University Organizer: (vacant)

University of Oregon Organizer: Courtney Haight

Administrative Director: Aaron Bertrand

United Council:

President: Jeff Pertl

Legislative Affairs Director: Bethany Ordaz

Academic Affairs Director: Stephanie Hilton

Shared Governance Director: Brian Tanner

Multicultural Issues Director: Jennifer Epps

LGBTQ Issues Director: Max Camp

Women's Issues Director: Marcie Parkhurst

Executive Director: Vicki Bomben

Organizing Director: (vacant)

System Organized State Student Associations

Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska (CSL) sygov.swadm.alaska.edu/net/

The Coalition focuses on increasing financial aid, decreasing tuition and fees, and representing student concerns to the Regents. Students hold an annual lobby day with representation from every member campus; the lobby day includes an orientation and training for new student lobbyists, as well as the opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss student concerns. Last year, the Coalition of Student Leaders had its largest lobby day ever with fifty students lobbying state legislators. For a recent project, “The Alaska Road Show”, students traveled 2275 miles across Alaska visiting different member schools. They gathered 4000 postcards, held press conferences and generated a significant amount of media to garner support for higher education funding. They succeeded in increasing the visibility and urgency of the issue. Currently, CSL’s statewide campaign is to fully fund the University of Alaska (UA) System. Student leaders are calling on legislators to increase UA funding by 5% to maintain a high quality of education.

The Coalition was officially recognized by the Board of Regents in 1993 and each year is allocated funds through the Regents. CSL has eleven University of Alaska member schools and represents 30,000 students. The Coalition is organized within the University of Alaska System Governance Office, which also works with the faculty and staff unions. The Coalition funds one student coordinator, who conducts legislative research and aids in communication across the state, as well as a part time administrative assistant. The Coalition meets monthly (usually by conference call) and is made up of the student body presidents or a designee from each member campus.

Georgia Student Advisory Council to the Board of Regents

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) was founded in 1968 by a recommendation of the Chancellor to advise the Board of Regents, the chancellor, the governor, and the state legislature on student concerns in the state of Georgia. Currently the SAC has four committees: Academic Affairs, Student Services, External Affairs and Technology. Through these committees, students work on issues related to financial aid and higher education spending, privacy issues, and student fees. Recent issues tackled by students include abolishing the sales tax on textbooks and removing social security numbers from ID cards. The Student Advisory Council holds regular lobby days at the state capitol to push forward student initiatives, as well as an annual leadership conference for its members. The SAC functions mostly as a vehicle of communication for the member schools.

The SAC is made up of 34 member schools and represents over 200,000 students. Each school has one delegate to represent that school, usually the student body president. The SAC recently changed its meeting structure. Meetings used to allow member schools to bring as many students as possible which would result in more than 200 students attending. Now, typically, just the student body president attends. The body meets two to three times per year at a host campus who is responsible for the agenda and topics of discussion.

University of Hawaii Student Caucus (UHSC) gso.hawaii.edu/?tab=lobbying

The University of Hawaii Student Caucus has been in existence since the early 1990s. It was recently recognized by the University Board of Regents’ policies in 2002. UHSC consists of two representatives from each of the ten University campuses. Students meet approximately every month following the Board of Regents meetings to discuss student issues of concern. Recent issues include supporting the development and funding of a new physical campus on West Oahu and improving the financial aid system in the state.

Recently the Student Caucus pressured the Regents to create a student regent position. At the time, it did not receive the student position but was given the ability to place a non-voting student on each of the Regents’ standing committees. Shortly thereafter, the state legislature officially instituted the student regent position with full voting privileges.

Student Advisory Council to the Kansas Board of Regents (SAC)

Recently the SAC has worked on concerns related to state higher education appropriations, campus technology fees, and increased pay for graduate teaching assistants. One success the SAC recently had includes a 2:1 match for technology costs in Kansas. The state will now add \$2 for every \$1 from students to fund an increase in technology on campuses. The SAC had been lobbying the Regents and state legislators on this initiative for quite some time and it finally resulted in victory. Each year, the SAC and member schools' student Legislative Directors host a student lobby day in Topeka to express concerns and lobby for specific issues. Anticipated future issues in Kansas include integrating community colleges and technical schools under the Board of Regents. University autonomy will continue to be an issue in Kansas and students working with the SAC anticipate fighting a "high tuition- high aid" model of financial aid in the state, which has Regent support.

The Student Advisory Council was founded in 1975 and consists of six Regent schools. The SAC represents 90,000 students and was mandated by state statute to advise the Regents and state legislators of student concerns related to higher education; the body is charged to focus on academic concerns and student fees. Each member college's SGA president sits on the SAC board of directors. The SAC meets once a month in conjunction with Board of Regents meetings. There is no fee structure and the SAC employs no staff; costs are incurred by the Board of Regents and specific member schools.

Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents (BSBP)

Students working with the Kentucky BSBP have been fighting to make higher education a priority among state legislators for many years. Every year BSBP organizes a rally, press conference and lobby day where students from across the state can meet with legislators to encourage full funding of the university system and financial aid programs. This year, 400 students attended the event.

BSBP was founded in 1990 and includes the eight public four-year institutions in the state. It represents over 150,000 students in Kentucky. The presidents of each institution meet every six weeks to coordinate activities. Each school's student government contributes \$.17 per enrolled student to fund the activities of the BSBP. Every year the Board of Student Body Presidents recommend three student names to the governor who selects the student member of the statewide Council on Postsecondary Education.

Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents

www.regents.state.la.us/COSBP/cosbpweb/pages/home.htm

The Council was mandated by state constitution in 1950 to represent students to the Board of Regents and each of the four system management boards. The Council represents over 200,000 students at thirty institutions in the state of Louisiana; this includes four-year, technical and community colleges. The student body presidents meet every other month. Currently they are working with the Board of Regents to lobby legislators to fully fund higher education. Additionally they work alongside administrators and Regents to develop system-wide policies that impact students. A new project the students have implemented is an outreach program to eighth graders to begin preparing them for college enrollment.

University System of Maryland Student Council

www.usmd.edu/Leadership/Workgroups/StudentCouncil/index.html

The Student Council was established in 1988 by the University System to represent student concerns at the University level. It is described as "an apolitical advisory board established to assist the Chancellor". The Student Council is one of four bodies set up at the time; the others include the Faculty Council, Presidents Council, and the Staff Council. The Student Council represents eleven schools and 130,000 students in Maryland. Each school has two representatives on the Council and these members meet monthly to discuss student issues. The Council receives annual funding from the state System and works on issues that include binge drinking, hate crimes, financial aid, shared governance, academic advising, student evaluations of faculty, and a statewide conference, "Annapolis 101".

Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) www.missouri.edu/~asumwww/

The state of Missouri is mandated to have a balanced budget which keeps ASUM busy lobbying for student financial aid issues. The association successfully passed a bill to exempt textbooks from sales tax; this saves students six million dollars each year. ASUM has also worked to lower the jury duty age from 21 to 18 as well as lower the minimum age requirement to hold a state office to 21. A big victory occurred for ASUM in the 1999 legislative session. ASUM had been lobbying for five years to have the student Board of Curators member sit in on closed BOC meetings and have access to confidential information. The BOC opposed such an idea but in 1999 the state legislature ensured that a student would be privy to all BOC decisions. Based on that decision, ASUM is now fighting to allow the student BOC member a voting voice.

Every year ASUM travels to Washington, DC to represent student concerns to federal legislators. ASUM runs an internship program in Jefferson City where students are registered lobbyist and represent University of Missouri students to state legislators. Also every year, ASUM organizes two lobby days with students from around the state. Additionally, students decide who represents them on the systemwide Board of Curators. It is the student body presidents that interview and recommend three students to the governor, who chooses the official student on the Board of Curators.

ASUM was founded in 1975 and represents 66,000 students at four member campuses. There are fifteen members of the ASUM board, which meets monthly. Representation is based on student enrollment and varies from two to six members. All board members are elected from their respective student governments. ASUM employs one full-time staff, the executive director, and eight to ten part-time student staff members. Funding for programs occurs through a mandatory fee that ranges from \$1.50 to \$2.59 and is up for a student referendum every four years.

Montana Associated Students (MAS)

Montana Associated Students represents approximately 40,000 students at fourteen system schools; this includes four-year, technical and community colleges. The strength of MAS is related to the strength of its member schools. Member schools' student governments are separately incorporated, hire individual staff and lobbyists and control a significant amount of resources. At the state wide level, MAS helps to collaborate lobbying issues that apply to all schools.

MAS works on financial aid issues, fee control and tuition increases, credit transferability in the system, and hopes to begin working on issues such as hate crimes on campus and same sex health benefits for staff. One recent victory that MAS had was the removal of the credit cap. The credit cap required in-state students to pay out-of-state tuition once they hit a certain credit level. Now that the credit cap has been removed, in-state students can pay in-state tuition for their entire education.

Each member school has one vote on the board which meets every other month in conjunction with the Montana Board of Regents. These meetings typically have 30-40 student attendees and includes the fourteen voting members. MAS recently proposed a \$1 per student fee in order to hire a full time staff person. There were internal disagreements regarding this proposal and it never went forward. Currently, the association is funded by dues from member schools; each school contributes approximately \$400.

Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) www.gbcnv.edu/nsa

The Nevada Student Alliance has existed on and off since the late 1970's in different forms. It currently represents over 70,000 students from seven member schools. Each member school student government has one vote on the NSA board. This includes graduate and undergraduate student governments. The NSA meets in conjunction with the Board of Regents and advises the Regents on the student impact of the issues the Regents discuss. The main issues NSA works on are tuition and fees. The administration and member student governments cover costs that are needed to attend Board of Regents meetings. The Office of the Chancellor supplies NSA with a research analyst to function as an advisor and aid students in their higher education policy work.

University Student Senate of the City University of New York (USS) www.uss.cuny.edu

USS has been fighting tuition increases for the last few years. Students working with USS were successful at stabilizing tuition for the 2003-2004 academic year by organizing students across the city to testify at hearings and lobbying legislators individually. In addition to continuing this fight, USS students are about to open an office in Albany where they can work more closely with state legislators. USS represents CUNY students to city administrators, the state government, and the CUNY system.

USS was founded in 1972 and represents 208,000 students from 19 CUNY campuses. The Senate is made up of one to three delegates per campus; there are approximately 70 delegates total. It has a nine member executive board and the president of the association is a voting member of the CUNY Board of Trustees. Each member school has a \$.85 per student per semester activity fee to fund USS's advocacy work. Three full time and two part time staff work for USS including an office manager, events coordinator, legislative liaison, executive assistant and campus outreach. USS holds annual conferences and trainings for members, as well as lobby days.

University of North Carolina Associated Student Government (ASG) www.uncasg.org

ASG works on issues that affect higher education directly—using issues as a means to unite the student voice and pull together common concerns. Current issues include advocating on students' behalf during talks of tuition increases, getting a vote for the student Board of Governors representative, and improving the NC system of need based funding. ASG ran a campaign "Keep North Carolina Educated" to organize against budget cuts from the legislature. Students focused on educating the communities about the ramifications as well as organized rallies and grassroots pressure to ensure NC students and institutions receive the funds they need.

ASG was founded in 1972 and currently represents approximately 175,000 students at sixteen institutions. ASG just experienced a major victory— The Board of Governors approved a \$1 per student fee to fund ASG. Previously ASG had an operating budget of \$3000; with the student fee in place, the Association has \$145,000 to work with in order to advocate on behalf of NC students. Each member school's president sits on the Council of Student Body Presidents, which acts as a network and the driving force behind ASG. The Council handles logistics, finances, and the hiring and firing of staff. The General Body of ASG is made up of four representatives from each school and determines policy issues and organizational stances. The president of ASG sits on the systemwide Board of Governors.

With the creation of a significant and stable funding source, UNCASG is strategizing on ways to increase the effectiveness and size of the association. Potential development plans include organizing ASG alumni to help fund additional projects. With its recent increase in resources ASG hired its first full-time staff member to manage day to day activities of the organization.

North Dakota Student Association (NDSA)

NDSA successfully secured a seat on the Board of Higher Education for a student; it submits three student names to the governor and one student is chosen to sit on the board. Currently, NDSA is lobbying to re-create the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs which was recently abolished. Students are also fighting for full funding to the university system, minimizing tuition increases and encouraging the state to allocate finances for technology advancements.

The North Dakota Student Association has been in existence for thirty years but was reorganized in 1995; it represents 40,000 students at eleven member schools. The General Assembly is the decision making body for the association and each member school's representation depends on enrollment, ranging from thirteen votes at the largest school to three votes at the smallest schools; there are approximately sixty board seats. NDSA has an executive cabinet that includes student body presidents and head delegates from each institution. The General Assembly has four subcommittees: Student Affairs, State and Legislative Affairs, Finance, and Constitution. The GA meets once a month at different schools across the state for two days. The Association has no full time staff but does have a registered student lobbyist to represent students in the legislature.

NDSA recently strengthened its funding system. Currently it has a \$.03 per credit mandatory fee at each of its eleven member schools. The fee is overseen by the Board of Higher Education. Prior to the mandatory fee, NDSA received an annual student government allocation in the form of dues from the campuses. NDSA's annual budget is approximately \$23,000.

Oklahoma Student Government Association (OSGA) www.osga.org

OSGA was started in the early 1970s as the Council of Student Government Presidents as a vehicle to voice student concerns on higher education issues. In the 1980s the Council expanded to involve additional student government leaders from every institution in the state. This became the Oklahoma Student Government Association which includes two voting delegates from 38 institutions of higher education. The state is split into five regional caucuses led by a regional director. In total, the association represents over 250,000 students.

