

Professionals Involvement in District 6 Student Chapters

Background:

District 6 has 30 student chapters through out its 13 states and 15 sections. There is a range of activity that the student chapters achieve to. Many of the successful student chapters have greater involvement/association/relationship with the working profession than those showing less growth, activity and enthusiasm. This on-going and consistent professional linkage is a common relationship between our most successful student chapters and the lack of this involvement is a common tell-tale sign of our weakest student chapters. Having organized all the charters of all the Student Chapters – this vital linkage is not required of any of our student chapters. The ITE guidelines for forming a Student Chapter (attached) make no mention of this support.

While many of our student chapters were formed with the intention of providing this professional linkage, as the original founders transition away from ITE leadership the continued commitment of the section to the student chapters has not necessarily been retained. An email survey in the spring of 2005 of the 31 existing student chapters yielded only half where the Student Chapter Faculty Advisor was able to name an ITE professional liaison for their student chapter.

Student Chapter	Contact	Student Chapter	Contact
Arizona State University		University of Alaska, Anchorage	
Boise State University		University of Arizona	
Brigham Young University	None	University of California, Berkeley	
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona		University of California, Davis	Bob Grandy
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	None	University of California, Irvine	None
California State University, Chico	Pelle Clarke Matt Darrow Binu Abraham	University of Colorado, Denver	
California State University, Long Beach		University of Hawaii at Manoa	
California State University, Los Angeles		University of Idaho, Moscow	Jim Pline Marc Butorac
California State University, Sacramento	Bob Grandy	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	
Montana State University	Michael Sanderson	University of New Mexico	None
Oregon Institute of Technology	None	University of Utah	Tim Harpst Dave Kinnecom
Oregon State University		University of Washington	Darek Jarzynski Bob Herman Kam Szabo
Portland State University	None	University of Wyoming	None
San Diego State University		Utah State University	
San Jose State University		Washington State University	None
Santa Clara University			

The following table provides the association between sections/chapters and student chapters.

Student Chapter	Section/Chapter	Student Chapter	Section/Chapter
Arizona State University	Arizona	Santa Clara University	SF Bay Area/So. Bay
Boise State University	Intermountain/Idaho	University of Alaska, Anchorage	Alaska
Brigham Young University	Intermountain/Utah	University of Arizona	Arizona/So. AZ
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona	Riverside-San Bernardino	University of California, Berkeley	SF Bay Area
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	California Coast	University of California, Davis	Northern California
California State University, Chico	Northern California	University of California, Irvine	Southern California
California State University, Long Beach	Southern California	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Hawaii
California State University, Los Angeles	Southern California	University of Idaho, Moscow	Intermountain/Idaho
California State University, Sacramento	Northern California	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Intermountain/Nevada
Montana State University	Intermountain/Montana	University of New Mexico	New Mexico
Oregon Institute of Technology	Oregon	University of Utah	Intermountain/Utah
Oregon State University	Oregon	University of Washington	Washington
Portland State University	Oregon	University of Wyoming	Colorado-Wyoming
San Diego State University	California Border	Utah State University	Intermountain/Utah
San Jose State University	SF Bay Area/So. Bay	Washington State University	Washington

Developing young ITE leaders has generally been left to committee positions. It can be hard for younger members to understand where they can fit in with established members. A position focused on the helping students understand the profession, sharing experiences and opportunities, while promoting the profession to those emerging into the field has been (through committee chairs) and would be an opportunity for young members to contribute to the profession. Most students relate well to recent graduates experiences as a mentor. While some sections and chapters have student liaison positions, the formation of a student chapter does not require this position. Additionally, the focus of the committees (as can be seen below) is not always focused on the individual student chapter. With several of our sections hosting multiple student chapters – having a professional linked to EACH student chapter is not common.

