Running for Office and Getting Involved in CU Student Government

A Candidate’s Complete How-to-Guide
What is CUSG?

The University of Colorado Student Government (CUSG) is the largest student government in the United States. With an annual budget of $24 million, the institution plays a vital role in helping the CU-Boulder campus to function. Buildings such as the Recreation Center and UMC are CUSG owned and operated.

Aside from these buildings, CUSG funds and oversees hundreds of clubs and groups, the Women’s Resource Center, KVCU radio, Program Council, and the Cultural Events Board. The student leaders in CUSG ensure not only that every student that comes to this campus has a voice, but that the needs of the student body are met. They are representatives striving to make sure every student at this University has a fulfilling college experience.

What are the benefits of getting involved in CUSG?

Student leadership offers many benefits and teaches students vital skills that will help them succeed in the post-college world.

- An opportunity to work with other student leaders on campus
- A chance to have a greater understanding and input on student fee allocation
- An opportunity to meet and work with the Regents and University administration
- The chance to write campus-wide policies
- The opportunity to help voice the needs and concerns of the student body
- Nationwide travel opportunities to leadership conferences
- The ability to work directly with United States Senators and Representatives
- The opportunity to gain excellent problem-resolution skills
- A good salary for doing something you have a passion for
- ... and of course, excellent letters of recommendation and job contacts

What sort of job positions does CUSG offer?

There are two main types of positions: elected officials and appointees. Both positions afford you the opportunity to gain the benefits of getting involved in CUSG.
**Elected Officials**

**Executive Office**: The office of the Executive, or Tri-Executives as it has traditionally functioned, has a similar structure to that of the United States Executive Branch. The candidates for the Executive(s)\(^1\) office run a campaign each spring for the **three seats that are available**. The Executive(s) who garner the most student votes in the election then take office for one full year. During their tenure they work diligently to ensure proper functioning of CUSG and the CU Boulder campus.

They appoint a staff, or cabinet as it is traditionally recognized in US political culture, to help them run the Executive Branch. The Executive(s) have daily meetings with the administration, student groups, politicians, and directors of resource centers. They attend Legislative Council meetings and have the ability to create, discuss, and veto legislation. During their time in office, the Executive(s) will travel to student government conferences around the United States. In short, executives ensure that the campus is running properly, and that student needs are being met.

The Executives are paid a biweekly stipend for fulfilling their obligations and self-starting projects.

\[1\] Executive(s)—The candidate(s) who receive the greatest number of votes for the office of the Executive(s) will be elected. Traditionally, CUSG has followed a Tri-Executive model which is three separate Study Body Presidents (Internal / External / Student Affairs). If these candidates have declared that they are running together for the office of the Executives, they all must be elected as a unit. However, candidates can decide to run in a different format such as “President / VP / VP” or “President / President / VP”.

**Representative-at-large**: The Representatives-at-large are elected twice a year. **Four seats open in the Spring**, and five seats open in the fall. Like the executive(s), representatives must run their own campaign and be elected to office by a majority of the voting students. Representatives have four main tasks:

1. Attend weekly Rep Council meetings (Thursday nights at 6pm)  
   a. Discuss or create policy and allocate funds to student groups in need of funding.
2. Attend weekly Legislative Council meetings (Thursday nights at 7pm)  
   a. Discuss and vote on policy that affects campus as a whole, also required to interview and ratify people who are appointed to Boards, Commissions, and Executive Staff positions.
3. Sit on at least one Joint Board  
   a. Able to gain insight into student needs on campus. Reps are policy creators: their time in office is spent listening to students and addressing their needs.
4. Hold four office hours a week  
   a. Must be accessible for students to communicate their concerns
Representatives are paid a biweekly stipend for fulfilling their obligations.

**Staff, Commission, Justice, and Board Positions**
The Executive Staff, Commissioners, Justices, and Chairs of some Boards are appointed by the Executive(s) and ratified by the Legislative Council. Appointments begin when the new Executive(s) come into office, and end once the Executive(s)' term expires. Some of the Departments include:

- Chief of Staff
- Homecoming and Athletics Chair
- Election Commissioner
- Attorney General
- Director of Finance
- Director of Public Relations
  - Social Media Chair
  - Multimedia Chair
  - Event Planning Chair
- Director of Student Engagement
  - Legislative Affairs
  - Sustainability Chair
  - SOAC Chair
  - Health and Safety Chair
- Directory of Diversity and Inclusion
  - Veterans Affairs Liaison
  - Gender and Sexuality Liaison
  - Greek Life Liaison
  - International Students Liaison
  - Graduate Student Liaison

Have any further questions or want to run for office? Petitions to run for office will be available NOW in UMC 125!
For further information visit the CUSG website at: http://custudent

For questions contact the CUSG Elections Commission at: cusg.elections@colorado.edu