



2025 Strategic Development Plan

This plan is a strategic initiative led by the 2018-2019 Student Government Association (SGA) officers to continue the work from the 2020 Plan and to develop new ideas for future administrations to work toward. This 2025 Plan extends from the 2019-2020 academic year through the 2024-2025 academic year to continue to create a campus community that allows students to thrive in their academic, social and community pursuits. The Strategic Plan is dedicated to making a difference on behalf of the students by the students.

Background

During the Fall of 2018, the 2020 Plan was evaluated to see which initiatives were completed, which ones needed to be improved, and which ones had not been started. While evaluating the 2020 Plan, the five key categories for student success were identified: College Affordability and Accessibility, Student Facilities, Student Services, Academic Enrichment and Retention, and Student Engagement. Three main areas of SGA provided input: the Executive Board, the Services Committee, and the Academic Policy Committee. Past student survey results were also analyzed to flesh out these initiative ideas. This Plan is not meant to be a strict and rigid requirement for future SGA administrations but rather a guide based on input from students and this SGA administration.

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College Affordability and Accessibility

As a student body, we are conscious of the fact that the cost of college is far more than just monetary – although the monetary cost is perhaps the most significant. Students sacrifice time and energy to obtain an advanced degree. When the costs of college are prohibitive, the community as a whole suffers. With fewer students able to afford a higher education, Universities are less able to contribute well-trained and well-rounded graduates to the community. Higher education should be seen as an investment by all, for all. While this issue is especially pressing at the University of Louisville, it is not unique as Universities across the state are being forced to increase education costs. The SGA President should advocate for more freedom to opt-out of fees and more financial transparency.

Goal: Reduce the Loss of Student Scholarships

Incoming freshmen often struggle when transitioning into college life. A student's first year on campus can be a particularly challenging one. Requiring probationary periods before losing scholarships will grant students extra time to adjust to more rigorous course work and requirements.

Outcome: Implement a probationary period or an opportunity to take summer classes before losing a scholarship.

Outcome: Advocate and support appropriate programs to support students in need after losing scholarships.

Outcome: Assess the average GPA by major to evaluate the need for scholarship programs to weigh GPA requirements by major.

Goal: Allow students more freedom to choose their meal plans.

For some students, meal plans constitute an unnecessary burden. Allowing a wider variety of meal plans at different price points or allowing students to opt-out of a meal plan would help alleviate the burden.

Outcome: Allow a meal plan opt-out option for commuter students.

Outcome: Allow a meal plan opt-out option for students receiving government food benefits.

Outcome: Allow students receiving government food benefits to use those benefits at all campus dining options.

Outcome: Allow more meal plan options for on-campus students depending on their residence hall.

Outcome: Implement a system that allows students to donate excess Flex Points and Meal Swipes.

- Allow the Cardinal Cupboard to accept donations of Flex Points and Meal Swipes.
- If the Cardinal Cupboard receives sufficient donations, a program to facilitate donations to food security organizations in the community may be appropriate.

Goal: Improve Student Fee Transparency

Students should not only understand exactly what each of the fees they pay goes toward but they should also be able to provide feedback to the University Administration on the utility each fee provides.

Outcome: Create a centralized, easily-accessible document that details what each student fees goes toward.

Outcome: Create a formal process for students to petition specific fees and give feedback on their usefulness.

Outcome: Create a formal process for students to request information about fees from the Task Force on Tuition and Fees.

Goal: Implement a Textbook Checkout Program

Textbooks are a sizable expense for most students – and that expense continues to grow as textbook prices increase. To address these growing costs, SGA should work with the Campus Store, University Libraries, and faculty to increase awareness of the prohibitive costs of textbooks and to develop cheaper alternatives to expensive texts.

Outcome: Partner with the Campus Store and University Libraries to develop a program where students can checkout textbooks throughout the semester.

Outcome: Work with faculty to find cheaper alternatives to expensive textbooks.

Goal: Reduce Student Fees

Fees that do not promote student success should be eliminated.

Outcome: Continue to advocate for the reduction in the Student Athletics fee.

Student Facilities

Students deserve facilities that allow them to advance in their fields of study, learn with new technology and resources, and have a well-rounded college experience. The University must renovate its current buildings and build new facilities to accommodate the growing and changing campus. As the University continues to progress, it must also improve its academic spaces, cultural spaces, and recreational spaces. The Executive Vice President, the Services Vice President, and the Academic Vice President should advocate for these improvements to be made on campus. The goals within this section are funding dependent.

Goal: Improve the Cultural Center

Diversity is one of the University of Louisville's greatest assets. Student Government should advocate for an inviting and inclusive center for students of all backgrounds in order to advance the University's commitment to fostering cultural appreciation on campus.