Section	Position	Section	Position
Alaska	-	Riverside San Bernar.	Career Development
Arizona	Career Guidance	SF Bay Area	Student Relations Chair
Cal Border	-	Southern Cal	Student Liaison
Central Cal	<i>No Student Chapters</i>	Washington	Student Mentoring
Central Coast	Student Liaison	Chapters	
Colorado-Wyoming	Career Guidance	Southern Arizona	-
Hawaii	SC Coordinator	South Bay	-
Intermountain	-	Idaho	-
New Mexico	-	Montana	Professional Advisor
Northern Cal	SC Chair	Nevada	-
Oregon	SC Chair	Utah	-

Consideration:

To form a new Student Chapter in District 6, the District 6 Board should consider requiring that the proposed Student Chapter have a professional liaison/mentor in addition to meeting the guidelines that ITE recommends for formation of a Student Chapter. This position should be defined in the Student Chapter Charter. Additionally, the District 6 Board should require a letter of commitment from the associated sponsoring ITE section/chapter that states their support for the on-going development of the student chapter. District 6 will make the Student Chapter Executive appointment and work with the local section to formally incorporate the position into their local structure.

To ensure that we do not find future student chapters in the same position that several of the existing 31 operate today or have operated in the past in terms of professional support, it is proposed that District 6 issue a change to the Section/Chapter bylaws to create a new student chapter and undertake the following steps:

1. District 6 will work with the Student Chapter and local Section/Chapter to appoint a Student Chapter Executive.
2. District 6 will initiate a change in the Section/Chapter bylaws following coordination with the Section/Chapter in the establishment of a new Student Chapter. This will minimize local section/chapter administrative effort. The change will state in the "Government" section (commonly Section 7) that it is the responsibility of the section or chapter to support the development and on-going operation of the <school name here> Student Chapter.
3. District 6 Board will annually appoint the Student Chapter Executive position until such time that the position is maintained/incorporated in local section/chapter leadership. The District will help facilitate assignment of professionals if local assistance in filling vacancies is necessary.
4. It is desired that local sections/chapters would develop appropriate leadership positions for the Student Chapter Executive. This may take the form of a change to the local "Officers and Executive Board" to create a new position of Student Chapter Executive. For example, this position could have a multi-year term (2 or 4 years). The reason for the longer term (more than a year) is to help develop relationships and ensure commitment to the student chapters from the profession. It allows development of our younger members to take on leadership roles in ITE as a means of evolving leaders/young alumni in a meaningful capacity. We have had assigned positions throughout the District with a wide range of success and variability in terms of a specific person assigned to the Student Chapter. This variability is not conducive to effective support of student chapters. By assigning specific professionals to each student chapter provides a mandate to serve the membership, and specifically the student members (who are just entering into the transportation profession). As the section incorporates the activities of the Student Chapter Executive into their leadership, they may revise their Bylaws to define this position as being ex-officio to the section/chapter Board.

Bylaw changes require a vote of the membership and approval by District 6. A more efficient way to facilitate the changes to the bylaws would be to have District 6 request the change of the section's Bylaws, in cooperation with the local section/chapter. This would minimize the administrative effort necessary in the formation of new Student Chapters. Since the District must approve the new Student Chapter Charters and Bylaws, the requirements for the Student Chapter would be facilitated at the District level (again minimizing effort on the Section's part).

Summary:

This process would implement professional support for *each new* Student Chapter. It would assure (structurally) that support becomes part of the section/chapters on-going duties. This support will be focused on the student chapters and would not eliminate or replace the current section/chapter activities in career development or other student initiatives.

This proposal would be for “new” student chapters. The same structure could be provided to ALL student chapters and sections/chapters. In cases where Sections/Chapters host multiple student chapters and already have a career/scholarship/student chair, this position would be different in that it will provide a professional linked to the individual student chapter as a liaison and mentor. Because of the administrative changes necessary to charters (sections, chapters and student chapters), this aspect is not pursued at this time and may be brought to section/chapter leadership for their consideration at the Annual Meeting for discussion.

APPROVED ACTIONS OF THE BOARD 7-10-05

- District 6 Board moves to adopt additional requirements for forming a new Student Chapter that include:
 1. Student Chapter Charter recognition of a Student Chapter Executive in charter and bylaws;
 2. District 6 appointment of a Student Chapter Executive for each new Student Chapter and annual appointments until such time that the local section/chapter incorporates the position into their leadership. The nominee would be forwarded to District 6 with the new Student Chapter formation materials.
 3. Letter of support from sponsoring Section/Chapter;
 4. District 6 will initiate a bylaw change to section 7 which will include local Section/Chapter support of the new Student Chapter;
 5. Coordination between the District and local Section/Chapters in the incorporation of the Student Chapter Executive in their local leadership (District 6 can facilitate this action to minimize the administrative effort required at the local level, including appointment and bylaw changes)