

# **Are you the “Student Government Type?”**

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## **Clarkson University Student Association**

Clarkson University Student Association (C.U.S.A.) is the undergraduate representation here at Clarkson. We serve similarly to a student government, but with a ton of added perks!

To become a part of C.U.S.A. you would run in the elections which take place in the spring semester annually for a senator position. Incoming freshman positions as well as any vacant positions have a separate election which takes place in the fall semester. There are also 4 executive board positions which students can be elected into once they have a year's experience in the organization.

## **So what exactly does CUSA and its members do?**

CUSA serves similarly to a student government in some aspects. This includes advocating for the undergraduate students' wants and needs as well as overseeing clubs and organizations finances, and so much more.

However, Clarkson University Student Association has so many aspects that separate us from being just a student government!

The thing that stands out most about CUSA is the professional development opportunities and how involved CUSA Members become in the Clarkson Community.

There are 4 core committees of CUSA which cover areas of finance, engagement, activities and academic policies. CUSA also serves on faculty committees, which allows for students to become directly involved in the specific areas of Clarkson University that they are passionate about. Some of these committees include but are not limited to Alumni relations, sodexo food services, campus renovations, university wide events, website and other major developmental processes, and so much more!

These opportunities are so unique as they provide opportunities for CUSA Members to establish relationships with various departments, staff members and even professional organizations as well. These opportunities have led to numerous job opportunities, research experiences, internships and co-ops, scholarships and so much more, all while advocating for our undergraduate peers.

## **Finance Committee**

The four main aspects of CUSA also offer opportunities for extreme personal and professional development! Our organization has been entrusted with over a million dollar budget annually which our finance committee and senate grant to over 200 clubs and organizations here at Clarkson University. We are in charge of managing this large budget as well advising clubs on appropriate financial usage. Clarkson University Student Association has one of the largest budgets of all student associations in the United States, as well as a large endowment trust. This trust is something that sets Clarkson University Student Association apart from other universities, as our students not only get to work with financial experts to learn the ins and outs of financial management, but the students actually get to run the account themselves! Overall CUSA Finance committee is an amazing opportunity to gain experience in financial management, leadership and much more.

## **Activities Committee**

Our Activities Committee is another large aspect of our organization as this committee focuses more on the organizations relations, communications and events. Our organization annually organizes a pre-orientation trip for incoming students. We have hosted large scale trips including canada trips, trips through the adirondacks and much more. We also fund some large and small scale events for the student body including a huge welcome back carnival, annual campus wide competitions and basically anything you could imagine. The opportunity to get involved in CUSA's Activities committee not only provides you with experience in the professional communications and marketing departments but also in event planning and advertisements!

## **Student Engagement Committee**

The Student Engagement Committee is a wonderful opportunity to find your passion here at Clarkson. Our engagement committee is trained in customer feedback and spends lots of time listening to the students feedback on what they want to see changed on campus. Many students find their true passions on where they want to focus their energy by hearing all the concerns of their peers here at clarkson. This committee has opportunities to get involved on campus as well as make some large scale changes. Just this past year they began the organization of a huge fund to begin some large scale campus improvements, all based off of the student feedback they received!

## **Academic and Policy Committee**

The Academics and Policy Committee of CUSA is also extremely important here on campus as this committee is the primary source of advocacy for students and their equal and fair opportunities to succeed! This committee primarily focuses on relations between professors and their students. If a professor was to violate the university guidelines this committee is the first action point to advocate for the students rights. Additionally in this section of CUSA we are able to help establish new clubs and organizations here on campus which is a huge reason our student life is as amazing as it is today! The Academics and Policy manages all the constitutional ordeals, everything from new constitutions for clubs and organizations, inner network constitutional reformations, and even constitutional followings throughout the year. Overall this committee offers numerous opportunities to not only advocate for your peers but also gain professional experience in advocacy, constitutionality, legal documentation and so much more.

## **The Future is CUSA**

All in all, Clarkson University Student Association is an organization founded on students that really want to see positive change. We spend ample time listening to the students, gathering feedback, and advocating for change. However our impact goes so much further than that. This organization allows students to grow personally, professionally and overall make changes that will be talked about for years to come.

So when you are thinking about Clarkson University Student Association, I hope you aren't comparing yourself to a “student government type” of person, but rather an innovator, an advocate, an all around ambitious person that is prepared to see huge changes and be a huge part of them! Because here at Clarkson, The student association is the future.