Student members of OSGA elect seven delegates to the Student Advisory Board of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. These seven students provide student input at Board of Regents meetings and throughout their one year term. The seven students represent all types of universities in the state including comprehensive universities, regional universities, community colleges and private colleges.

OSGA is working to remove social security numbers as an identification number as well as working with administrators to devise a student-friendly credit card vendor policy. In addition, students are continually fighting for an increase in higher education spending— both for University budgets and for financial aid. In order to fund its work, OSGA asks member institutions to contribute a small amount in annual dues, typically a couple hundred dollars. OSGA maintains an office at the state Regents building.

Pennsylvania Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG)

CCSG has been around for approximately thirty years. It is a formal network of twenty of Pennsylvania State University's student governments. Student leaders meet monthly to discuss issues that affect all students within the system as well as in the state capitol. CCSG regularly coordinates lobby visits so students may meet with their elected officials regarding higher education issues. Students have an annual budget of approximately \$25,000, which comes from the Student Affairs division of Penn State as well as from campus student activity fees, to coordinate activities.

South Dakota Student Federation

The South Dakota Student Federation was founded in 1971, includes the six regent schools and represents 30,000 students. The Student Federation meets in conjunction with the Board of Regents and includes each members' student body president. Students from across the state organize an annual lobby day called the Student Higher Education Day (SHED). Historically the Student Federation focuses on increasing state higher education appropriations as well as communicating with the Regents about student concerns.

Tennessee Student Presidents' Council (SPC)

The Student Presidents' Council consists of the student body presidents from the nineteen system schools in the state and represent over 150,000 students. The Presidents meet every other month by conference call to discuss student concerns and issues pertaining to the Board of Regents. The SPC nominates students to be considered for both the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission; the governor makes the final selection for each position.

Informal State Student Associations

California Student Association of Community Colleges www.calsacc.org

CalSACC represents 1.7 million students who attend community colleges to the Chancellor, Board of Governors, state legislature and Governor. CalSACC fights for an affordable and accessible education in the state of California. Recently students with CalSACC have worked to minimize textbook prices, reduced a fee increase from \$.24 per credit to \$.18 per credit, and fought for more state appropriations. CalSACC organizes regular leadership and lobbying conferences. It organized a rally with 17,000 students on the steps of the Capitol in March 2003 to fight against fee increases.

CalSACC was founded in the early 1980's and represents 108 community colleges across the state. In order to create structure within the organization, the state is broken into ten regions, each with representatives on the CalSACC policy board. The policy board also has five executive members who along with the representatives determine CalSACC activities, policies and budgets. The policy board meets approximately every month and has six committees: Administration, Budget & Finance, Legislation, Equity Diversity & Minority Affairs, Communication & Member Services, and Education Policy. CalSACC is affiliated with the Community College League of California, a non profit association that focuses on higher education policy.

Idaho Student Association (ISA)

The Idaho Student Association, formerly known as the Idaho Student Advisory Committee and started in 1995, is an informal collaboration between four of the major universities in the state. Some years students collaborate more than others, depending on the issues of concern and the interest of the student body president. Students meet in conjunction with the state Board of Education meetings to discuss statewide issues. Students have been battling the legislature regarding state appropriations to higher education as well as bonding initiatives.

Mississippi Student Body President's Council

The President's Council is an informal body of Mississippi's eight public four-year institutions. The President's Council is used to share information between universities and to work on collective issues as they arise. The presidents of each student government meet a couple times each year. Currently half of the schools attend the meetings. The main priority for the President's Council this year is to reinstate the student activity fee. In the early 1990s, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) abolished student activity fees at all institutions. Student activities have suffered due to a lack of resources and therefore, the President's Council is working to convince IHL to reinstate the fees.

Rutgers University Lobbying Association (RULA)

RULA was founded in 2000, represents 51,000 students within the University system and has four active member schools. In the first couple of years, RULA had some major victories- eliminating cuts to the Rutgers budget for fiscal year 2002 through intense lobbying and participating in hearings, acquiring funding to begin online syllabuses, and recovering tuition that is lost from the University by national guard students who take classes for free. Students plan to continue their lobbying efforts by fighting for a voting student seat on the Board of Governors as well as speaking for students as the state determines budgetary concerns.

Currently, member schools cover costs incurred from lobbying expenses. Each school has two representatives on the RULA board who then elects a chairperson. RULA has a student legislative director and a student administrative director to work with the state house and governor's office, respectively, on higher education issues.

In the 1980s and before RULA, students had created the United Students of New Jersey. This association fell apart due to a 1995 piece of legislation that banned student fees from being used for lobbying purposes. Just before RULA was formed students organized the New Jersey Higher Education Association to speak on behalf of students; this association solicited corporate funding because of the 1995 "Gag Rule". Currently, this "gag rule" is still on the books.

Associated Students of New Mexico

The Associated Students of New Mexico has been in existence on and off for approximately ten years. ASNM is an informal network of the six public four-year institutions in the state. It was ASNM who successfully placed a student regent with voting powers onto each institution's Board of Regents. Currently, its main issue of concern is the New Mexico Lottery Success Scholarship. This scholarship, created seven years ago when New Mexico instituted a lottery, pays full tuition for any student in the state attending a state school. Recently, the money that is funding the scholarship is being attacked and ASNM is fighting to maintain the program at its current level of funding. Overall, ASNM's main purpose is to lobby state legislators on behalf of students. Additionally, ASNM functions as a communication network across the state.

ASNM is working to rebuild itself after a year of in-activity. Students organized a fall conference to begin the process of rebuilding the association, conducted a couple teleconferences over the year, and are planning a spring conference to prepare for next year. Participating schools contribute \$400 in dues each year to ASNM's activities.

Ohio Council of Student Governments (OCSG) www.ocsg.org/index.php

OCSG is an informal network of the thirteen public institutions in the state. There are two board of director seats for each institution which meets twice each semester. OCSG is fighting for higher education and financial aid dollars. Currently students are conducting postcard and letter writing campaigns to let legislators know they should prioritize higher education. In the spring of 2001 OCSG organized a "Storm the Capitol" lobby day involving a press conference and lobby meetings. OCSG is also used as a communication tool to share information and ideas between the public universities.

In 1999 it was reported in "Building the Student Voice: The Health of Statewide Student Associations" that Ohio students were organizing with the Ohio Student Association. OSA does not appear to exist any longer. It was originally founded in 1969 and had nine member institutions representing 200,000 students. Each school contributed \$1500 to fund a part-time executive director. OSA organized an annual SGA conference and a lead issue was securing a student vote on each institution's Board of Trustees.