Outcome: Develop a plan for a new Cultural Center on campus. –number one priority.

Goal: Expand On-Campus Housing to Accommodate a Growing Student Body

The classes of incoming freshmen are continuing to grow, and on-campus housing is becoming more and more limited because upperclassmen also want to live on campus. On-campus housing offers many sought after conveniences, but not all on-campus housing is up to date. Student Government should advocate for health and safety renovations on older housing buildings as well as reasonable housing rates.

Outcome: Advocate for the expedited demolition and reconstruction of Miller Hall and Threlkeld Hall.

Outcome: Advocate for the construction of new residence halls.

Outcome: Ensure the costs of living on campus are not prohibitive.

Goal: Improve Bike Infrastructure

Adequate bike infrastructure ensures that students, faculty, and staff will be more safe riding bikes to and from campus and encourages more members of the campus community to choose biking as a more sustainable alternative to driving.

Outcome: Extend Old Louisville bike lanes through campus.

Outcome: Add bike lanes on the Health Sciences Campus.

Outcome: Expand the partnership with LouVelo.

Goal: Improve Housing for Students with Families

Students with families often struggle to find housing options on or near campus. Student Government should advocate to improve housing options for these students to be able to pursue an advanced degree.

Outcome: Work with affiliated properties to develop lease options for parents and families.

Outcome: Assess University Tower Apartments to determine if space can be designated for students with families.

Goal: Improve Study Spaces for Students

College requires students to spend countless hours studying. Students should have access to a variety of study spaces with adequate resources to be conducive to student success.

Outcome: Advocate for the renovation of the second and fourth floors of Ekstrom Library when funds become available.

Goal: Increase Outdoor Space & Amenities on Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses

Attractive and purposeful outdoor amenity space not only makes the University more attractive to prospective students – it also promotes a positive environment for current students, faculty and staff.

Outcome: Assess and develop streetscaping on the Health Sciences Campus.

Outcome: Redevelop pedestrian walkways on the Belknap Campus.

Outcome: Renovate greenspace on the Health Sciences Campus, especially around the Quad and Abraham Flexner Way.

Outcome: Continue pedestrian safety improvements on the Health Sciences Campus, especially pedestrian crossings, signage, and lighting.

Outcome: Improve outdoor lounge space on the Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses.

Outcome: Renovate Stansbury Park.

Goal: Renovate Outdated Classrooms and Lab Facilities

Students learn best in spaces designed to promote active learning and when they are able to use modern technology relevant to their field. Outdated classrooms and labs serve as an impediment to student success in the classroom and in their careers. Renovation priority should be based on building usage.

- Allen Courtroom
- Ernst Hall, Room 101
- Natural Sciences Building
- Labs in Life Sciences Building
- Chemistry labs on campus
- Gottschalk and Ford Hall should be renovated to improve ADA compliance
- Labs in Speed School
- JB Speed Building, Room 100

Student Services

Student Services encompass a broad range of services that are crucial to student life. While these goals cover a variety of services, each is important to ensuring that students at the University of Louisville are able to focus more on their studies and worry less about inconvenient amenities.

Goal: Improve Student Parking

The University has always had a significant commuter population, and therefore a significant number of cars. However, the number of students living on and around campus continued to increase in addition to our commuter population, so affordable and convenient parking for students should remain a priority for the Student Government.

Outcome: Develop a discounted parking lot further from campus where on campus students can park their cars for long periods of time.

Outcome: Advocate for the cost of the stadium parking pass to remain low.

Goal: Improve Student Housing

Housing is perhaps the most basic need of all students at the University. It is important that students have a variety of living options, but it is equally important that students are allowed to offer feedback for on-campus and affiliated properties.

Housing is an important aspect of all students associated with the University. It's important to allow for feedback and input from student experiences in all properties.

Outcome: Create a committee within Campus Housing under the Assistant Director for Affiliated and Off Campus Housing to ensure student needs are represented on affiliated properties.

Outcome: Improve the selection system for on-campus housing so upperclassmen are still able to live on campus.

Goal: Improve Sustainability Measures

Students at the University have advocated for more environmentally friendly policies and initiatives on campus, and they have asked the Student Government for support. Student Government should advocate for campus-wide sustainable policy changes as well as promoting student awareness of the issue.

Outcome: Advocate that the University fund the Climate Action Plan.

Outcome: Create a Sustainability Board within SGA that will allocate funds to sustainable projects on campus.

Goal: Improve Campus Safety

No student at the University of Louisville should fear for their safety while they are on campus or in their home. Student Government should work to develop and strengthen programs to improve student safety on campus.

