



**APCA Pivot Your Programs**

# **Student Government in a Post-Covid World**

July 8, 2021

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America's Student Leadership Trainer<sup>SM</sup>

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**Handout for this program**



<https://bit.ly/3xvznra>

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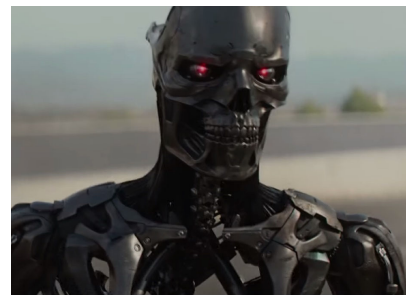
In a world...

Imagine a world where people stay inside their home most of the time, wearing a mask when they do go out, avoiding human contact, and all contact or communication that happens is controlled by machines...

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The latest Terminator movie?



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“We are still in business, we are just doing business differently.”

Frankie Moore,  
Moreno Valley College (CA)



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## The Events of 2020 - 2021

1. Start with having a **conversation** about the events of the past year and a half

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3. **Facilitate** discussions using your counseling center, faculty members, and even professional presenters with an expertise in civil discourse and politics

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3. **Facilitate** discussions using your counseling center, faculty members, and even professional presenters with an expertise in civil discourse and politics
4. Put plans in place to **react** to and **debrief** your student's responses to events on campus, in the community, in the news and what may follow – emphasize respect for each other's positions, feelings, hopes and fears

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“Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.”

Johan Wolfgang von Goethe



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

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2. Actively engage the **advisors** of clubs and organizations and involve them in increasing participation
3. Promote campus leadership **resources** through advisors, departments, faculty, and staff – Roughly half of your students may have never been on your campus!



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

4. **Partner** with other campuses of your college/district and/or similar types of institutions, or those of geographical proximity, to conduct leadership and issue-oriented programming



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

4. **Partner** with other campuses of your college/district and/or similar types of institutions, or those of geographical proximity, to conduct leadership and issue-oriented programming
5. Promote campus **involvement** starting at new student orientation and with all on-boarding activities



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

6. Create an **"Emerging Leaders"** program for your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students



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7. Hold a leadership conference or retreat that **energizes**, informs, and is interactive



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

6. Create an **"Emerging Leaders"** program for your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students
7. Hold a leadership conference or retreat that **energizes**, informs, and is interactive
8. Use **hybrid** events to bring exciting aspects to your trainings and programs



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

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10. Make leadership **fun**, not just an unpaid job!



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## Building Your Campus Leadership Program

9. Make leadership opportunities **available** to all students, regardless of involvement levels
10. Make leadership **fun**, not just an unpaid job!
11. Use incentives and **rewards**, not rules, regulations, and punishments (books, gift cards, school benefits, special events)

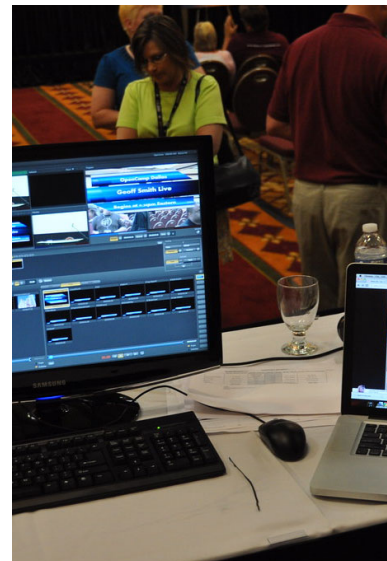


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Be creative in being the voice of students –  
**CONTINUE TO USE Technology**

1. **Live stream** meetings using Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Instagram or Facebook Live, or other platforms



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Be creative in  
being the  
voice of  
student –  
CONTINUE  
TO USE  
Technology

- Record meetings and post them in an easy to find place both for **engagement** and transparency



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- Take advantage of virtual and hybrid opportunities to bring in **speakers or experts** from *literally* anywhere in the world

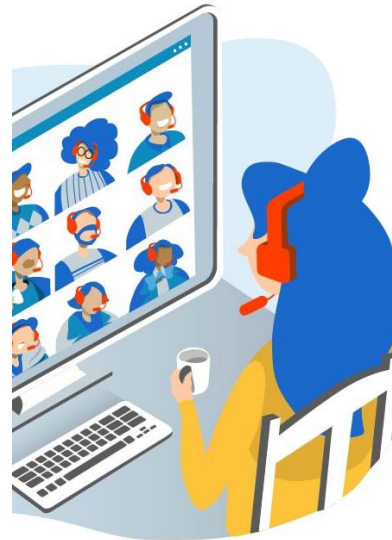


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Be creative in  
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4. Use virtual calls, meetings, and webinars to engage with decision makers at all levels



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Be creative in  
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5. Virtual and hybrid technologies also provide economies that can stretch your programming and student government dollars



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## Issues for Student Government to Address

1. Policies for the 2021-22 school year related to how classes will be conducted, if students can come on-campus for events and programs, whether mask wearing and social distancing will continue to be required, and how they will be enforced.

