October 2014

Reference Webpages

A) Student Organizations - http://www.nicholls.edu/organizations/

B) Student Programming Association (SPA) - http://www.nicholls.edu/spa/

1) Missions: A) Student Organizations, B) Student Programming Association (SPA)

A) Student Organizations (The Office, hereafter)

Note: Individual organizations post mission and goal statements on their individual webpages inside of CollegiateLink. [https://nicholls.collegiatelink.net/]

Mission and Goals: http://www.nicholls.edu/organizations/mission-goals/

Mission:

The mission of the Department of Student Organizations at Nicholls State University is to provide opportunities for students to pursue their personal, professional and academic goals in student-led organizations. To enhance their educational experience, students are encouraged to participate in group activities that allow them to develop personal and professional relationships, learn leadership and organizational skills and serve the community.

2014-15 Goals:

Goal 1:

Increase the number of student organization advisors connected to Collegiate link to at least 75% by conducting two trainings and a “enrollment campaign”.

Goal 2:
Increase student participation in cultural, educational and social activities through the use of timely dissemination of information, print (11) and electronic bulletin boards, social media and direct outreach to students.

**Goal 3:**

Increasing the participation in the fall and spring student leadership conferences by direct marketing and partnering with RHA, Honors College, Greek Life, SGA, SPA, FHA and the athletic department.

**Goal 4:**

Continue to promote green efforts at all student events through minimizing non-biodegradable items and increasing the use of biodegradable items, e.g., food containers and paper products.

**Student Outcomes:**

- Students will have the opportunity to experience campus involvement through clubs and organizations.
- Students will have access to an array of diverse campus organizations to enhance their collegiate experience.
- Students will be attracted to Nicholls State University as their school of choice.
- Students will have a variety of out-of-classroom services and products that are desirable and fit their lifestyle needs.
- Students will stay at Nicholls and accomplish their academic endeavors.
- Students will be afforded outstanding services by the Auxiliary Services departments.
- Students will recognize Nicholls State University and the Auxiliary Services departments with great student satisfaction ratings on the ACT Student Satisfaction surveys.

**B) Student Programming Association (SPA)**

**Goals and Outcomes** - http://www.nicholls.edu/spa/about-spa/goals/

**2014-15**

Goals:

* Establish two new initiatives per semester to create a more proactive marketing campaign
* Increase the number of active committee members by 10%
* Plan an educational component for events
Student Outcomes:

* Students will experience leadership development through hands-on planning, marketing, and implementing and assessing campus programs

* Students will engage in collaborative processes and will be exposed to university and entertainment business practices

2) Assessment:

Student Organizations and the Student Programming Association (SPA) are assessed every four years under the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education’s (CAS) Self-Assessment Guide for Campus Activities Programs. The most recent self-assessment was completed in the fall of 2013. This was an inclusive assessment reviewing both the Student Organizations and Student Programming Association.

3) Frequency of review

Formal review takes place every four years as part of the CAS Self-Assessment Process. Organizations are encouraged to review and update mission and goal statement each year. This includes posting them on the organization’s CollegiateLink page [https://nicholls.collegiatelink.net/]. However, not every organization fits neatly into a template since a number of the organizations are event driven, which may take place once or twice each year.

Communication and feedback, when appropriate, take place throughout the year, nominally via CollegiateLink and through periodic face-to-face meetings.

4) Assessments used for program improvement


The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education’s (CAS) Self-Assessment for Campus Activities Programs is the tool used to assess programs/activities, identify strengths and weaknesses, rating scales and action items for follow-up.

Sample Findings: Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths
a) Training and resources to support performance of assigned professional and support staff responsibilities: The Office accomplishes a great deal given limited funding. Doing more with less is the order of the day. Staff do take advantage of no-cost webinars, university/state required training, the Nicholls’ Faculty Institute programs and CAFÉ workshops. Staff and student leaders attend regional and national professional conferences when funding permits.

b) Adequate technical and support staff to accomplish the mission. Nicholls’ Information Technology Department provides excellent technical support and help desk services. Equipment (computers, software, peripherals) are upgraded/replaced as needed.

Weaknesses

a) Adequate funding is provided to accomplish the Office’s mission and goals. The Office does not have adequate funding. Declining student enrollments and state funding, in particular, are across-the-board detrimental to the university and limit services.

b) Effective administrative support for student organizations is rendered. The Office currently has one full-time professional staff member and supplements with student workers and shared administrative support staff. At least one additional professional staff member is needed to work with and support the 100-plus student organizations on campus.

Both of these weaknesses, as well as others, can only be addressed through improved funding. However, assessments such as CAS provide the documentation/data to capture and highlight weaknesses. The documentation/data also provides essential support information when building a case for increased state funding.

Note: A complete copy of the CAS assessment is available on the university’s secure V:/ drive.