

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNING ASSOCIATION**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



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PURPOSE

This Plan and its contexts exist to advance the efforts of the KSU SGA in its advocacy for students.

The “Objectives”, as expressed in various chapters, were subject to a vote of the Student Senate and represent the official opinion of the KSU SGA.

The “Strategies”, as expressed in various chapters were cataloged by the Strategic Oversight Committee for further exploration and are not necessarily representative of the KSU SGA’s official position.

CHAPTER I: ACADEMIC SUPPORT

BACKGROUND

ISSUE

This plan aims to address overlooked factors in the academic support of KSU students. This plan asserts that it is not enough for an academic service to be good; it must be equitable, easy to use, and well-advertised. The same is true for the mechanisms that connect students to their coursework.

Without compromise, students across the colleges of K-State should be given equitable support in their pursuits, educational and beyond.

IMPACT

Kansas State's foundation is equity. For men and women; for rural and urban Kansans. An inability to support all students is a failure of our mission.

Inconsistency in our application of resources not only leaves students behind, but inspires resentment and isolation.

Often, that inconsistency does not represent exclusion. There is a vast library of assets offered to all students, too many of whom will never realize its full extent. In a world of noise, even the perfect service can go unrecognized. Action to connect more students with what K-State already has to offer can shine a light on hidden gems, saving what works and solving what is wrong.

ENGAGEMENT

A Fall 2022 survey by the Strategic Oversight Committee identified significant gaps in K-State’s support infrastructure. Broadly, this survey asked students to identify sources of discontentment, as well as assets to their educational experience.

Resources that students describe as helpful:

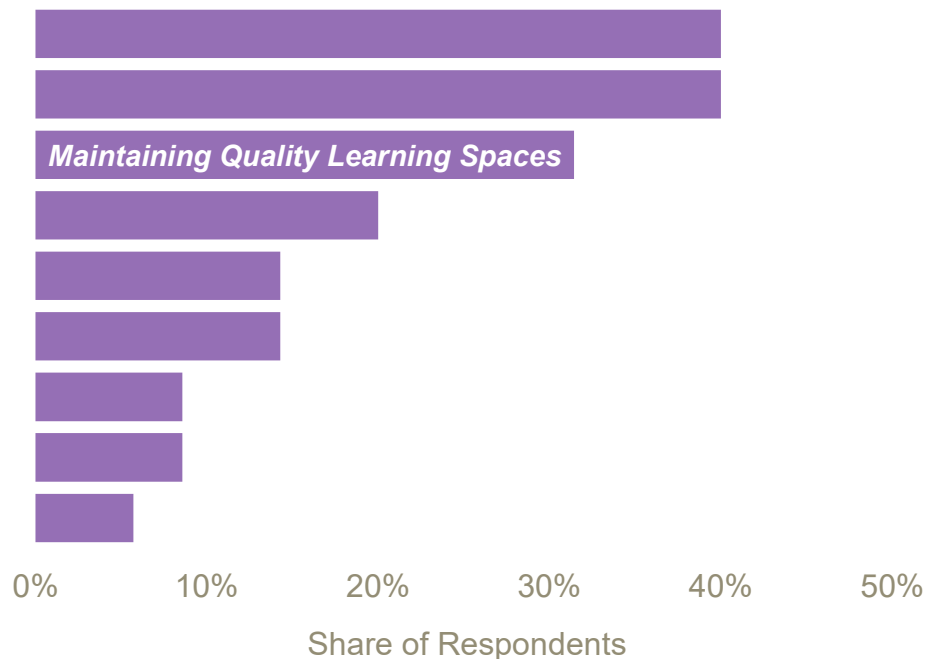
- Lafene Health Center
- The Student Access Center
- Tutoring Services
- The CARE Office

Resources that students describe as challenging:

- University Websites
- Financial Aid Services
- Mental Health Services
- Parking Services

Many students describe a feeling of inequity—that certain academic colleges have superior tutoring and career development opportunities, while others are ignored. 1 in 4 students describe “class demand and stress” as a major roadblock to their education.

“I am dissatisfied with K-State's Approach to:”



STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



Students across K-State's academic colleges should be given equitable support in pursuit of their education and future opportunities.



K-State should provide a clearly defined picture of its courses from enrollment to completion.