Outcome: Advocate for increased Campus Police Department security presence on and around the Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses.

Outcome: Advocate for the completion of lighting projects on the Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses.

Outcome: Replace old security cameras and add new security cameras to cover wider areas on the Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses.

Goal: Improve Campus Health

Mental and physical wellbeing are imperative for students to be able to succeed in the classroom. Student Government should be committed to expanding access to both mental and physical health resources.

Outcome: Work with Campus Health and Health Promotion to increase access to vaccine clinics, especially for common vaccines like the flu vaccine.

Outcome: Increase the number of counselors at the Counseling Center.

Outcome: Extend the hours of the Counseling Center to accommodate student schedules.

Outcome: Have an accessible child care program for students, staff, and faculty.

Outcome: Improve medical insurance plans offered to students.

Outcome: Offer free testing on campus for a wider range of sexually transmitted diseases.

Goal: Improve the Campus Alert System

Campus Alerts provide crucial information to students about developments on and around campus. However, the alerts are frequently unclear on whether there is an immediate threat to students. Students have also expressed concerns that the alerts are often sent too late after a serious safety incident.

Outcome: Develop a policy that differentiates between immediate threat alerts and non-immediate threat alerts; ensure when Campus Alerts are sent to students the two are clearly delineated.

Outcome: Develop a policy that clearly defines the timeline for the response to an immediate threat, including how soon an alert must be sent out.

Outcome: Develop a way to inform students of situations that have taken place on or around campus in which an immediate threat is no longer present.

Academic Enrichment and Retention

A quality classroom and advising experience are vital to student success. Students reported that Blackboard usage, grading policies, and advising were top priorities. Improvements in these areas will help address some of the main academics-related causes of student retention problems.

Goal: Improve Advising

Advisors provide crucial advice to students to keep them on track toward graduation. Student Government should advocate to streamline and clarify the advising process.

Outcome: Develop a formalized process for evaluating advisors.

Outcome: Create a unified advising system across all units with an emphasis on Cardinal Core and accountability measures.

Outcome: Recommend that students who are looking to change majors meet with a career advisor and/ or exploratory advisor.

Outcome: Integrate academic and career advising so that each academic unit has career advisors within the department.

Goal: Increase Faculty Blackboard Usage

Blackboard connects students with their classmates, their assignments, and their grades. When used effectively, Blackboard is a great tool that enhances the classroom experience and improves the overall quality of classroom instruction.

Outcome: Work with the Delphi center to create training videos for students and faculty about using Blackboard.

Outcome: Work with the Provost and Faculty Senate to develop a policy requiring more active faculty blackboard usage.

Goal: Improve Course Evaluations

Students from each college provide feedback after each semester on the courses they took, but the questions on the evaluations vary quite a bit. Student Government should advocate that a certain set of identical questions be included in each college's evaluations. The answers to these questions would set a base for comparisons of courses and faculty across academic units.

Outcome: Standardize Questions on Course Evaluations Across Academic Units

Goal: Expand Midterm Evaluations Policy via CardSmart to All Classes in All Colleges

Undergraduate students currently have the right to know their standing in a course before the deadline to withdraw from classes. Student Government should advocate for the expansion of this right to graduate and professional students.

Goal: Develop consistency in grading policy

Grading scales are largely determined by individual professors. Depending on the instructor, students taking the same class and earning the same numerical grade can end up with a different letter grades. Student Government will work with faculty and the Provost to develop consistent methods.

Outcome: Develop a consistent grading policy so that classes in the same department have the same grading scale.

Goal: Improve Research Opportunities

As a proud research institution, research opportunities for students should not only be available but also encouraged. Student Government should work to ensure more students are connected with meaningful opportunities to participate in research.

Outcome: Aggregate all research opportunities available to students, whether they are opportunities to conduct research or participate in it.

Goal: Redevelop Gen 101 Courses

Gen 101 classes serve as an introduction to college life and the UofL community. Student Government will work with the University to redevelop these classes to better equip students with necessary skills for college life.

Outcome: Assess the need to have one class that introduces students to the University of Louisville and a separate class that introduces students to their major or college.

Outcome: Include financial literacy, personal health, life skills, sexual assault information, professionalism, and resources on campus in Gen 101 coursework.

Goal: Focus on Underserved Students

Although all of our students have ended up at the University of Louisville, they have not all come with the same resources or from the same backgrounds. Student Government will work to ensure that all students have the resources they need to be successful, regardless of their background.

Outcome: Evaluate the success rates of underserved students and provide appropriate support and resources to close the achievement gap.

