

Best Practices Guide

Welcome and congratulations on becoming the Region V Chair, the following is a best practices guide that has been developed over the years by past chairs. Let this serve as a guide to assist you, as you and Region V find your own voice and leadership.

Contributors:

Matthew Christman
Region V Chair
2013-2015

Giovanni Ruiz
Region V Chair
2015-2016

Chairs of Region V

2006-2007

2007-2008

2008-2009

2009-2010

Ben Anderson	Fall 2011	Fresno City College
Kevin Sabo	Spring 2012	Modesto Junior College
Mike Shariff	2012-2013	Modesto Junior College
Matthew Christman	2013-2014	Columbia College
Matthew Christman	2014-2015	Columbia College
Giovanni Ruiz	2015-2016	Porterville College

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History of Region V

Establishment of Region V:

Region V was established when the Student Senate for California Community Colleges was established in 2006. Region V consists of 11 Colleges, soon to be 12 colleges with the establishment of Clovis Community College Center as its own community college. Region V archives can be traced back to 2011, archives before 2012 can be found in the Region V binder, which is passed down to the chair.

The Sleeping Giant:

During Region V's first five years, the region primarily was focused on state legislation and the affairs of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. Due to a High level of inactivity by the 11 colleges of the region, Region V was commonly referred to as, "The Sleeping Giant." The nickname was given to the region because of its massive geographic size (42,000+ Square Miles), but only having on average 3-4 active colleges a year.

The Giant Awakens:

In 2012 efforts were established to get more colleges active within the region, those efforts resulted in the activity of Columbia College's first time being active in Region V. In 2013 the efforts were continued, which resulted in the highest number of active colleges in the regions history, nine colleges. December 2013 also included a historical event, the activity of Porterville College for its very first time being active within the region. Continued efforts in 2014 resulted in the largest attendance record of Region V students, with more than 50 students, seven colleges, and three advisors all in one room. Spring of 2015 would mark another historical day with, West hills Lemoore College, becoming active for its first time in the region.

A Change of Perspective:

In 2013, Region V established a new way of thinking about how the region will operate for the year. The first meeting of the 2013 term, a discussion was facilitated by the chair to establish goals for the term that would meet the needs and expectations of the constituents of Region V. It was decided a grassroots approach to the region will meet the critical needs of improving communications, collaboration, and transparency of the region. The establishment of a grassroots approach in Region V, will change Region V from that moment forward. Please see the Philosophy of Region V on Page 13 for further information.

Region V Stats

Demographics (2013):

Counties	Square Miles	Population
Alpine	743	1159
San Joaquin	1426	704379
Calaveras	1037	44515
Stanislaus	1515	525491
Tuolumne	2274	53,874
Mono	1209	14074
Mariposa	1463	17755
Madera	2153	152389
Fresno	6017	955272
Kings	1391	150960
Tulare	4863	454143
Inyo	10,227	18467
Kern	8,161	864124
13 Counties	42,479 Sq Miles	3,956,602 Persons

Based on the 2013 Census

Student Enrollment (2014):

Colleges	Student Enrollment	Districts
Columbia College	4486	Yosemite CCD
Modesto Junior College	22,809	Yosemite CCD
San Joaquin Delta College	22,679	San Joaquin CCD
Merced College	14972	Merced CCD
Reedley College	17675	State Center CCD
Fresno City College	29744	State Center CCD
College of the Sequoias	13988	College of the Sequoias CCD
West hills College Coalinga	4374	West Hills CCD
West Hills College Lemoore	5696	West Hills CCD
Porterville College	4987	Kern CCD
Bakersfield College	23288	Kern CCD
11 Community Colleges	164,698 Students	7 Community College Districts

Based on the California Community College Score Card Statistics/Data

Region V and the SCCC

SSCCC:

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges was established in 2006. It consists of 30 senators, three senators from each region. Each region elects two governance and policy senators, and one external affairs senator. Executives of the SCCC are elected within among the 30 senators, executives include: President, Vice President of Governance and Policy, Vice President of External Affairs, Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Secretary. The SCCC was under the purview of the California Community Colleges Chancellors Office (CCCCO) until 2015, where the general assembly decided to incorporate the SCCC as a (501) (C) (3). The SCCC will be continued to be recognized by the Board of Governors (BOG) and CCCCCO as the official representative of California Community College Students. At any time the BOG and CCCCCO may choose to not recognize the SCCC as an official representative of CCC Students. To establish a statewide organization, it requires a minimum of 11 colleges.