Oregon Community College Student Association (OCCSA)

OCCSA represents 403,000 students at the seventeen community colleges in Oregon. Students meet monthly to network and share ideas related to student programming and concerns. This year, OCCSA has prioritized voter registration efforts, community service projects and lobbying efforts. Students are planning to coordinate in-district lobby days across the state as well as a federal lobby day in Washington, DC. OCCSA was founded in 1975. Member schools contribute dues based on full time enrollment; campuses contribute up to \$750 a year. The official board of OCCSA consists of one voting member per campus location, totaling twenty board members. It is the board that hires a part time student facilitator who helps to manage the activities of the association. Additionally, OCCSA is affiliated with the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA), an association of community college presidents. This relationship allows OCCSA to utilize OCCA staff members.

Utah Intercollegiate Assembly www.uia.utah.edu

The Intercollegiate Assembly represents over 100,000 students at twelve institutions across the state of Utah. Each participating school is responsible for creating three higher education resolutions around issues of student concern. Once a year the Intercollegiate Assembly meets at the capitol and votes on the resolutions it is in support of. Delegates from each university attend and representation is based on enrollment. The resolutions supported by the student delegation are then presented to the Board of Regents and state legislators annually for their consideration.

Previously, the Intercollegiate Assembly was one component of the larger Utah Student Association (USA) founded in 1976. USA would meet monthly to coordinate action plans derived from the Intercollegiate Assembly's legislative platform. USA would actively lobby state legislators as well as work within the Board of Regents for improved student policies. It appears as though the only remaining component of USA is the Intercollegiate Assembly policy meetings.

Virginia Student Leadership Alliance (VSLA)

The Virginia Student Leadership Alliance was created in 1998 and in 2002 had nine participating institutions of higher education in Virginia. In 2000, after only two years in existence, the Leadership Alliance succeeded in passing legislation that mandated each of the fifteen public institutions in the state to have a voting student representative on each school's Board of Visitors. This was a great victory for all the public institutions in the state. Along with increasing student voices, VSLA works on tuition concerns and fee issues at the state level. The state of Virginia does not fund a lot of the higher education costs, so the VSLA will continue its fight to increase financial allocations coming from the legislature. An annual legislative trip is organized to meet with legislators in Richmond to express student concerns.

Each member school contributes \$200 in dues and has one vote on the Leadership Alliance board. VSLA meets four to five times each year to determine its lobbying agenda and conduct business.

Washington Student Association of Community and Technical Colleges (WSACTC) www.wastudents.org

In the summer of 2002, student body presidents from five community and technical colleges decided to launch the Washington Student Association of Community and Technical Colleges to serve as a voice for 170,000 students. WSACTC meets two times a year and works to represent the thirty community and technical colleges in the state. Students are still working on the formation of the association and just beginning to work on issues related to student credit limits and tuition penalties as well as making it easier to transfer credits.

West Virginia Student Government Association (WVSGA) www.wvstudentvoice.com

It is unclear exactly how long the West Virginia Student Government Association has been in existence. It is an informal network of the sixteen public institutions in the state. Student leaders convene for an annual retreat to discuss issues related to higher education and continue those conversations through listserves for the rest of the year.

A new association, Students for Higher Education, is beginning to form alongside WVSGA. Because of recent budget cuts, students at West Virginia University became concerned about the accessibility, affordability, and the quality of higher education in the state. Students for Higher Education is fighting to keep the cost of education low and prioritize higher education funding in the state legislature. This new association got started in November of 2003 and will work to strengthen the WVSGA network. Neither association has a funding base.

States without a State Student Association

Alabama

Alabama previously had a network of fifteen public and private 4-year colleges that represented 86,000 students. The Alabama Student Association (ASA) was founded in 1990 and it is unknown if ASA is functioning as a statewide network. ASA was housed out of the Alabama YMCA, as an affiliated organization. This affiliation provided staff resources, institutional memory, year to year stability and guidance. Member campuses paid \$50 each year for material costs.

Currently there are two programs that work with Alabama student government leaders. The first is STARS (Student Teams Advocating for Realistic Solutions) which is a project of the Higher Education Partnership. The Partnership provides “information and advocacy opportunities” to student government leaders that are interested in higher education policies at the state level. STARS has an annual retreat with a couple students from most colleges and universities in Alabama as well as an annual Higher Education Day, which is a large one day lobby trip to Montgomery to speak with legislators about higher education policy. The Higher Education Partnership provides regular information to STARS leaders so they may take action on campus to benefit students; this action could be letter writing, phone calls or rallies. The Higher Education Partnership, itself, is an advocacy group that represents the interests of its members, faculty, staff and administrators.

The second program that works with Alabama student government leaders is the Alabama YMCA-run “Model Collegiate Legislature”. The Collegiate Legislature serves as a leadership training and mock government experience so students may learn more about government, leadership and higher education issues. This event is held annually in February and is attended by approximately 300 students.

Arkansas

Very little is known about the Student Government Association of Arkansas (SGAA). Building the Student Voice: The Health of Statewide Student Associations states that SGAA was founded in 1997 with the participation of nine schools. At the time the association was planning its first annual statewide conference.

At this time there is no statewide association of student governments in Arkansas. However, in the 2002–2003 academic year students created Arkansas EDU (Education Develops Us) as a vehicle to affect higher education public policy. It is a student-run organization that got its start by defending some of the states most important financial aid scholarships that were de-funded. Most public colleges and universities in Arkansas have a chapter of Arkansas EDU which last year worked to demonstrate the support for these scholarship programs through lobby visits, emails and phone calls. It is unclear what the role of Arkansas EDU will be in the future. The same individuals that started Arkansas EDU are interested in reviving a true state student association in Arkansas.

Connecticut

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one. In the past, there had been some interest in starting an association but there is no organized effort to do so, currently.

Delaware

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one.

Illinois

Before the Illinois Student Association (ISA) folded in 1993 it represented 208,000 students from eight member institutions. ISA had a \$1 mandatory refundable fee that funded two full time staff members. In the early 1990s students tried to create three distinct lobbying associations for four-year, two-year and private institutions; this ultimately weakened ISA and none of the associations exist today.

Indiana

Students in Indiana do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one. There is currently student interest in forming a statewide network. In the 2002-2003 academic year, students hosted a conference of state colleges and universities to discuss statewide higher education issues and the possibility of starting an association.

Iowa

The Iowa State Student Association has not existed for many years. Students at the three Regents schools (University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and University of Northern Iowa) are interested in re-starting the organization in a stronger, more long-lasting reincarnation.

Maine

Student government leaders within the University of Maine system are considering re-creating the Maine Student Government Organization (MSGO). The interest to rebuild MSGO came when students at the University of Maine at Orono ran across old MSGO historical documents describing the work it had done. There are seven four-year institutions in the system and currently the student body presidents communicate when common concerns arise.

Massachusetts

The State Student Association of Massachusetts (SSAM) was founded in 1987 and at its peak had twelve member schools and represented 75,000 students. In 1999 SSAM had two member schools before it stopped functioning. Currently, students based at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst are exploring options to create the Associated Students of Massachusetts.

Michigan

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one.

Nebraska

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one.

New Hampshire

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one.

