



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

2008 Student Affairs Assessment Project

CAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

University Student Union

Scope of Review

The scope of this review was to assess the University Student Union.

Mission

The University Student Union strives to be the center of student life on campus. As a not-for-profit organization, run by the students, for the students, we meet the ever-changing needs of our diverse student body by bringing the campus together and offering within our facilities a multitude of services, programs, and events.

Assessment Summary

I. The University Student Union was evaluated by using the criteria established by the Council for The Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education. The Internal Review Team identified the types of documentary evidence that would need to be compiled, and reviewed the criteria and evidence collectively, and then assigned a numerical value after consensus was reached for each item. Next, the External Review Team completed an independent review of the CAS instrument and the documentary evidence, and then provided a written review of their findings.

II. Identified strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths

- Success of the functional merge by saving on salary and benefits, improving efficiencies of both organizations, minimizes overlapping resources and greater cohesion between both organizations.
- Financial strength based upon amount of reserves in hand and balanced operating budgets.
- Strong understanding of the importance of having a well defined risk management program in place which includes events, concerts and activities.
- Well defined programming group comprised of students who work toward providing a diverse menu of programs and events.
- Well defined purchasing policy in place for both organizations which ensures approval prior to purchases being made.

Weaknesses

- Ways and means to assess student learning outcomes are not in place.
- Lack of a comprehensive set of human resource policies and procedures.
- Lack of policies to protect the ASI when MySpace, Face Book and Twitter is used under the name of CSU Stanislaus USU.

Priorities for the Program

1. Learning Outcomes: A process must be put in place to determine what exactly is being assessed and what is the desired outcome achievement being measured. As a part of the process the professional staff will determine who the assessor is, what is being assessed based upon what students themselves wish to learn and what we want them to learn and the various methods which can be used to measure and document achievement. The necessary training to implement this process will be completed prior to the beginning of fall semester 2009.
2. Risk Management Program: Continue development and implementation of comprehensive risk management policies and procedures. Continue training and development efforts with staff and student programmers. Work closely with campus risk management.
3. Assessment of Programs: Develop and implement the various methods to assess all of the activities, events and programs produced by the University Student Union.

4. Personnel Policies and Procedures: With Auxiliary Business Services no longer existing as an employer of auxiliary staff, ASI and USU have become the only campus auxiliaries employing non-state employees. Therefore in order to meet *Education Code 89900* the governing board of each auxiliary organization has the primary responsibility for developing and implementing personnel policies and practices relating to employee relations. It is expected that the personnel policies are in compliance with State law (specific to the CSU) and Trustee policy. Given that a minimal inventory of personnel policies existed within the auxiliaries, the extreme need exists to develop, review and have each respective governing board approve the policies. In addition it is imperative that the benefit package is reviewed and is “comparable” to benefits provided by the state. Each governing board has to review the specific benefits provided and vote to approve such benefits.

5. Operating Policies and Procedures: Build upon existing policies and procedures as the need arises including policies for use of internet social sites by both Associated Students and University Student Union and use of ASI and USU provided computers, printers and copiers.