AB 1358:

AB 1358 became the primary focus of the SCCC since its passing in 2013. AB 1358 changed the education code in concerns to the student representation fee. The bill authorized the election to establish the student representation fee in the amount of \$2, and would require an affirmative vote of a majority of the students voting in the election to establish the student representation fee. The bill authorized, for a student representation fee adopted on or after January 1, 2014, require \$1 of the \$2 student representation fee to be expended to establish and support the operations of a statewide community college student organization, recognized by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, with effective student representation and participation in state-level community college shared governance and with governmental affairs representatives to advocate before the Legislature and other state and local governmental entities.

Region V Stance on AB 1358:

In Fall of 2014, Region V took a unanimous vote against the support of AB 1358 implementation on Region V College Campuses. The reasons for our stance can be seen on the next page. Region V was the first region to take a stance on AB 1358 and sparked arguments across the state among regions and ASO's.

Region V and the SCCC:

Region V and the SCCC has become distant over the last couple years, due to Region V constituents questioning the ethics, leadership, and representation of the SCCC. Region V continues to be distant until the SCCC changes its ways in the areas of communications, transparencies, and collaboration.

November 24, 2014

Public Notice:

AB 1358 Implementation

Region V Stats	
Colleges	11
Districts	7
Student Enrollment	164,648
Square Miles	42,479

On November 21, 2014 at Bakersfield College, a motion to not support the implementation of AB 1358 on Region V College Campuses was motioned and supported by a unanimous vote by Region V Delegates and Constituents. The following are points of discussion as to the reason why Region V and its constituents do not support its implementation.

- Lack of strategic planning on how funds collected from AB 1358 will be spent.
- Lack of Communication and Transparency within the SSCCC in regards to finances.
- Lack of Accountability of SSCCC representatives.
- Lack of Leadership and Organization of the SSCCC Executive Council.

The following are questions of concern:

