

College Politics: The Microcosm of Power Struggles

College politics may seem small in scale, but it mirrors the broader political world in surprising ways. Student unions, faculty committees, and administrative decisions all involve negotiation, alliances, and sometimes intense rivalries.

Student elections are a key feature in many universities, where candidates campaign on issues like tuition fees, campus facilities, and academic freedom. Political parties (both national and ideological) often back student groups, turning campuses into battlegrounds for larger societal debates. Protests over fee hikes, curriculum changes, or social justice issues frequently emerge from student politics.

Faculty politics, on the other hand, involves tenure battles, departmental funding, and academic influence. Professors compete for research grants, administrative positions, and control over academic policies. University senates or boards make high-level decisions that affect the entire institution, often balancing between government regulations, donor interests, and student demands.

Cliques, favoritism, and power struggles exist here just as they do in national politics. A dean's leadership style might resemble that of a political leader—sometimes democratic, sometimes authoritarian. Meanwhile, student activists may experience their first taste of realpolitik: learning how to mobilize support, negotiate with authorities, and sometimes face repression.