



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY: STUDENT SENATE TAKEOVER (March 2024)

This [webinar](#) focused on empowering students and partners to create real change in California, describing the structure, roles, and current advocacy priorities of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). Guest presenters included Chanelle Win, Cole Militano, Jerry Reyes and Mikala Hutchinson of SSCCC, and Anna Matthews of the Faculty Association for California Community Colleges (FACCC).

What is the Structure and Roles of SSCCC?

- [SSCCC](#) is a nonprofit organization representing all 2 million CCC students, deriving its authority from Title 5 Section 50002 which guarantees that students have a formal and effective means for participating in the formation of state policies that have, or may have, a significant impact on them.
- SSCCC represents students' voices through system participatory governance, legislative and policy advocacy, and regional support and development.
- SSCCC is organized into 10 [regions](#), each with a Regional Affairs Director who engages with students via campus visits, and a Legislative Affairs Director who focuses on policy advocacy.
- SSCCC holds an annual General Assembly where student representatives from each region gather to vote on guiding principles and priorities for the next year, and an annual [Advocacy Academy](#) that equips students with the necessary skills to advocate for change on their campuses and in their communities.
- SSCCC organizes advocacy days with the Legislature, including a recent event held on March 7th that included a march and rally along with meetings with legislators to focus on students' needs and priorities.

What are SSCCC's Current Priorities for the Legislature?

- Cal Grant Reform is the top priority, urging the Legislature to advance the reform in the 2024-25 state budget despite the projected budget deficit through a meaningful first step toward full implementation, a priority shared with the student leadership organizations of the California State University and University of California.
- Adequate funding of community colleges to ensure the academic and holistic student services needed to support student success.

- Affordable student housing, including protection of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant [program](#), funding of all viable projects, and prioritization of housing needs of the least resourced students.
- Students' basic needs, including support for [AB 2033](#) (Reyes) to ensure students can use Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards in at least one campus location, as well as [AB 1885](#) (Addis) to increase equity by allowing qualification for the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) for students who enroll in 9 or more units and are considered full-time as part of a Disabled Student Programs and Services academic accommodation plan.
- Students' ability to participate equitably in student leadership without threat to safety, privacy, or accessibility through support for [AB 1855](#) (Arambula) that would modernize the Brown Act for community college student body associations.

How Can People Get Involved with SSSCC?

- There are several ways for students to get involved with SSSCC, including by serving as a student body association delegate, becoming a [student intern](#), serving on a statewide participatory governance committee, and serving on committees at regional delegate assemblies.
- The SSSCC [calendar](#) lists ongoing committee meetings, delegate assemblies, and board of directors' meetings, and its monthly [newsletter](#) shares information with interested stakeholders.
- Students can get involved with various [caucuses](#), informal groups of students who meet, network, and deliberate collegially to form a collective voice on issues of common concern. They can also sign up for a [listserv](#) to stay informed about issues and events.
- Please watch the webinar [recording](#) to see two students share powerful stories of the significant educational, personal, and professional benefits they achieved through their involvement with SSSCC and with the support and encouragement of community college faculty.

What's Coming up at SSSCC?

- SSSCC's annual [General Assembly](#) will take place April 5-7, 2024 in Santa Clara. At this event, attendees will review resolutions and elect a new board of directors and regional officers. Various workshops and trainings will also be offered, and the event provides wonderful networking opportunities for students.