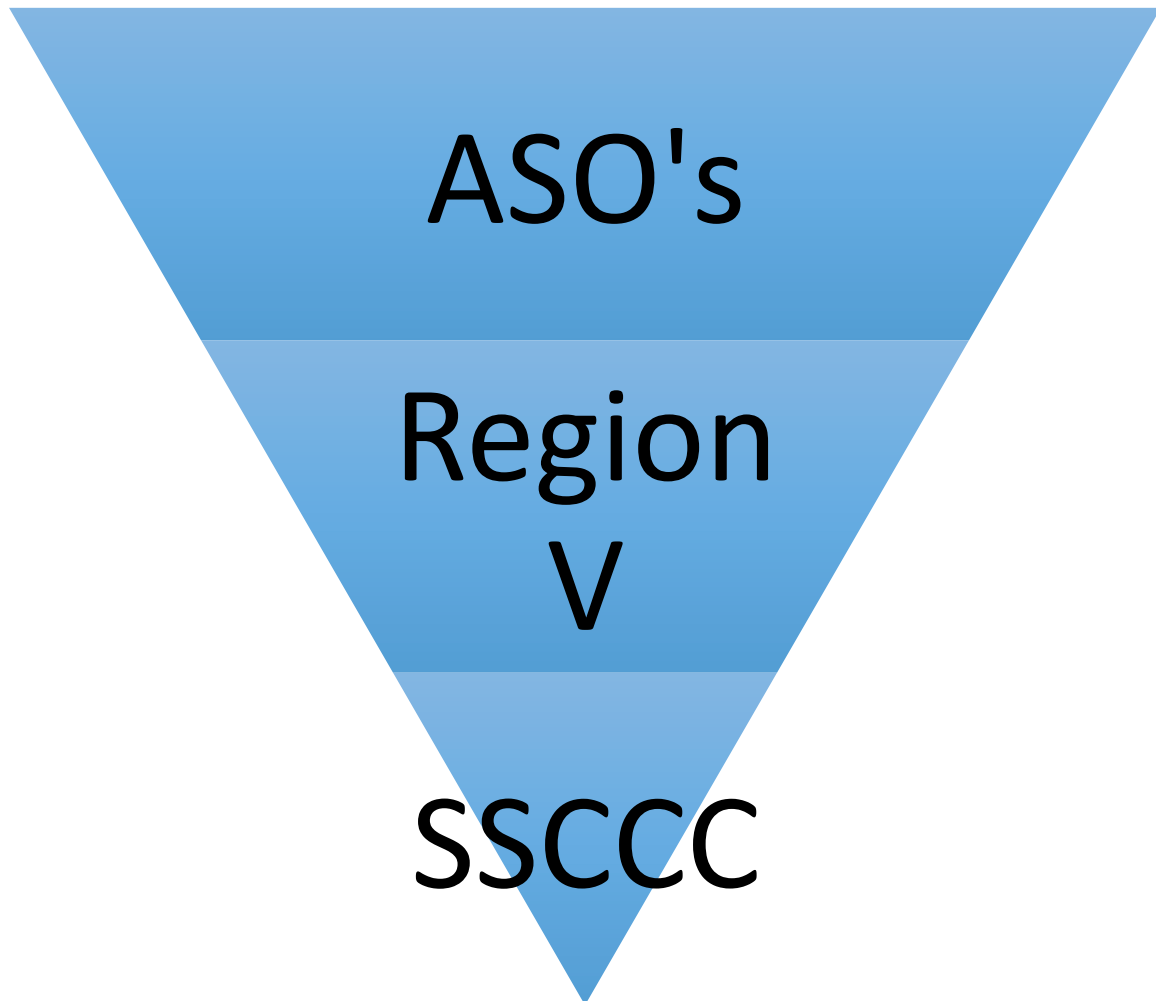
- How will AB 1358 funds be spent?
(Not WHAT they can be spent on, what WILL they be spent on)
- What guarantee will there be that regions will benefit from these funds?
- What happens to collected funds in the absence of a state student organization?
- What do I tell my constituents when they ask how the extra dollar will be spent?
- Why hasn't there been a plan made as to how these funds will be spent? And why hasn't it been presented to the SSCCC constituent body?

Region V will revisit the implementation of AB 1358 one year from now to determine if any improvement has been made in regards to our concerns. Region V may revisit the topic of AB 1358 implementation at anytime its constituents see fit to do so.

Region V and AB 1358 Timeline

- Sometime in 2012-2013 Region V took Action to Support AB 1358 - (however the minutes are not available, it was before my time as chair [Christman]).
- On April 27th, 2013 at the Spring General Assembly, Region V failed to support a resolution on supporting AB 1358. (minutes available [here](#)).
- On Sept. 20th, 2013 Region V took action to write a letter of support for legislation to approve AB 1358, 2 colleges abstained and 3 colleges voted in favor. (minutes available [here](#)).
- On April 11th, 2014 Region V spoke to SSCCC Representative John Fraser where Region V communicated our concerns with the lack of communication and transparency within SSCCC. (minutes may be found [here](#)).
- On Aug 3rd, 2014 I sent an email to my Regional Senators who presented on my behalf the issues we had with the implementation of AB 1358 and the request for a written plan on how the funds were going to be spent. (email available in Region V Chair Email).
- On October 24th, 2014 Region V supported a Resolution on the SSCCC Senators code of conduct to try to hold SSCCC senators more accountable (minutes available [here](#)).
- On Nov. 6, 2014 John Fraser posted on Region V's Facebook group in regards to the implementation of AB 1358, where it was once again communicated that there are concerns over the lack of communication, transparency, and strategic planning. (available on our open Facebook group page [here](#) - you have to scroll down to Nov. 6th, screen shots are available if you are unable to access)
- On Nov. 14th 2014 Region V took action to support a resolution on ensuring SSCCC Senators were vested in their regions by holding them accountable through making sure their eligibility requirements come from a college within their region.
- On Nov. 21 2014 Region V takes action to not support the implementation of AB 1358 on region v college campuses, our discussion included the lack of communication, planning, transparency and accountability.