Rhode Island

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one. Three institutions (Rhode Island College, University of Rhode Island, and Community College of Rhode Island) are governed by the Board of Governors and the student body presidents informally communicate on various issues. Annually there is a Higher Ed Day in which students from these three universities lobby at the state capital regarding issues that affect students; approximately 100 students attend. Currently, there is no attempt to create a statewide student association.

South Carolina

Students in South Carolina do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one. There is currently student interest in starting one.

Vermont

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one.

Wyoming

Students do not have a state student association and there is no information available to show that there has ever been one. There is only one four-year public institution in the state.

Appendix I: Member Schools of State Student Associations

Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Anchorage in Homer
University of Alaska Anchorage in Kodiak
University of Alaska Anchorage in Palmer
University of Alaska Anchorage in Soldotna
University of Alaska Anchorage in Valdez
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Fairbanks in Bethel
University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau
University of Alaska Southeast in Ketchikan
University of Alaska Southeast in Sitka

Arizona Students' Association

Arizona State University
Arizona State University West
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University- Yuma
University of Arizona
University of Arizona South

California State Student Association

California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Hayward
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marco
California State University, Stanislaus
Humboldt State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Sonoma State University

California Student Association of Community Colleges

See www.calsacc.org for the 108 member schools.

University of California Student Association

University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California San Diego
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
Colorado Student Association
Adams State College
Colorado Mountain College
Fort Lewis College
Mesa State College
Metro State College
University of Colorado-Denver
University of Northern Colorado
Western State College

Florida Student Association

Florida A&M University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Florida Atlantic University
New College of Florida
University of Central Florida
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of West Florida

Georgia Student Advisory Council

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Atlanta Metropolitan College
Augusta State University
Bainbridge College
Clayton College & State University

Georgia Student Advisory Council(cont'd)

Coastal Georgia Community College
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Darton College
East Georgia College
Floyd College
Fort Valley State University
Gainesville College
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon College
Kennesaw State University
Macon State College
Medical College of Georgia
Middle Georgia College
North Georgia College & State University
Savannah State University
South Georgia College
Southern Polytechnic State University
State University of West Georgia
University of Georgia
Valdosta State University
Waycross College

University of Hawaii Student Caucus

Hawaii Community College
Honolulu Community College
Kapiolani Community College
Kauai Community College
Leeward Community College
Maui Community College
University of Hawaii-Hilo
University of Hawaii-Manoa
University of Hawaii-West Oahu
Winward Community College

Idaho Student Association

Boise State University
Idaho State University
Lewis-Clark State College
University of Idaho

Kansas Student Advisory Council

Emporia State University
Fort Hays State University
Kansas State University
Pittsburg State University
University of Kansas
Wichita State University

Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents

Eastern Kentucky University
Kentucky State University
Morehead State University
Murray State University
Northern Kentucky University
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
Western Kentucky University

Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents

Baton Rouge Community College
Bossier Parish Community College
Delgado Community College
Delta Community College
Fletcher Technical Community College
Grambling State University
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
LSU Agricultural Center
LSU, Alexandria
LSU, Eunice
LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans
LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport
LSU Law Center
LSU, Shreveport
Louisiana Tech University
Louisiana Technical Community College
McNeese State University
Nicholls State University
Northwestern State University
Nunez Community College
River Parishes Community College
South Louisiana Community College
Southeastern Louisiana University
Southern University, Baton Rouge
Southern University, New Orleans
Southern University, Shreveport
Sowela Technical Community College
University of Louisiana, Lafayette
University of Louisiana, Monroe
University of New Orleans

Maryland Student Council

Bowie State University
Coppin State University
Frostburg State University
Salisbury University
Towson University
University of Baltimore
University of Maryland-Baltimore
University of Maryland-Baltimore County
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
University of Maryland-University College

Minnesota State College Student Association

See www.mscca.org for the 46 member schools.

Minnesota State University Student Association

Bemidji State University
Metropolitan State University
Minnesota State University-Mankato
Minnesota State University-Moorhead
St. Cloud State University
Southwest State University
Winona State University

Mississippi Student Body President's Council

Alcorn State University
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
University of Mississippi
University of Mississippi Medical Center
University of Southern Mississippi

Associated Students of the University of Missouri

University of Missouri- Columbia
University of Missouri- Kansas City
University of Missouri- Rolla
University of Missouri- St. Louis

Student Association of Missouri

Central Missouri State University
Lincoln University
Missouri Western State College
Northwest Missouri State University
Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Southeast Missouri State University
Truman State University

Montana Associated Students

Billings College of Technology
College of Technology at Great Falls
Dawson Community College
Flathead Valley Community College
Helena College of Technology
Miles Community College
Missoula College of Technology
Montana State University, Billings
Montana State University, Bozeman
Montana State University, Northern
Montana Tech
Montana Tech College of Technology
University of Montana
University of Montana Western

Nevada Student Alliance

Community College of Southern Nevada
Great Basin College
Nevada State College at Henderson
Truckee Meadows Community College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
Western Nevada Community College

Associated Students of New Mexico

Eastern New Mexico University
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
New Mexico State University
University of New Mexico
Western New Mexico University

Student Association of the State University of NY

SUNY- Binghamton

University Student Senate of the City University of NY

Baruch College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Bronx Community College
Brooklyn College
City College
City University School of Law
Graduate Center
Hostos Community College
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Lehman College
Medgar Evars College
New York City College of Technology
Queens College
Queensborough Community College
College of Staten Island
York College

University of North Carolina Associated Student Government

Appalachian State University
East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina School of the Arts
North Carolina State University
UNC- Asheville
UNC- Chapel Hill
UNC- Charlotte
UNC- Greensboro
UNC- Pembroke
UNC- Wilmington
Western Carolina University
Winston Salem State University

North Dakota Student Association

Bismarck State College
Dickinson State University
Lake Region State College
Mayville State University
Minot State University
Minot State University- Bottineau Campus
North Dakota State College of Science
North Dakota State University
University of North Dakota
Valley City State University
Williston State University

Ohio Council of Student Governments

Bowling Green State University
Central State University
Cleveland State University
Kent State University
Miami University
Ohio University
Shawnee State University
The Ohio State University
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
University of Toledo
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

Oklahoma Student Government Association

See www.osga.org/members.htm for the 38 member schools.

