

Student Organizations

Program Review

Reporting Period: 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

Part 1: Review of Past 3 Years

Mission Statement:

The mission of student organizations is to provide ways in which students can interact in a non-formal atmosphere, and allow students to strengthen their leadership and communications skills. Student organizations and activities exist to enhance and support the academic experience. They also provide opportunities for students to voice their comments and suggestions as well as to make positive contributions to both the community and the institution. At present, Jefferson State Community College has 25 student organizations, honor societies, and professional organizations that students may join.

Program Admission and Awards:

There are four primary types of student organizations at Jefferson State, each with different admission criteria.

The first type are the student interest clubs. These are open to all students who share a common interest with no specific requirements for membership. Examples include the Art & Animation Guild, Multicultural Student Association, and Queer Straight Alliance.

The second type are the performance and outreach organizations. These organizations have a special application process, but students from all majors and programs may be accepted, as long as they meet certain criteria. These include the Jeff State Singers, Speech Team, Athletics, or Student Government Association.

The third type are honor societies, such as Kappa Beta Delta, Phi Theta Kappa, or Sigma Phi Sigma. These organizations are restricted to students with a certain GPA who have excelled in a specific set of classes. All students who meet the requirements will receive an invitation to join these organizations, and membership in these prestigious groups is marked on a student's transcript.

The final type are professional organizations. These exist within specific CTE programs to facilitate their students in networking, academic support, and professional success upon graduation. This includes groups such as the American Welding Society, Designers and Builders, Student Nurse Association, and the Association of Radiologic Technology Students.

Each student organization may nominate an outstanding member for collegiate recognition at Honors Convocation. Many organizations also choose to recognize multiple students internally. All these organizations support Jefferson State's mission and vision by providing outreach to the community, aiding in student retention, and providing students a place to belong. Many also include professional or scholarship benefits upon completion of an associate's degree.

1. Service Unit Outcomes Assessment

A. Summarize assessment results.

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Student Activities is a partner with the College in the academic support and social development of all students. Student Groups are dedicated to membership growth, campus programming, civic engagement and volunteerism. Student activities also create, sponsor, and implement program opportunities that are focused on the integration of activities that will impact the students' overall experience.

Student Organizations continue to contribute to learning, development, and student retention by providing opportunities for involvement and leadership through a wide variety of campus programs, affiliations, and community collaborations. Such experiences nurture campus pride and student success. Resources are generously provided by the College in order to facilitate these programs, attend workshops and conferences, and to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Membership in some student clubs and groups have steadily increased within the past three years, although the level of participation declined overall during the pandemic. There are currently 20 student clubs and organizations with membership open to students at all campuses, and several more groups which are more local. Each club has at least one Faculty and/or Staff Advisor. Meetings are continuous to review organizations where there has been a change in advisor. With four campus locations, groups will need to continue to improve and be more effective in maintaining a stronger presence at all campus locations. Recently, we have hired a Director of Student Activities to continue working with the two Recruiter/Student Activity Coordinators to assist organizations with planning events and preparing student leaders to be positive examples of leadership excellence and sustaining an inclusive, welcoming campus community. This position acts as liaison between students, administrative staff, faculty, vendors, and community members to facilitate the success of student programs.

Program Demographics:

The following chart shows our available demographic information:

Category	Student Totals (3yrs)	Percentage (of total students)
Total Students	1164	100%
Number of Male	446	38.3%
Number of Female	716	62.5%
Number of non-Binary	2	0.2%
African American Students	210	18.2%
Asian Students	20	1.7%
Caucasian Students	802	68.9%
Hispanic Students	60	5.2%

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Other/Unknown Race Students	72	6%
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Improvements and Initiatives:

- Increased Social Media Presence (groups moving beyond Facebook into Instagram, Snapchat, and other platforms)
- Improved partnerships that promoted student-centered service opportunities during Find your Place Days such as a voter registration table, the Pioneer Pantry, and the Learning Resource Center.
- Groups increased their participation within college-wide and community volunteer projects: Pioneer Day, reading in the elementary school system, Alabama PALS, Mass Casualty Training, the Honda Indy Grand Prix, the Fall Festival, and the expansion of Judy M. Merritt 5K Run to include a community Eggstravaganza.
- New Student Orientation: Student Groups and Clubs integrated more fun, informative collaborations at New Student Orientation and worked to support the Orientation 101 (College Success) course and provide feedback on the first year experience QEP. We also expanded the number of NSO sessions significantly, providing more in-person and synchronous virtual options to support students.
- Continued to meet and exceed expectations at numerous conferences, workshops, and competitions. *See below.*

The program review determined that there is still a need to perform continuous assessment of organizational programs and functions. Organizational functions are continuously reviewed as it pertains to operating more efficiently and cohesively across multiple campus locations. Input from student leaders and advisors will continue to be gathered, examined, and shared at every level. Programs and extracurricular activities will continue to be developed that will be responsive to the specific needs of students and to the specific nature of the campus experience.