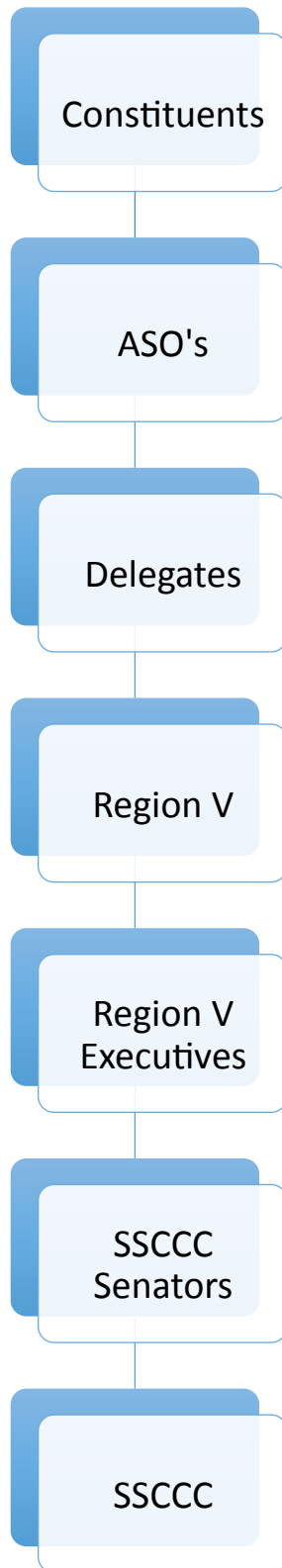
Region V Organizational Chart

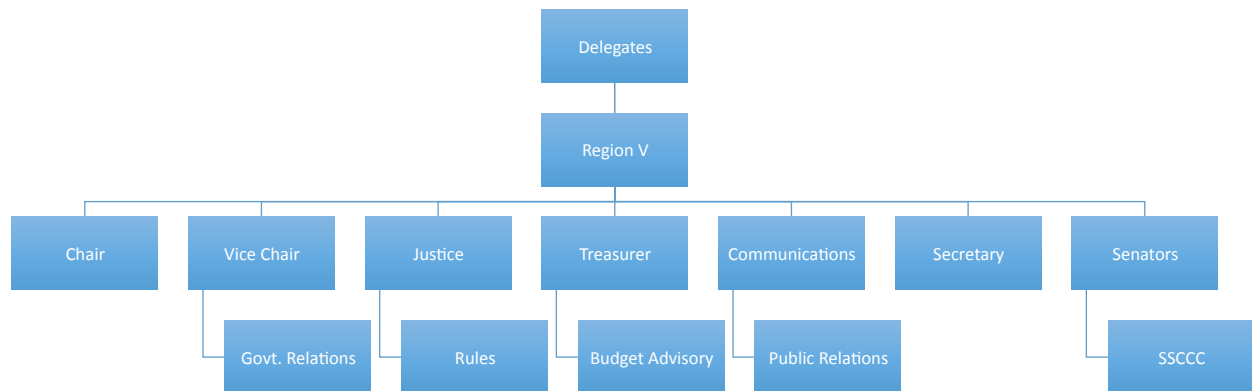


Basic Organizational Chart:

First and foremost Associated Student Organizations elected at the local level are the most direct representative of their constituents. Next, Region's, like Region V are made up of ASO's from that area, Region V is directed by ASO's and their constituents. Lastly, the SSCCC is made up of three senators from each region, the Regions and ASO's should direct the activities of the SSCCC.