Resources in support of student academics across K-State's campus should be user-friendly, accessible, and well-advertised.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
The University should establish at least one indoor 24-hour study area available to all students in all departments with the following resources:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Computer Workstations b. Printers & Scanners c. Internet Connection d. Electrical Outlets e. Food Vending 	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should, on an annual basis, collect and release usage and interest data on its student services.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish an open syllabi database connected to the University Course Catalog, which makes available for each course current or past syllabi.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should require all teaching faculty to release their syllabi at least one week prior to the course start date.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should require all courses to complete and post 20% of the total course grade prior to the full-refund course drop date.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish an online index of its support services, organized according to student needs.	INCOMPLETE

CHAPTER II: ACCESSIBILITY

BACKGROUND

ISSUE

As a land grant institution, Kansas State University has a rich history of access and inclusion in higher education. Accessibility, as an objective, is achieved through a variety of mediums—infrastructure, being chief among them.

Preserving the distinct character of a 160-year-old institution is a unique challenge. The 2012 Campus Master Plan takes specific care to acknowledge this challenge and details a comprehensive set of improvements necessary to the changing needs of the greater K-State population.

Yet, ten years later, problems remain. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against those with disabilities. It includes building accessibility standards that apply to employers, public entities, and facilities used by the public at large (public accommodations). The 2012 Master Plan only notes these standards with respect to new construction and pedestrian routes.

Beyond ADA, students of underrepresented gender also face a lack of physical accommodations. The 2012 Master Plan does not mention gender-neutral restroom facilities.

IMPACT

Unmodified structures that predate 1992 are not required to meet ADA standards, and no structures are required to include gender neutral restrooms. Yet, campus infrastructure bears a responsibility beyond explicit obligation.

As a medium of learning, leisure, and community, Kansas State's campus serves a greater role than many spaces. The choices it reflects serve as a statement of who is welcome.

Marginalized students deserve to engage with spaces that do not force additional difficulty.

A physical environment that does not enable every student cannot be tolerated. While no change is instantaneous, accessibility must be a prime objective in the planning of improvements.

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

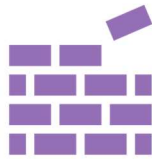
SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



All students should be able to enjoy the full scope of Kansas State's campus with dignity.



Accessibility should be a primary priority of any physical infrastructure planning effort.



Accessible development should be undertaken in not just new facilities, but all structures.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
SGA should select an individual within SGA to catalog instances of exclusive or deficient infrastructure.	INCOMPLETE
The University Operations Office should establish and advertise a portal to report instances of exclusive or deficient infrastructure.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should create an education module for incoming students and a program of education for students, faculty, and staff regarding ableism, accessibility, and the ADA.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should establish a clear policy for the accommodation of transgender and nonbinary students, faculty, and staff.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should establish a public timeline for the implementation of gender-neutral restrooms with an eventual goal of all campus buildings.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should establish a mechanism for students to adjust the description of their name and/or gender identity across K-State systems.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should require all classes with full or semi-virtual modality to include closed captioning of live or recorded video.	INCOMPLETE
KSU should specifically consult the SGA Accessibility Director and the leadership of LGBTQ+ student organizations in the development of future campus improvement plans.	INCOMPLETE

CHAPTER III: HEALTH

BACKGROUND

ISSUE

Mental health and well-being are, deservedly, a chief concern of institutions of higher education and their students. Resources and attention are devoted to infrastructure that not only serves students in times of need but provides opportunities for social connection, engagement, and support.

Despite this, a university is a place of unique pressures. Anxiety disorders and cases of depression are diagnosed at nationally increasing rates. Especially in a post-pandemic environment, feelings of isolation, stress, and uncertainty are common.

IMPACT

When treatment is unreachable, students suffer. Financially accessible counseling that offers service when needed is a paramount objective.

Kansas State is fortunate to have a developed program, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). However, resource shortages have placed significant limitations on the ability of CAPS to provide service. Just as significant are the broad gaps in advertisement and information that distance students from quality care.

For all student, attempting to make academic progress without protecting well-being is not an option. A lack of investment is and will continue to be a grave risk for the Wildcat community.

ENGAGEMENT

SUMMARY

A Fall 2022 survey was conducted by the Strategic Oversight Committee to acquire a general understanding for the student body's needs.

1 in 3

Students are "dissatisfied" with K-State's approach to mental health support.

1 in 4

Students describe "class demand and stress" as a major roadblock to their education.