- B.** If applicable, identify the data regularly collected and or reported as part of program compliance.

Students attending **New Student Orientation (NSO)** are given a survey to complete and return. Over *nintey percent of students continue to indicate that they are “satisfied” with New Student Orientation*). Surveys are collected at the end of New Student

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Orientation with information regarding the college's academic offerings, student activities, and campus resources.

Feedback from participants, parents and Jefferson State faculty and staff are used to better inform and help students matriculate. Positive responses and continual growth have led to additional sessions and more interactive involvement between Admissions, Advisors, and Faculty. The results are used to measure the effectiveness of NSO and to make adjustments to orientation to make the overall presentation more beneficial to students. Data from this survey is shared with student group advisors and leaders on ways to better serve and assist new students with questions and concerns related to their matriculation and interests in joining a club or organization.

New Student Orientation Sessions (NSO) were held at each campus location and began being offered online in the 2020-2021 academic year. Student volunteers from several groups were open and available to meet with students and assist them in the on-boarding process.

MEASURES	18/19	19/20	20/21
Fall New Student Orientation Sessions	9	11	35
Spring New Student Orientation Sessions	4	4	22
Summer New Student Orientation Sessions	4	4	12
Students attending New Student Orientation	1493	1127	2639
Students satisfied with New Student Orientation	94%	91.8%	NA

2. Analysis (as it relates to progress in achieving unit goals)

A. External Conditions that have impacted the unit.

The CoViD-19 pandemic significantly curtailed direct student engagement in the Spring of 2020. Its impacts continued through the 2020-2021 academic year and are still felt at present.

B. Internal Conditions that have impacted the unit.

To better consolidate and support student organizations, it was put under the aegis of the Vice President of Student Affairs, a new position created in 2018-2019. The college also added a Director of Student Activities in 2019-2020. These positions will help better support Student Organizations, bring the groups together on issues that affect the

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student body, and continue to build interest among the student body. Student Organizations and Activities will be able to meet the needs of an evolving student body more effectively. As an organization committed to continuous programmatic improvement, Student Organizations must systematically consider, acknowledge, and appropriately respond to new challenges, identify potential opportunities, and routinely strive to enhance programs and services. Meetings are continuous to review organizations where there has been a change in advisor or an advisor needs to be placed over a Student Group.

Some of the actions that have significantly affected the unit are:

- (1) The awareness of student organizations and activities and its communication across multiple campus locations. Communication is now interwoven through the Jefferson State website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SMS messaging, campus announcements, organization members, New Student Orientation, and other on-campus programming.
- (2) Continuing efforts are being made to highlight student organizations and their achievements.

C. Collaboration (internally and externally)

Student groups have a variety of opportunities to collaborate with constituents of the college, other students, faculty, staff, and within the community. One primary goal is to bring together student leaders and student volunteers under one mission; making our campuses a more involved place. Student officers and advisors collaborate with the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Director of Student Activities, Activity Coordinators, other faculty, staff, and students to promote and participate in campus initiatives and programs.

Student Organizations continue to work within the neighboring community by offering volunteer services that help foster community and assist with local programs and non-profit local initiatives. Student groups participated in several community service projects.

D. Communication – How effectively does information flow from this unit to other units on campus? How does your unit make information available to faculty/staff/students?

Information regarding Student Organizations and Student Activities can be found in the *Jefferson State Community College Catalog and Student Handbook*

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and on the Jefferson State website at: <http://www.jeffersonstate.edu/student-activities-clubs-organizations/>. New students are provided a list of student organizations at New Student Orientation, and they are also shown how to access the Student Activities, Clubs, & Organizations website to learn more about each group.

Social media is the most current and effective way to reach a majority of students. In conjunction with the offices of Information Technology and of College & Community Relations, more work is being done to promote Student Activities online and recognize our organizations. This provides a more cohesive, user-friendly avenue for administration and student leaders to regularly inform the student body of campus and community events and to promote cultural awareness.

3. Primary Functions/Primary Purpose/Unit Mission

- A. Currently, there are no changes in the unit's primary functions that might warrant a modification to the mission statement. Within the past three years, the goal has been to provide a mechanism for identifying, organizing, and supporting internal campus events, while exploring opportunities within the broader community. The *Jefferson State Community College Catalog & Student Handbook* is in place to provide the policies governing the role of the institution over student activities. The institution clearly expresses the student's role and participation in decision-making which indicates that "student organizations provide opportunities for students to voice their comments and suggestions as well as to make positive contributions to both the community and the institution." Student officers and other student representatives serve on standing committees that recommend policies and make decisions on curriculum, planning, concerts, and lectures. With the advent of the pandemic, a virtual roundtable commences to provide more direct access among student leaders and administration.