Region V Organization Chart – Hierarchy





Region V Organization:

Delegates:

The authority of the local associated student organization chooses delegates. Some delegates are actual positions within a student senate, some delegates are default to the President who then has the power to delegate that authority, and some ASO's have written that any member of their senate may represent their college. Delegates are the only members of Region V who can vote, motion or second.

Region V Executives:

Region V Executives are elected by the Delegates of the region, and are governed by the constitution and bylaws of the region. Region V Executives are non-voting and are charged with running and representing the region as directed by delegates and constituents of Region V.

SSCCC Region V Senators:

The delegates of the region elect three senators (2 Governance and Policy & 1 External Affairs), the three senators play dual roles. In their dual roles, they are governed by two constitution and bylaws. Senators are elected by the region and serve as representative of the region at the SSSCC. However senators also serve the SSSCC in fulfilling their representation duties at the state level and the running of the SSSCC itself.

Setting up a Region V Meeting

Setting a Location and Date:

Historically Region V holds its monthly regularly scheduled meetings at local colleges of the region. Typically rotating between northern and southern colleges to reduce the impact on travels. Generally meetings are held during the evenings to provide ample time for constituents to travel. Meetings are usually held on Friday evenings starting between 5:00-6:00pm. Meetings can last between 2-4 hours in duration. The hosting college generally supplies food and refreshment for the Region V Meeting. Meeting locations and dates should be set at least one month ahead of time; ideally a semester calendar should be made with the locations and dates of the region meetings for the semester. Coordinating with the hosting colleges delegate and advisor is the best method for securing a location for a meeting.

Setting a teleconference line:

The system used to set up teleconference lines is CCCConfer, accounts can be created at cccconfer.org. Created accounts will require verification, please make sure that the Region V website is up to date and the SSSCC website is update for Region V. Once a teleconference line is requested using CCCConfer, you will receive an email, one for participants and one for presenters. Make sure to place the phone numbers and passcode for participants on the Region V Agendas before posting.

Posting an Agenda:

Agendas should be posted in accordance with the brown act. Agendas should be posted physically at the college where the meeting is occurring, usually the delegate is responsible for posting the agenda at their hosting college. Agendas should be posted on the website and all Region V social media outlets.

Using a Teleconference line:

After setting up your teleconference line with CCCConfer, you will receive a set of codes with your presenter code email. These codes can be used to mute the lines, record, and take roll call. It is not recommended to record a meeting, if you record a meeting you will be subjected to the public records act. Your recording must be available for at least 30 days to any person who requests the recording; the recording can be used as an official record of your meeting and will supersede your minutes. Recording a meeting is not required; however there are the above provisions if a meeting is recorded. Please brown act and the public records act for additional details.

Philosophy of Region V

When the CCCCCO created the regions in the state, the goal was to group the Community Colleges based on commonality. Region V was created based on the agricultural region of the state, our commonality was agriculture. Today, districts have grown tremendously and no longer are we just agriculture. Today Region V is the most diverse region of the state. The region is made up of City, Rural, Forestry, Agriculture, and Oil driven colleges, creating great difficulty to join the colleges together in commonality at a regional level.

In 2013 Region V started to move away from its previous ways of doing things, it was a new and fresh look at how the region could serve its constituents. On July 19th, 2013 at Bakersfield College, constituents voiced their need for a grassroots region that will assist local ASO's in local and district issues, foster state advocacy, and provide resources and leadership at a regional level.

This grassroots movement drove the region to accomplish more than it has ever accomplished in the past. The new region website born from this grassroots movement does more than inform, but provides useful resources to our constituents and is hailed as one of the best regional websites in the state. The website is utilized by students and advisors for detailed information on events and conferences.

The new Region V logo is a symbol of this grassroots movement, encompassing all the colleges name in the Roman numeral V, with agricultural roots of the region wrapped around all of us. The logo was designed to be the new symbol of Region V and to be a reminder of where we come from and who we serve.