Oregon Community College Student Association

Blue Mountain Community College
Central Oregon Community College
Chemeketa Community College
Clackamas Community College
Clatsop Community College
Columbia Gorge Community College
Klamath Community College
Lane Community College
Linn-Benton Community College
Mt.Hood Community College
Oregon Coast Community College
Portland Community College
Rogue Community College
Southwestern Oregon Community College
Tillamook Bay Community College
Treasure Valley Community College
Umpqua Community College

Oregon Student Association

Eastern Oregon University
Lane Community College
Oregon Health and Science University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Portland State University
Southern Oregon University
University of Oregon
Western Oregon University

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments

Penn State Abington
Penn State Altoona
Penn State Beaver
Penn State Berks
Penn State Delaware County
Penn State DuBois
Penn State Erie
Penn State Fayette
Penn State Harrisburg
Penn State Hazleton
Penn State Lehigh Valley
Penn State McKeesport
Penn State Mont Alto
Penn State New Kensington
Penn State Schuylkill
Penn State Shenango
Penn State University Park
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Penn State Worthington Scranton
Penn State York

Rutgers University Lobbying Association

Rutgers College
Livingston College
Douglass College
Cook College

South Dakota Student Federation

Black Hills State University
Dakota State University
Northern State University
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
South Dakota State University
University of South Dakota

Tennessee Student Presidents' Council

Austin Peay State University
Chattanooga State Technical Community College
Cleveland State Community College
Columbia State Community College
Dyersburg State Community College
East Tennessee State University
Jackson State Community College
Middle Tennessee State University
Motlow State Community College
Nashville State Technical Community College
Northeast State Technical Community College
Pellissippi State Technical Community College
Roane State Community College
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
The University of Memphis
Volunteer State Community College

Utah Intercollegiate Assembly

Brigham Young University
College of Eastern Utah
Dixie College
Salt Lake Community College
Snow College
Southern Utah University
University of Utah
Utah State University
Utah Valley State College
Weber State University
Western Governors University
Westminster State College

Washington Student Association of Community & Technical Colleges

Bates Technical College
Bellevue Community College
Bellingham Technical College
Big Bend Community College
Cascadia Community College
Centralia College
Clark College
Clover Park Technical College
Columbia Basin College
Community Colleges of Spokane
Edmonds Community College
Everett Community College
Grays Harbor College
Green River Community College
Highline Community College
Lake Washington Technical College
Lower Columbia College
Olympic College
Peninsula College
Pierce College
Renton Technical College
Seattle Community Colleges
Shoreline Community College
Skagit Valley College
South Puget Sound Community College
Tacoma Community College
Walla Walla Community College
Wenatchee Valley College
Whatcom Community College
Yakima Valley Community College

Washington Student Lobby

Central Washington University
Eastern Washington University
University of Washington
Washington State University
Western Washington University

West Virginia Student Government Association

Bluefield State College
Concord College
Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Fairmont State College
Glenville State College
Marshall University
Potomac State College of West Virginia University
Shepherd College
Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College
West Liberty State College
West Virginia Northern Community College
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
West Virginia State College
West Virginia University
West Virginia University Institute of Technology
West Virginia University Parkersburg

United Council of University of Wisconsin Students

University of Wisconsin, Baraboo/Sauk County
University of Wisconsin, Barron County
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin, Fond Du Lac
University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Manitowoc
University of Wisconsin, Marathon County
University of Wisconsin, Marinette
University of Wisconsin, Marshfield/Wood County
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin, Parkside
University of Wisconsin, Platteville
University of Wisconsin, River Falls
University of Wisconsin, Rock County
University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin, Superior
University of Wisconsin, Washington County
University of Wisconsin, Waukesha

Appendix II: Quick Reference Guide to SSA Characteristics

System Organized

Association	Yr. Founded	Students Represented	Member Campuses	Voting Reps.	Annual Budget (\$)	Funding System or source	Fee Amount	Fee Frequency	FT Staff **	System Staff***	Student Regent	Voting Rights
Alaska CSL	1993	30,000	11	11	33,041	U system allocation	n/a	n/a	0	2	Y	Y
Georgia SAC	1968	200,000	34	34	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	N	N
HI Student Caucus	early 90s	50,765	10	20	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	Y	Y
Kansas SAC	1975	90,000	6	6	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	N	N
Kentucky BSBP	1990	150,000	8	8	25,000*	SGA allocation	.17	annually	0	0	Y	Y
Louisiana CSBP	1950	200,000	30	30	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	Y	Y
Maryland SC	1988	130,000	11	22	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	Y	Y
ASUM	1975	66,000	4	15	200,000	mandatory	1.50-2.59	per semester	1	0	Y	N
Montana AS	1970s	40,000	14	14	5,600*	SGA allocation	400	annually per campus	0	0	Y	Y
Nevada SA	late 70s	70,000	7	7	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	N	N
USS CUNY	1972	208,000	19	70	350,000*	mandatory fee	.85	per semester	3	0	Y	Y
UNCASG	1972	175,000	16	64	145,000	mandatory fee	1	annually	1	0	Y	N
North Dakota SA	1974	40,000	11	60	23,000	mandatory fee	.03	per credit	0	0	Y	Y
Oklahoma SGA	early 70s	250,000	38	76	7,600*	SGA allocation	200	annually per campus	0	0	N	N
Pennsylvania CCSG	mid 70s	40,000	20	44	25,000	U system allocation	25,000	annually	0	0	Y	Y
South Dakota SF	1971	30,000	6	6	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	Y	Y
Tennessee SPC		150,000	19	19	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	Y	Y
17 associations		1,919,765	264	506	814,241				5	6		

* estimate based on fee amount and students enrolled

** full time staff dedicated specifically to the SSA

*** system staff/part time staff

Independent

Association	Yr. Founded	Students Represented	Member Campuses	Voting Board Members	Annual Budget (\$)	Funding System	Fee Amount	Fee Frequency	FT Staff	Student Regent	Voting Rights
ASA	1974	105,000	6	18	270,000	mandatory refundable	\$1.00	per semester	2	Y	Y
CSSA	1959	400,000	21	42	675,000	SGA alloc/Chancellor	\$0.60	per term	3	Y	Y
UCSA	1971	180,000	9	18	289,000	SGA allocation	\$1.00	per term	4	Y	Y
CSA	1988	85,000	8	8	80,000*	mandatory fee	\$0.50	per semester	1	**	**
FSA	1976	245,000	10	10	200,000	SGA allocation			2	Y	Y
MSCSA	1998	110,000	46	16	700,000	mandatory fee	\$0.28	per credit	4	Y	Y
MSUSA	1967	65,000	7	7	800,000	mandatory fee	\$0.39	per credit	7	Y	Y
SAM	2001	60,000	7	12	30,000	mandatory refundable	\$1.00	per semester	0	**	**
SASU	1970	13,000	1	7	15,000	SGA allocation	\$2.00	per semester	0	Y	Y
OSA	1975	100,000	9	18	270,000	SGA allocation	\$1.08	per term	10	Y	Y
TSSA	2002				0	SGA allocation			0	**	**
WSL	1982	100,000	5	12	24,000	donation	\$2.00	per term	0	**	**
United Council	1960	145,000	23	165	405,000	mandatory refundable	\$2.00	per semester	9	Y	Y
13 associations		1,608,000	152	333	3,758,000				42		

