

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM RESTATEMENT

Purpose and Background

The University Student Union (USU) *Student Leadership Development Program* fosters effective leadership and governance skills as a crucial element of an inclusive and dynamic California State University, (CSU) Northridge educational experience.

Students participating in the Program have made an important commitment beyond traditional academic rigor. They are elected or appointed by their student-peers to responsible offices, governing board, and committee positions of the *University Student Union of California State University, Northridge*, a nonprofit corporation. These student members provide leadership, direction, oversight, and policy-making for all USU programs, services and facilities.

The USU seeks to support and enhance leadership experiences and study across the student body at a heightened level. This effort will develop change agents, as the world needs engaged community members and future leaders.

The USU has a long-established and highly regarded history of encouraging student participation in its business. The era now calls for exploring, engaging and elevating student leadership development as an integral feature of USU governance.

Leadership and governance skills can be learned -- and learned best by experience and study -- as an integral part of the higher education endeavor. Irrespective of life-path, USU student leaders will gain an understanding of leadership theory, be exposed to sound leadership practices, join in mentoring experiences and explore personal reflection opportunities. The practice of leadership as USU Program participants will help produce responsible and engaged community members who appreciate the obligation to serve.

USU, as a California-chartered, nonprofit public benefit tax-exempt corporation and auxiliary organization supporting CSU Northridge, is governed by a Board of Directors (BOD) composed of designated, appointed and elected Directors. All ten (10) elected Directors are CSU Northridge students maintaining academic standards prescribed in the USU Bylaws. Designated and appointed Directors include university officials and community leaders.

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The USU corporate offices of BOD Chair and Vice Chair are students elected to these leadership positions by the BOD, along with Board Committee officers.

Student directors and officers serve without compensation under USU Bylaws Section 5.04 Compensation.

USU Bylaws Article 13 authorizes the BOD to establish and evolve the *Student Leadership Development Program*, and to provide grant and scholarship support to its participants.

This restatement describes the framework for the Program and clarifies implementing directions.

Program Framework

Outcome Based Learning. All Program leaders participate in a learning environment that develops decision making, goal setting and team building skills.

Orientation and Study. New Program leaders will actively participate in established USU Leadership Orientation and Study activities, emphasizing meetings protocol, University and USU organizational structures, policy development techniques, and the role and responsibilities of auxiliary governing board members.

Preparation/Participation in Meetings. All Program leaders are responsible for attending and actively participating in scheduled Board and/or committee meetings. Effective meeting participation requires meaningful preparation by reviewing agenda materials and in many instances seeking answers to questions before the meeting.

Conference Program Participation. Program leaders may attend and participate in a number of off-campus conference programs e.g. CSSA “CSUnity” Leadership Conference, the ACUI Region 15 Conference, and the ACUI Annual Conference. Conference attendees provide a report of their experience to Board or committee members on conference activities and results.

Implementation

USU Program Funding. The annual USU budgeting process will include the review and consideration of available funds to support the Program.

USU Board of Directors Policy. The USU BOD will develop, adopt and periodically review written policies and funding in implementation of this Program, particularly with regard to Program student leaders scholarship support. The Program may be given appropriate retroactive effect.

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Program Administration. Administration of the Program is under the guidance of the Executive Director.

Periodic Evaluation. The USU BOD Chair and management will periodically assess and make recommendations to the BOD to evolve and improve the Program.

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Reviewed and Approved by the USU BOD: November 13, 2017

By: _____



Debra L. Hammond,
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California State University, Northridge