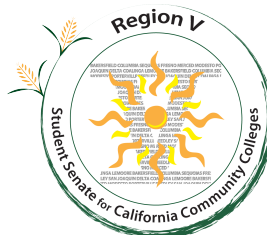
In 2015 this grassroots concept still exists and runs strong within the region; from a Region V meeting in March 2015, the following words were used to describe the mission of the region:

“Collaboration, Creating Leadership, Working together, Region Supports each College, Social Issues at Colleges, Flexibility, Student Success, ASOs helping ASOs, Sustainability, Advocating for Equality, and Legislative Awareness.”

Region V has pride itself on being an independent and proud organization that voices its concerns and serves its constituents. The region listens and embraces all of its constituents and strives to be a teacher of leadership, an advocate for those who feel voiceless, and a mentor to anybody who seeks it.

The philosophy of Region V is expected to change and develop as new student leaders take charge of it, however we can never forget where we come from, and who we are. When in doubt bring it back to the roots of our region, as a region we have always prevailed and survived by the deep roots of our history.

The Old



The New

Advice from Region V Chairs

Chair: Matthew Christman
Year: 2013-2015 (2 Terms)
College: Columbia College

Words of Wisdom:

“Sometimes this giant will need its sleep, other times this giant needs to awaken and shake the earth beneath its feet. We may be large, but with the right leadership, we can create quakes of change within the state. Our roots are deep, we know who we are and where we come from. We will be the voice of reason in a large, unreasonable world. We will serve our students diligently and always be focused on our colleges and our constituents. And we will forever be independent and proud to be, Region V.”

- Matthew Christman, Region V Chair, 2013-2015

Advice:

Hello new chair of Region V, congrats on becoming chair of one of the greatest regions of this state. Are you nervous? I was when I was elected as chair, in fact I had no plans on becoming the chair. It has always been in my nature to step up when nobody else will, and so I stepped up and accepted my nomination with no plan on how I was going to do this. I knew that I wanted the region to be more focused on the local colleges and our constituents, but I realized as a leader and representative, that the best way of doing your job is simply asking your constituents what they want. My first meeting I simply asked, what do you expect from this region? And my hopes, they were answered by my constituents. They too wanted a region that was more focused on them, and less on the state. Their answer empowered me to lead a grassroots movement within the region. It is the constituents that empower me and give me reason to do everything I have done. My advice is to always ask and listen to your constituents, let them empower and guide you. I find nothing more rewarding then bringing together students of other colleges into one room, to network and solve issues together. Remember all the colleges matter, be careful not to neglect your inactive colleges, but be respectful of an ASO's decision to not to participate in the region. I worked hard every month to ensure that every region meeting had relevance to the students and ASO's of the region. If the region is not relevant, then why would ASO's or student show up? That's what I kept telling myself. I wish you luck and remember, it's all about them, the students, and the constituents of our region. Don't be bullied by anybody, listen and do what's right, even if it means it will be a rough road ahead. I have loved every tear, sweat, and moment I've had in the region as the chair; it is beyond rewarding. I love this region and everything that it is, even its challenges. Thank you for taking care of it, and leading it on to continued success. Again congrats and welcome to a life changing experience. Oh, and like anything in student government, it's what YOU make of it.

Thanks,

Matthew Christman

Accessing Archives

2011-2012 Archives:

These documents only exist in paper form and can be located in the Region V Binder that was handed down from chair to chair.

2012-2013 Archives:

These documents exist in paper form and partially in digital form, paper records can be found in the Region V Binder, digital copies can be found in the flash drive handed down to the chair, or the old region website: regionv.weebly.com

2013-2014 Archives:

These documents are available as digital copies and can be found in the flash drive handed down to the chair, or the current region v website: sscccregionv.weebly.com

2014 – 2015 Archives:

These documents are available as digital copies and can be found in the flash drive handed down to the chair, or the current region v website: sscccregionv.weebly.com

Existing Accounts:

CCCConfer – teleconferencing service – www.ccccconfer.org

Weebly – website management – www.weebly.com - Communications officer primary account holder

Gmail – Primary email for region – www.gmail.com

Facebook – facebook group – www.facebook.com/groups/sscccregionv/