K-State's mental health services were repeatedly described by students as challenging to use. Furthermore, many students have reported a lack of awareness of the services provided by Lafene's Counseling and Psychological Services. This indicates a wider problem with advertisement and accessibility of wellness resources across campus.

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

The KSU SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



All students at Kansas State University should have awareness of mental health challenges AND knowledge of the resources that can address them.



All students at Kansas State University deserve no less than care of the duration and intensity demanded by their needs.



Kansas State University's mental health services should be supported as is necessary to give all students appropriate care.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
The Student Governing Association should, on an annual basis, provide all of its members with basic mental health resource training.	INCOMPLETE
The Student Governing Association should create a task force to identify steps that would increase wellness and resource awareness within the organization.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should provide all incoming students with a condensed summary of their health-related resources.	INCOMPLETE
The Morrison Center should provide the content within EDCEP 103: Healthful and Safe College Life to all students, through a free-of-charge format.	INCOMPLETE
The Morrison Center should create a permanent position to advertise its services.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should cooperate with the Riley County Police Department and provide mental health co-responders for crisis management scenarios on campus.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should require all teaching faculty to complete the Morrison Center's Project Waypoint Student Distress Training Program.	INCOMPLETE
The Student Services Fee Standing Committee should conduct a re-examination of the Student Governing Association's budget agreement with Lafene Health Center and CAPS.	ACHIEVED

CHAPTER IV: SAFETY

BACKGROUND

In fall 2020, a federally mandated change in Title IX policies led Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Director Sara Haggard to introduce an initial resolution regarding Kansas State University's response.

This resolution called for the university to not require face-to-face interaction between survivors and the perpetrators of their assault, so as not to retraumatize survivors. Initially, the change that required these face-to-face hearings was made without input from the Kansas State University (KSU) Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE Office), even though their input as a trauma-informed advocacy group should have been vital to the conversation.

Efforts to reform KSU's Title IX policy continued into the fall 2021 semester, with a focus on the university's responsibility for sexual violence that occurs off-campus. This being particularly relevant to members of sororities and fraternities, efforts were concentrated to those specific demographics. Because Greek life is unaffiliated with KSU, their self-governance extends to cases of sexual assault happening between Greek community members.

When a member of a sorority or fraternity experiences sexual assault, their assailant is not held accountable by the university, but rather, judged by a jury of fellow Greek life members— an arguable conflict of interest and intense responsibility to place on students.

The Title IX Management Satisfaction Survey was published, and solicitations were done at each sorority house to gather student feedback on a proposed piece of legislation that would alter the Title IX process. This resolution requested that the university make exceptions to Greek life's self-governance policy only in cases where a Title IX violation had occurred.

This proposed change garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback from both sorority members and non-Greek affiliated members at the university based on the Title IX Management Satisfaction Survey.

Weeks after KSU's Student Governing Association (SGA) began working the Title IX changes, there were a number of institutions around the country placed in the national spotlight after public pushback concerning cases of sexual violence on campus. These cases garnered national attention, and included students from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, the University of Kansas, the University of Iowa, and many others across the country.

A commonality between each of these circumstances was their relationship to Greek life within the institutions; students at each university called for change in the way that individuals, especially those in Greek life, are held accountable for sexual assault. These cases led to widespread protests at not just these universities, but around the country as students called for action to end sexual assault on their campuses.

When this movement made its way to K-State, Sara Haggard organized a protest that would begin on Anderson Lawn, and eventually make its way to the front of University President Richard B. Myers' home on campus. This protest acted as a call to reform K-State's Title IX policy and hold perpetrators of sexual violence accountable. After the protest, a group of student leaders gathered to create an additional resolution, which would outline a series of eleven action steps for KSU administration to pursue.

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

The KSU SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



All students, regardless of identity, should feel safe on campus and off-campus as part of university-affiliated organizations.



Incoming students to Kansas State University should take part in training sessions that include the procedure for addressing grievances.