* estimate based on fee amount and students enrolled

** varies by individual campus

Informal

Association	Yr. Founded	Students Represented	Member Campuses	Voting Reps.	Annual Dues Per School (\$)	FT Staff	Student Regent	Voting Rights
CalSACC	early 80s	1,700,000	108	15	50	0	Y	Y
Idaho SA	1995	48,000	4		n/a	0	N	N
Mississippi		61,000	8	8	n/a	0	N	N
RULA	2000	51,000	4	8	approximately 1000	0	Y	N
New Mexico	1990	50,000	6		400	0	Y	Y
Ohio	1997	252,000	13	26	300	0	Y	N
OCCSA	1975	403,000	17	20	up to 750	0	N	N
Utah IA	1976	100,000	12		n/a	0	Y	Y
VSLA	1998				approximately 200	0	Y	Y
WSACTC	2002	170,000	30	30	n/a	0	N	N
WVa		80,000	16		n/a	0	N	N
11 associations		2,915,000	218					

Appendix III: SSA Contact Information

Name	Address	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email	Website
Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska	PO Box 757780 BUTRO 105H Fairbanks, AK 99775	Roseann Simko	907.474.5214	907.474.5131	synet@mail.alaska.edu	sygov.swadm. alaska.edu/net
		Pat Ivey	907.474.5130	907.474.5131	snpmi@mail.alaska.edu	
Arizona Students' Association	3507 N. Central Ave., Suite 202 Phoenix, AZ 85012	Maceo Brown	602.294.6900	602.294.6695	info@azstudents.org	www.azstudents.org
California State Student Association	401 Golden Shore, Suite 135 Long Beach, CA 90802-4210	Susana Gonzalez	562.951.4025	562.951.4860	sgonzalez@calstate.edu	www.csustudents.org
	925 LSt., Suite 320 Sacramento, CA 95814	Laura Kerr	916.441.4514	916.441.6350	lkerr@csustudents.org	
California Student Association of Community Colleges	Attn: CalSACC 2017 O St., 2nd Fl. Sacramento, CA 95814	Pirikana Johnson (or current president)	916.444.6244	916.444.5229	president@calsacc.org	www.calsacc.org
University of California Student Association	385 Grand Ave., Suite 302 Oakland, CA 94610	Liz Geyer	510.834.8272	510.834.38286	ucsa@ucsa.org	www.ucsa.org
	926 J St., Suite 718 Sacramento, CA 95814	Amalia Chamorro	916.442.8280			
Colorado Student Association	1280 Sherman St. #212 Denver, CO 80203	Ryan McMaken	303.832.4753	303.832.4766	coloradostudent@hotmail.com	www.coloradostudent. iwar.com
Florida Student Association	1311-B Paul Russell Rd., Suite 203 Tallahassee, FL 32301	Scott Ross	850.877.7500	850.877.6898		www.fsai.org
Georgia Student Advisory Council to the Board of Regents	SGA, 149 Tate Student Center University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602	president	706.542.8543			
Idaho Student Association	Associated Students University of Idaho Idaho Commons Campus Box 442535 Moscow, ID 83844-2535	president	208.885.6331	208.885.6944	asui@idaho.edu	

Name	Address	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email	Website
Student Advisory Committee to the Kansas Board of Regents	410 Kansas Union 1301 Jayhawk Blvd. University of Kansas Lawrence, KS 66045	president	785.864.3710			
Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents	Student Government Office UC 208 Northern Kentucky Univ Highlands, KY 41099	Chris Pace (or current president)	859.572.5149			
Louisiana Council on Student Body Presidents	Louisiana Board of Regents PO Box 3677 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677	Erin Bendily Harold Boutte	225.342.4253	225.342.9318		
University System of Maryland Student Council	University System of MD 3300 Metzert Rd Adelphi, MD 20783	general number	301.445.2740			
	Salisbury University GUC Room #125 Salisbury, MD 21801	Tyler Patton (or current president)	410.548.2341		TCPatton@salisbury.edu	
Minnesota State College Student Association	505 Como Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103	Brent Glass	651.297.5877	651.215.1862	gov@mscsa.org	www.mscsa.org
Minnesota State University Student Association	108 Como Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103	Sam Edmunds	651.224.1518	651.224.9753	samje@msn.com	www.msusa.net
Mississippi Student Body President's Council	University of Mississippi Union 408 PO Box 1848 University, MS 38677	Alan Bean (or current president)	662.915.7393		asbean@olemiss.edu	
Associated Students of the University of Missouri	AO 37 Brady Commons Columbia, MO 65211	Mary Anne McCollum	573.882.2701	573.882.5515	asumwww@showme.missouri.edu	www.missouri.edu/~asumwww/
Student Association of Missouri	204 East High Suite A Jefferson City, MO 65101	Rory Roundtree (or current president)	573.659.7171	573.659.7171	pres@studentassociationofmissouri.org	www.studentassociationofmissouri.org
Montana Associated Students	ASMSU PO Box 174200 Bozeman, MT 59717-4200	Scott McCarthy (or current president)	406.994.2933		asumpres@montana.edu	

Name	Address	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email	Website
Nevada Student Alliance	University of Nevada Mail Stop 58 Reno, NV 89507		775.784.6589	775.784.1859		www.bgcnv.edu/nsa
	University of Nevada, LV 4505 South Maryland Pkwy Box 452009 Las Vegas, NV 85914-2009	Monica Moradkhan (or current president)	702.895.3011			
Rutgers University Lobbying Association	RCGA SAC Box #1 613 George St. New Brunswick, NJ 08901	president	732.932.8518	732.932.1186		
Associated Students of New Mexico	New Mexico State University Box 30001 Dept 7110 Las Cruces, NM 88003	Erin McSherry (or current president)	505.646.4415	505.646.5596	pres@nmsu.edu	
Student Association of the State University of NY	300 Lark St. Albany, NY 12210	Joe Valkenburgh (or current president)	607.777.4651 518.465.2406		sasu_suny@yahoo.com	www.sasuny.org
University Student Senate of CUNY	101 West 31st St. Suite 1245 New York, NY 10001	Agnes Abraham (or current chair)	646.344.7280			www.uss.cuny.edu
North Carolina Association of Student Governments	2008 Hillsborough St. Box 10 Raleigh, NC 27607	Jonathan Ducote (or current president)	919.715.2431	313.715.2434	president@uncasg.org	www.uncasg.org
North Dakota Student Association	SGA Memorial Union 347 NDSU Fargo, ND 58105	James Klein (or current president)	701.231.8461		james.a.klein@ndsu.nodak.edu	
Ohio Student Association	OSU-Student Government 201 Ohio Union 1739 N. High St. Columbus, OH 43201	president	614.292.2101		usg@osu.edu	
Oklahoma Student Government Association	U of Oklahoma- SGA 900 Asp Ave. OMU 181 Norman, OK73019	Amanda Wrede (or current president)	405.325.5472		amanda@ou.edu	

