

2025 - 2026
SLCC Student Association Vision Statement
“Shared Decision-Making with Students”

In previous years, our institution lacked a system and structure for shared decision-making. Too many decisions that directly impact students have been made without consulting us. **We need better structures for student input and information sharing. We need to work together and be united in addressing student concerns to identify the proper steps to take in achieving change. We need to respect when students are the main authority in certain decisions and remember to do that.**

The core goals of SLCCSA this year are to:

- emphasize the importance of student input,
- improve current shared decision-making structures in which informed students work alongside institutional leaders,
- and advocating for new structures to be developed in spaces where students have been excluded or engaged inappropriately.

When decision-making structures are improved, SLCCSA and SLCC will be better equipped to make tangible changes that elevate our college experiences. After all, the success of all students is the primary focus of the college.

When is shared decision-making with students necessary?

All college faculty and staff should be concerned with the appropriate inclusion of students in their decision making. There are cases in which students and SLCC have engaged meaningfully and collaboratively, such as the student fee board – which even still has potential for improvements. Part of SLCCSA’s job is to alert institutional leaders when they are NOT doing a good job of shared governance. We also support offices who are attempting to improve shared decision-making with students. SLCC President Greg Peterson suggested we follow the “RACI model” to establish roles and responsibilities in shared decision-making at the college.

- **Responsibility - “Who is responsible for completing this task?”**
 - *Consider this: Is this an issue that students should be responsible for resolving? If not, who is? If so, how will students be given their responsibility?*
- **Accountability - “Who is ultimately responsible for completing this task correctly and successfully?”**
 - *Consider this: When an SLCC leader or department is ultimately responsible, how do they engage student input in an appropriate manner? When the Student Association is ultimately accountable, are there formal structures that ensure their full and meaningful engagement?*
- **Consult - “Who should be consulted about this issue?”**

- *Consider this: What is the best way to gather student input on the issue? Is the student input collected being used? Were the appropriate student populations consulted? Is this an issue that requires consistent consultation with the Student Association? Does the issue require immediate consultation with students?*
- **Inform - “Who should be informed about what’s taking place?”**
 - *Consider this: How and when should students be informed of a change, issue, or resource? Who is charged with informing students? When a new student arrives at SLCC, how are resources being shared with them proactively? As changes develop, how are students being informed? Are there certain messages that should come from the Student Association rather than a specific individual or department?*

Who is involved in shared decision-making.

This structure is a guide to everyone involved in the student body in how we should collaborate with college leaders. This includes four levels: students at large; student leaders (e.g. the Student Association); staff & faculty at large; and SLCC leadership (e.g. Cabinet, Sr. Leadership, etc.). Written below is a brief description of how members of each level are involved in shared decision-making.

Students

Sharing your story is the first step in the change process. You are in the middle of all these conversations! You may not be involved directly with every decision, but the more you share your college experience, the more student-centric changes can occur at SLCC. There are multiple ways to share your experiences. Share your story with a SLCCSA board member. Send us an email or a Teams message. Come to our offices on TRWD-STC 126. Message us on Instagram @slccsa. Speak up – when something seems urgent or persistent, your story helps us make a change.

Student Leaders (e.g. the Student Association)

You are the connection between students who’ve shared their story and college leaders. This year, we will also decide how Student Senators and the E&R Board members can better fit within the college. Regardless of your specific role, your first step is to build personal connections with other students to gain insight on their experiences. You should seek out many opinions, even when different perspectives conflict with one another or your own views. You will use these insights in pre-existing or newly built structures to speak up for students. Finally, to make shared decision-making long-lasting, share what works! What was missing in the process between students and college leaders? How can the structure be even better in the future?

Staff & Faculty At Large

You are the ones who can help make shared decision-making successful. We encourage you to review the RACI questions provided in this document with others in your department. Consider where you can improve decision-making structures with students. If needed, you might

seek SLCCSA's input on how to incorporate student voices in an appropriate way. You might propose a formal structure in which SLCCSA or students-at-large can be consulted. Ultimately, it will be the outstanding SLCC staff & faculty who are responsible and accountable for the tangible change that ensures students are well consulted and informed.

SLCC Leadership (e.g. Cabinet, Sr. Leadership, etc.)

Creating and maintaining these structures with students requires a mutual commitment between students and institutional leaders. We will work closely with you and engage in conversations that are based on student input. We need you to take the lead in holding the correct people accountable in your area for decisions made without students or for failing to inform us about an important change. Please don't make SLCCSA the "bad guys" on campus. Make sure that people in your area are responsible and accountable when it comes to student consultation and input. Ensure that the concerns and vision brought up by SLCCSA are taken seriously and resolved with urgency. Respect the authority we have as students to make certain decisions. Remember, we are the main stakeholders of the institution.