Goal: Improve Experience for Commuter Students

Commuter students can find it difficult to find ways to get involved on campus and to feel like they belong. Student Government will work to create ways to connect commuter students with the larger campus.

Outcome: Create a commuter student space on campus.

Outcome: Design programs to connect commuter students to organizations on campus, i.e. learning communities.

Goal: Improve Instructor Accountability

A student's experience with a class and with a subject depend to a large extent on the instructor teaching the course. When instructors fail to upload syllabi or post grades in a timely manner, it is more difficult for students to succeed in their courses.

Outcome: Develop accountability measures for instructors who do not follow the official policy regarding uploading syllabi to Blackboard.

Outcome: Collect and allow students to access previous class syllabi so they are better informed when enrolling in classes.

Outcome: Develop accountability measures for instructors regarding grade posting deadlines.

Outcome: Develop accountability measures for instructors who fail to notify students of required textbooks or resources before classes start.

Outcome: Work with administration to develop workshops and training opportunities for instructors to learn how to make their classrooms more inclusive for all students.

Student Engagement

The culture on campus is different for every student, but the Student Government's goals for improving this culture fall into three categories: campus engagement, civic engagement, and community engagement.

Campus Engagement

Goal: Improve SGA Elections

Student Government has a large impact on the campus community, and it is important that more and more students participate in elections to select the most representative officers.

Outcome: Encourage more students who run for SGA positions by reaching out to different RSO's and students from different backgrounds.

Outcome: Improve voter participation in campus elections by increasing election promotion and holding voting drives.

Goal: Rebrand SGA

Student Government should work to increase its presence on social media and on campus to ensure that every student knows what we are doing and how to get in contact with us.

Outcome: Use the new SGA logo on new marketing materials to promote SGA.

Outcome: Encourage every Student Council to adopt the new SGA logo.

Outcome: Increase social media engagement.

- Post more updates from the executive officers and from senate.
- Have freshmen follow SGA social media for a chance to win a prize at orientation sessions.
- Have giveaways on social media for following and liking or retweeting an SGA post.

Goal: Improve Representation Within SGA

Diversity is one of our greatest assets as a campus community. It is important that our organization reflects the diversity of the student body. SGA will work to ensure adequate representation is achieved.

Outcome: Create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee under the Executive Vice President to address issues underserved students face and get these students involved in SGA.

Outcome: Use Task Force Freshmen and Freshmen Lead to encourage a diverse group of students to get involved in SGA.

Goal: Improve Campus Life and Involvement

When more students are involved in organizations and activities on campus, we see better rates of student retention and student success. SGA will work to increase programming and involvement opportunities for students to find their fit on campus.

Outcome: Continue to improve our vibrant campus life by promoting and supporting the Student Activities Board, Engage Lead Serve Board, Club Programming Committee, Student Organization Advisory Board, and Recognized Student Organizations.

Outcome: Encourage more active Engage platform use for event and organization promotion.

Civic Engagement

Goal: Increase Student Involvement in Higher Education Policy Making and Advocacy

As students at a public University, it is especially important that local, state, and federal legislators understand our priorities and the importance of continued support for the University of Louisville and other higher education opportunities. Student Government should equip students with the resources and information to advocate effectively.

Outcome: Plan at least one advocacy trip to D.C. a year to meet with Kentucky's federal delegation to discuss promising developments and student needs on campus.

Outcome: Increase Cards in Action student participation by 5% each year.

Outcome: Plan workshops that emphasize the importance of higher education policy and host at least one workshop per semester.

Outcome: Market the Frankfort internship program to majors outside of political science.

Outcome: Advertise civic internship opportunities such as campaign internships and volunteer opportunities to all students.

Goal: Encourage Voting in Local, State, and Federal Elections

College students are impacted by countless issues decided by legislators at the local, state, and federal levels. Student Government should work to ensure that students are equipped to participate in these elections.

Outcome: Increase student turnout in local, state, and federal elections.

Outcome: Encourage students to change their voter registration to their Louisville address.

Outcome: Continue the Stroll to the Polls event with NPHC.

Outcome: Continue to work with the Vote Everywhere initiative to get students registered to vote.

Outcome: Expand on the successes of the Cards Vote Coalition.

Community Engagement

Goal: Continue to Collaborate with the Engage Lead Serve Board (ELSB)

The University of Louisville is a community within a larger city and state community. Student Government should work to incorporate community engagement into the student experience.

Outcome: Continue to work with and promote the work that ELSB does in the community.

Outcome: Work with ELSB and the University administration to organize large community service projects.

Outcome: Work with ELSB to plan awareness events about issues in our community.