Kansas State University and its administrative sub-units should promote regular data collection and assessment of the safety climate.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Kansas State University should remove the requirement for face-to-face interaction during sexual assault hearings and implement the presence of a constant, trauma-informed resource to support both parties during the hearing process.	INCOMPLETE
The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) should develop a policy addressing Title IX violations that occur outside of the United States regarding faculty, staff, or students.	INCOMPLETE
The Office of Student Life and Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Budget Office should provide a timeline regarding funding and institutionalizing the position of Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Specialist.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should mandate that all incoming students complete the Wildcats Make a Pact bystander intervention training at Orientation and Enrollment.	INCOMPLETE
The Division of Informational Technology should ensure that the Campus Climate Survey and Sexual Assault Climate Survey are sent with official KSU branding and that students be notified in the main inbox of their KSU email.	INCOMPLETE
K-State Housing and Dining Services should refine their policy regarding the prevention of those with a criminal record related to sexual violence living in on-campus housing.	INCOMPLETE

CHAPTER V: SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

BACKGROUND

ISSUE

Affordability in higher education is a nearly universal issue. A Fall 2022 survey by the Student Governing Association found that:

40%

of students are dissatisfied with K-State's approach to affordability.

1 in 5

students identify financial burden as a roadblock to their education.

While focus is often applied to K-State's tuition costs and internal financial aid packages, a critical component to the cost equation is outside aid.

Forbes Magazine cited in a [2021 article](#) that unclaimed scholarships total \$100 million annually.

IMPACT

Failure to target these resources increases pressure on K-State while placing more barriers between students and their education. The success of students need not always require resource lapses for K-State.

Scholarships go unclaimed because those that need them are under-informed on processes, deadlines, and in many cases, the awards themselves. Bridging this information gap is necessary to reach untapped financial solutions.

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



Online scholarship-assistance portals should be integrated with existing platforms to prioritize clarity, efficiency, and ease-of-use.



Scholarship timelines, including those for outside scholarships, should be widely advertised to current and future K-State Students.



Students should have online and interpersonal resources to support the competitiveness of their scholarship applications.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Kansas State University should integrate the K-State Scholarship Network (KSN) with existing online platforms and, when possible, eliminate application redundancies for users.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should expand its online platforms to include non-KSU affiliated “outside” scholarships.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should, on an annual basis, poll students on the usability of its scholarship assistance platforms.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should require Colleges and Departments to advertise scholarship applications and through group-wide messaging.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should provide access for scholarship application assistance to all students post admission.	INCOMPLETE
The Office of Student Financial Assistance should establish an application workshop service to support scholarship competitiveness.	INCOMPLETE

CHAPTER VI: SUSTAINABILITY

BACKGROUND

ISSUE

Responsible stewardship of the land is core to the foundation of Kansas State University. Its students and its community deserve an institution that is a role model for environmental protection and sustainable practices.

Waste in greater Manhattan is a problem. Students who live off-campus often lack the facilities to recycle. K-State offers neither collection services nor exchange programs, leaving an excess of trash and litter.

On campus, K-State lacks a public and organized effort to incorporate new design technologies and pursue certifications that promote energy efficiency.

Beyond physical spaces, K-State fails to reflect a prioritization of sustainability in its partnerships—from local partnerships that can address waste issues in the Manhattan community to broad ones that support K-State's many amenities and attract students for lifelong careers.

IMPACT

A choice to ignore sustainability issues at the student level builds graduates who do not value protection of the natural world. Students lack the resources to be sustainable on their own. They need support, guidance, and inspiration to become positive forces on the environment.

Agriculture—an industry that calls K-State home—faces extreme risk from the proliferation of climate change. Today's students have the most to lose from inaction.

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES

SGA believes that the following objectives are in the best interest of the Kansas State University student body:



Kansas State University should pursue all possible opportunities to reduce waste for students on and off campus.



Kansas State University should seek to advance and adopt environmentally proactive technologies and practices.



Kansas State University should engage in partnerships that support its mission of stewardship and sustainability.

ACTION ITEMS

The Strategic Oversight Committee has identified the following action items as potential solutions to the above objectives:

DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Kansas State University should offer a campus-based recycling exchange compensation program.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish designated drop-zones for recyclables throughout the community.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should partner with the City of Manhattan to establish regular community-service waste cleanup events.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish a baseline environmental certification for all new campus buildings.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish a timeframe for the modernization of its electric supply with an eventual goal of 100% renewable sources.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should establish a timeframe for the modernization of its motor fleet with an eventual goal of 100% electric vehicles.	INCOMPLETE
Kansas State University should adopt environmental and sustainability guidelines for its corporate partnerships.	INCOMPLETE
The K-State Foundation should adopt and publicize sustainability performance metrics for its endowment portfolio.	INCOMPLETE
The K-State Foundation should support the installation of solar panels on Hale Library.	INCOMPLETE