CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS
2008 Student Affairs Assessment Project
CAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Associated Students, Inc.

Scope of Review
The scope of this review was to assess the Associated Students, Inc.

Mission
The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) is the official voice of the students. Our mission is to serve the students of CSU Stanislaus in all matters pertaining to the quality of their education.

Assessment Summary
I. The Associated Student, Inc. 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 of ASI based upon current amount of reserves in hand and balanced operating budgets; strong understanding and acceptance of the importance of having a well defined risk management program in place which includes events, concerts and activities; and a well defined purchasing policy in place which ensures approval prior to purchases being made.
- Well defined programming group comprised of students who work toward providing a diverse menu of programs and events.
- There is collaboration on programs with various constituencies across campus, which ensures the diversity of program offered matches the diversity of the student population.
- Student leaders are well integrated into the fabric of campus.

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 and procedures to protect ASI within its role as being the financial agency for clubs and organizations.
- Lack of policies to protect the ASI when MySpace, Face Book, and Twitter are used under the name of CSU Stanislaus ASI.

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 provided by the Associated Students Inc.

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. This includes developing more clearly defined roles and responsibilities to ensure students in leadership positions are qualified. 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 various Associated Students Inc. groups. In addition policies need to be developed to protect the Associated Students Inc. from any misuse of ASI computers by student assistants, student volunteers, ASI executives and senators.