**What will the ramifications be for those who violate policies either intentionally or accidentally?**



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## Issues for Student Government to Address

2. One source indicates nearly 600 colleges are planning on requiring vaccinations for all students this fall.\*
  - Will coronavirus testing and/or vaccinations be required?
  - What will this standard be?
  - How long will those requirements be in place? In perpetuity or until a set time?

\* <https://universitybusiness.com/state-by-state-look-at-colleges-requiring-vaccines/>



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## Issues for Student Government to Address

3. Where does your student government stand on vaccination passports?
  - Who can request that a member of the campus community show it?
  - When can such a request be made?
  - Can faculty members require it before a student can attend class in-person?



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## Issues for Student Government to Address

4. How can your student government encourage and facilitate discussions of social justice and advocacy around issues and incidents that have happened during the time away from campus?



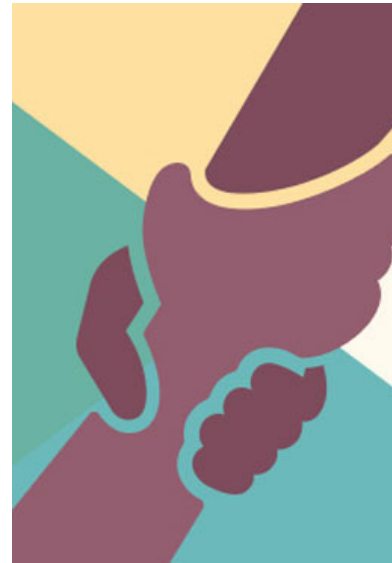
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## Issues for Student Government to Address

- Are mental health services available for students who need help going from isolation to trying to integrate into the campus?

Remember, you may have two classes of students coming to campus this fall that have not actually stepped foot on campus – this year's *and* last year's first year students .



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## Issues for Student Government to Address

- Others???



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## Student Government and Role Questions

1. "What are some best practices to engage SGA officers virtually and keep them motivated?" *Rafaela, SGA Advisor, Passaic County Community College*
  - ✓ Get them actively involved on committees and new initiatives



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  - ✓ Get them actively involved on **committees** and new **initiatives**
  - ✓ **Connect** them to students to get ideas and opinions on issues
  - ✓ Suggest they conduct virtual/hybrid **forums** and **panels** with constituents



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## Student Government and Role Questions

2. "What should I do to fulfill my role?" *Quinlan, SUNY Broome*
  - ✓ Look into your **governing** documents – what do they say?



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## Student Government and Role Questions

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- ✓ Look into your **governing** documents – what do they say?
- ✓ Ask your **members** what they would like for you to do
- ✓ Connect with other campus leaders in a **similar** role



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## Student Government and Role Questions

### 3. "What about changing constitution to meet demands of SGA?" *Caroline, Advisor, Kachemack Bay Campus, Homer, Alaska*

- ✓ Examine current constitution for **amendment** procedures



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## Student Government and Role Questions

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- ✓ Examine current constitution for **amendment** procedures
- ✓ Provide a section to handle **emergency** situations



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*Caroline, Advisor,  
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- ✓ Examine current constitution for **amendment** procedures
- ✓ Provide a section to handle **emergency** situations
- ✓ Get **input** from various sectors of your campus community



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## Update your Governing Documents

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Standing Rules
- Policies and Procedures

Things to consider:

1. Do you have a line of **succession** spelled out? Does it go beyond just the Vice President stepping in for the President?

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4. Do your documents still contain outdated **gender** terms such as "he/she" instead of "they/them"?

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5. Is there an emergency **powers** clause that can address times such as the pandemic or other extreme situations?

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## Sample Emergency Powers Clause

"In addition to any other emergency powers enumerated in this constitution, the advisor shall have the authority to supercede portions of this document in order to continue the proper functioning of the SGA.

"These emergency powers can be invoked in case of local, state, national, or global crisis, emergency, or pandemic, in response to a declaration of emergency by government officials, and/or at the direction of the College President or their designee."



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## Q&A



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**Thank you!**

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