Name	Address	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email	Website
Oregon Community College Student Association	OCCSA c/o OCCA 1201 Court St. NE Suite 302 Salem, OR 97301	Brian Ruzicka (or current president)			bruzicka@pcc.edu	
Oregon Student Association	635 NE Dekum St. Portland, OR 97211	John Wycoff	503.286.0924	503.286.0924	exec@orstudents.org	
PA Council of Commonwealth Student Governments	PSU Student Government Penn State U 223 HUB Univ. Park, PA 16802	Ian Rosenberger (or current president)	814.863.1874		usg@psu.edu	
South Dakota Student Federation	USU 101 Box 2815 SDSU Brookings, SD 57001	Eric Erickson (or current president)	605.688.5181			www.studentfederation.dsu.edu
Tennessee Board of Regents Student Presidents' Council	Box #1 1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro, TN 37132	Michelle Butler (or current president)	615.898.2464	615.904.8231	mbutler@mtsu.edu	
Texas State Student Association	St. Mary's U SGA One Camino Santa Maria San Antonio, TX 78228-8583	Jaime Martinez (or current TSSA rep)	210.436.3403	210.436.3300		
Utah Intercollegiate Assembly	c/o ASUU Room 234 Student Union University of Utah Salt Lake City, UT 84102	Stephen Nelson (or current delegate chair)	801.581.2788		snelson@jasuu.utah.edu	
Washington Student Lobby	203 E. 4th Ave. Suite 405 Olympia, WA 98501	Rachel Zommick (or current president)			rachel.zommick@wwu.edu	
West Virginia Student Government Association	WVU SGA Mountainiar Union PO Box 6437 Morgantown, WV 26506	Charlie Battleson (or current president)	304.293.4403		charlie.battleson@mail.wvu.edu	www.wvstudentvoice.com
United Council of University of Wisconsin Students	14 W. Mifflin St. Suite 212 Madison, WI 53703	Jeff Pertl	608.263.3422	608.265.4070	president@unitedcouncil.net	www.unitedcouncil.net

Appendix IV: National Resources for State Student Associations

Student Empowerment Training Project (SET):

SET has a 20-year history working with student government and state student association leaders and is ded-

119 Somerset St., 2nd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

732.247.2197
set@trainings.org • www.trainings.org

icated to the mission of strengthening these institutions so that they may function as effective vehicles for student engagement. SET was started in 1983 by student government presidents attending a national student voter registration conference. It was these students who decided a permanent institution should exist in order to train student leaders and provide them with effective organizing and advocacy skills.

SET offers workshop trainings, consultations, materials and campaign support to benefit student government leaders. Contact SET if you are interested in learning more about current programs and trainings.

United States Student Association (USSA):

Founded in 1947, USSA is the nation's oldest and largest national student organization. USSA is the recognized

1413 K St. NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

202.347.USSA
ussa@usstudents.org • www.usstudents.org

voice of students on Capitol Hill, in the Department of Education and in the White House. USSA focuses on issues that affect access to higher education. Major issues of concern include increasing the maximum Pell grant, reducing interest rates on student loans, and fully funding programs such as TRIO and Gear Up.

USSA coordinates national higher education campaigns and lobbying efforts related to higher education issues. Each year, USSA organizes a National Grassroots Legislative Conference including speakers, legislative briefings, workshops, lobby clinics and a National Student Lobby Day.

Contact USSA if you are interested in learning more about current federal higher education issues.

State Student Association Alliance (SSAA):

SSAA is an alliance of eight state student associations in the U.S. and was founded in the late 1990s. Its mission is to strengthen and further develop

SSAA c/o MSUSA
108 Como Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

651.224.1518
www.s2a2.org

SSAs by providing organizational support and networking opportunities. SSAA meets approximately four times each year, including an annual SSA conference. SSAA is in the process of creating an SSA Starter Kit which will aid students in the creation of an SSA.

Contact SSAA if you are interested in learning more about the national network of SSAs.

The Center for Campus Free Speech:

The Center for Campus Free Speech is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the market-

29 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

617.747.4333 • center@campusspeech.org
www.campusspeech.org

place of ideas on college campuses across the country. In order to preserve this marketplace, we must defend and improve upon existing student fee systems. These fees fund a diverse array of extracurricular student organizations, all of which contribute to the fulfillment of the mission of higher education. The Center provides students, faculty, and administrators with legal expertise through a network of student fee experts.

Contact The Center if you are interested in learning more about student fees and free speech issues related to college campuses.

Index of Associations by State

Alabama .....	.24	Louisiana	
Alaska		Council of Student Body Presidents .....	.17
Coalition of Student Leaders .....	.16	Maine .....	.25
Arkansas .....	.24	Maryland	
Arizona		Maryland Student Council .....	.17
Arizona Students' Association .....	.3	Massachusetts .....	.25
California		Michigan .....	.25
California State Student Association .....	.4	Minnesota	
California Student Association		Minnesota State College Student Association .....	.8
of Community Colleges .....	.21	Minnesota State University Student Association .....	.9
University of California Student Association .....	.5	Mississippi	
Colorado		Student Body President's Council .....	.21
Colorado Student Association .....	.6	Missouri	
Connecticut .....	.24	Associated Students of the University of Missouri ..	.18
Delaware .....	.24	Student Association of Missouri .....	.10
Florida		Montana	
Florida Student Association .....	.7	Montana Associated Students .....	.18
Georgia		Nebraska .....	.25
Student Advisory Council .....	.16	Nevada	
Hawaii		Nevada Student Alliance .....	.18
Hawaii Student Caucus .....	.16	New Hampshire .....	.24
Idaho		New Jersey	
Idaho Student Association .....	.21	Rutgers University Lobbying Association .....	.21
Illinois .....	.24	New Mexico	
Indiana .....	.25	Associated Students of New Mexico .....	.22
Iowa .....	.25	New York	
Kansas		Student Association of the	
Student Advisory Council .....	.17	University of New York .....	.11
Kentucky		University Student Senate	
Board of Student Body Presidents .....	.17	of the City University of NY .....	.19

North Carolina		Texas	
Associated Student Government . . . . .	.19	Texas State Student Association . . . . .	.13
North Dakota		Utah	
North Dakota Student Association . . . . .	.19	Utah Intercollegiate Assembly . . . . .	.23
Ohio		Vermont . . . . .	.25
Council of Student Governments . . . . .	.22	Virginia	
Oklahoma		Virginia Student Leadership Alliance . . . . .	.23
Oklahoma Student Government Association . . . . .	.20	Washington	
Oregon		Association of Community and Technical Colleges . . . . .	.23
Oregon Community College Student Association . . . . .	.22	Washington Student Lobby . . . . .	.13
Oregon Student Association . . . . .	.12	West Virginia	
Pennsylvania		West Virginia Student Government Association . . . . .	.23
Council of Commonwealth Student Governments . . . . .	.20	Wisconsin	
Rhode Island . . . . .	.25	United Council of University of Wisconsin Students . . . . .	.14
South Carolina . . . . .	.25	Wyoming . . . . .	.25
South Dakota			
South Dakota Student Federation . . . . .	.20		
Tennessee			
Student Presidents' Council . . . . .	.20		

