

POLICY FOR STUDENT COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Loyola Academy (LA) is managed and administered by the Jesuit Province, belonging to the Society of Jesus, an international Catholic Religious Order. Loyola Academy Degree and Post Graduate College as well as Loyola Academy Junior College were founded by Rev Fr T. Baliah SJ, in 1976 in Alwal, Secunderabad, Telangana, India.

A student council is a group of students from within the college elected to represent their fellow students. The Students Council work with the Principal, co-coordinating Lecturer/s, Parents Council and students when organizing events. The Board of Management and Staff wish to actively encourage the Student Council to engage in a process of dialogue and consultation. The Student Council must respect the policies of the college in all matters. As soon as possible after the election, the new Student Council meets with the lecturer who works with the council. His/her role is to assist and guide the members in all matters. All decisions must be discussed with the concerned lecturer at meetings arranged by the members.

Role of Student Council:

The aim of the student council is to act as a representative body and liaise with other students, staff, and parents' council on matters of importance to students within the College. The student council has two main functions:

To organize social events for the students of the College (Cultural Activities like Resonance, College Day etc).

The Student Council primarily provides an opportunity and enables students to work in partnership with staff, management and parents.

The Student Council and the Principal:

The role of the Principal is of central importance in the establishment and operation of a Student Council. In assisting the Board of Management in the development of College policy, and in working with lecturers and parents to implement it at day-to-day level. In the initial stages, the Principal, together with the other lecturers, can assist in the development of a Student Council in several ways, for example, by discussing with students the role of a Student Council and the role of individual representatives on the Council, by facilitating the

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holding of elections and by advising on an appropriate constitution or statement of objectives. As the Council develops, and begins to expand its role, the Principal will assist in guiding the Council's development, so as to allow for a constructive and purposeful Council. More generally, the Principal can promote a college culture which recognizes the potentially valuable input that students can make, through a Student Council, into the development of the school.

The Student Council and Lecturers:

Developing a spirit of partnership and co-operation between a Student Council and lecturers has benefits for both. The Student Council can play an important role in recognizing and supporting the work of lecturers. Similarly the interest and support of lecturers will be of great value to a Student Council, particularly during the early stages of its development. It is generally desirable for a member of the teaching staff to attend meetings of the Council. The support and guidance offered by a lecturer will be very useful to a Council when planning its activities, and providing for a lecturer to attend Council meetings will help to build a co-operative and good working relationship between students and staff of the school.

The Student Council and the Parents' Association:

The Parents' Association can make a significant contribution to the development of a Student Council, by encouraging and supporting students in the establishment of a Council and by supporting the Council in its activities. A Student Council may find it useful to meet with members of the Parents' Association from time to time or to invite a parents' representative to attend Council meetings or to assist it in particular activities. This will help to ensure good communication between the Student Council and the Parents' Association.

Key functions of Student Council :

- ✓ The functions and activities of a Student Council should support the aims and objectives of the College and promote the development of the college and the welfare of its students. In planning and undertaking activities during the course of the semester/academic year, the Council should: S work closely with college management, lecturers and parents, consult regularly with students in the College, and involve as many students as possible in the activities of the Council.
- ✓ There is a wide range of activities of benefit to the college community which a Student Council may wish to undertake, some of which are outlined below:
- ✓ Representing the views of the student body to the college management This should be one of the fundamental aims of every Council. It involves talking and listening to the student body, considering their views and concerns, and discussing these with the college management on behalf of the students.

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- ✓ Promoting good communications within the college campus. Improving communication within the college community is a shared responsibility and a Student Council can contribute to this process. Making presentations at staff meetings to keep staff informed of activities, keeping a Student Council notice-board or organizing a regular newsletter are just some ways the Council can communicate with the students, college management and staff, and parents.
- ✓ Supporting the educational development and progress of students a Student Council can contribute to the learning environment for students in the college by, for example, setting up study groups for students in exam classes or homework clubs, or organizing lunchtime activities such as language clubs.
- ✓ Assisting with induction and/or mentoring for new first year students Starting secondary college is a challenging new experience for 1st Year students.
- ✓ A mentoring programme where senior students help new students to find their feet can help their integration into the college community. Contributing to the development of college policy The Student Council can actively contribute to the development of college policy in a wide range of areas such as bullying, uniform requirements, behavior code and extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ The Council could form sub-committees to consider individual policy issues, to consult with students, staff and parents on those issues and to represent the Council's views on those issues to college management.
- ✓ Assisting in college sporting and cultural activities Student Councils can assist in organizing and developing sports and cultural activities within the college, including, for example, sports days and drama or musical events.
- ✓ Assisting with or organizing fund-raising events for charity Student Councils can organize events both within the college and involving the wider community, for the purposes of raising money for designated charities.