4. Goal Progress

- A. The mission of student organizations is to provide ways in which students can interact in a non-formal atmosphere, and allow students to strengthen their leadership and communications skills. Student organizations and activities exist to enhance and support the academic experience. They also provide opportunities for students to voice their comments and suggestions as well as to make positive contributions to both the

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community and the institution. At present, Jefferson State Community College has over 15 student organizations and clubs for students to join.

- B. Funding was sufficient to achieve goals. Student Activities continues to budget for programs of importance. Funding has also been requested to increase athletic activities available to students.
- C. Based on the increase in participation from students, the college continues to support involvement and outreach initiatives. Student Organizations are able to promote initiatives throughout the year.

Part 2: Implications of Program Review for Developing 3 Year Plan

1. Vision and Direction of Unit

- A. As a result of your evaluation, what direction do you see your unit taking in the next three years?

It is vital that Student Organizations strengthen and refine its ability to listen to all students from all backgrounds and communities to help them articulate their experiences, challenges, and aspirations. This engagement is the first step towards building a common agenda among students and other campus constituencies.

Implement programs and services that focus on the unique needs of new, traditional, non-traditional, and transfer students, regardless of which campus they're on or if they are primarily distance students. The quality and diversity of JSCC students are very important . In the past, students have often entered focusing solely on academics, thus missing the opportunity to take advantage of many non-academic and extra-curricular activities.

Student leaders will seek relevant ways to collaborate with student organizations and campus departments. By researching similar schools and organizational programs, leaders will establish pathways to enhance the quality of the services and opportunities available on campus. Additionally, they will research and review programs on how students can sponsor more programs that involve the local community.

- B. Are there are any anticipated conditions or trends that might impact the unit?

It is necessary to make sure organizational leaders are represented at all instructional sites and that programs are being held at each location. It is also necessary to evaluate current leadership, staffing, and the organizational structure within student

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organizations in order to effectively meet the needs of students and to embrace current trends.

- C. What changes in collaborative relationships are needed to make this unit more effective in its missions?

The Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities are continuously meeting with student leaders to discuss changes, goals achieved, and to explore new ways student organizations can become more active and vital on campus. The main concern is to continue to increase student participation in organizations and clubs and increase the presence of student leaders on all 4 campuses while also engaging students who are primarily online. Additionally, it is vital that student leaders research peer institutions to determine ways to implement diversity and multicultural events on the campus. Student groups will continue to work with the administration to ensure optimum ways of providing all individuals with the opportunity to succeed, in both the classroom and in their social or physical development.

- D. Identify any areas where communication could be improved.

More leadership training is necessary for student leaders to effectively organize and implement campus initiatives and to recruit and retain members. Many long-attended leadership opportunities were cancelled or truncated during the pandemic. Future leadership training and conferences are currently being researched to ensure students can improve effective communication and obtain skills that can be implemented at Jeff State.

- E. Describe the feasibility of making the plan you have outlined a reality. What are the resources or support needed? What challenges do you anticipate?

Guided by the principles outlined above, the student organizations' departmental program review ensures the continuation of high-quality programs and services. Offerings of more activities that promote a variety of events, showcase students' artistic abilities, and additional workshops and trainings that address student leadership on each campus location is key. Maximize student availability for facility usage. Provide student development resources. Funding support is needed to meet student activities.

Part 3: Evidence of Staff Participation in Program Review

1. Describe how the unit staff participated in the program review process. Include specific dates for meetings held or activities conducted.

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The Administrative Assistant, Vice President of Student Affairs, Student Activity staff, and other enrollment staff met to discuss and compile this program review. An initial meeting was held via Zoom on 7 October 2021, and further updates were provided through email correspondence.

Several new projects and activities have been introduced or modified during the last three years that have impacted Student Organizations. New Student Orientation and Find Your Place Days were modified to provide more structural support to students beyond just registration and advising. Developed a stronger web presence with the overhaul of content and navigation in the Student Hub page, as well as the increased utilization of social media to share information about involvement, leadership, and service. Student groups also participated in more college-wide initiatives such as tutoring and mentoring. Several groups participated in more outreach within the local community and local high schools through volunteerism with various projects.

- 2. Attach advisory committee minutes (if applicable) and list of members. Describe any changes made in the unit as a result of input from the advisory committee.**

N/A

- 3. List names and titles of all participants in this program review.**

Mike Hobbs, Vice President of Student Affairs

Toneka Armstrong Bell, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs

Lillian Owens, Associate Dean of Enrollment services

Jacob Call, Director of Recruiting & Student Activities

Brian Rockett, SGA Advisor

Brett Reach, Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Sonja Williams, Coordinator of Recruiting & Student Activities

Qianna Stevens, Coordinator of Recruiting & Student Activities