



SAMPLE BY-LAWS FOR STUDENT CHAPTERS

BY-LAWS

STUDENT CHAPTER:

SOCIETY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF
CHICANOS AND NATIVE AMERICANS IN SCIENCE

ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

1. To further the work of, to improve the effectiveness of, and to enhance the public understanding of and appreciation for Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in science;
2. To cooperate with other individuals, organizations, clubs, and other groups whose purposes include the achievement of public understanding for Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in the sciences;
3. To promote student recruitment and retention of Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in science at (your university); and
4. To provide a forum for students from different science majors and science related majors to come together for academic, community service and social activities at (your university)

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION

This organization will be an affiliated chapter to the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). This chapter reserves the right to create and adopt its own by-laws, rules and procedures within the context of the SACNAS By-laws and the rules and regulations of (your university) .



SAMPLE BY-LAWS FOR STUDENT CHAPTERS

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

No person shall be denied membership because of major, ethnicity, gender, religion, economic background, sexual orientation, etc. Membership shall be open to currently enrolled students, faculty and staff at (your university). Membership shall be open to enrolled students of neighboring community college(s).

ARTICLE V

GOVERNING BODY: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

President:	Initiates and presides over meetings. Oversees all group activities and assists in leadership development of membership.
Vice President:	Assumes presidential responsibilities in the absence of the president. Develops and coordinates outreach activities
Secretary:	Maintains accurate attendance and membership records and keeps minutes.
Treasurer:	Maintains and manages finances and keeps accurate financial records. Prepares and implements chapter budget.
National Liaison:	Primary contact with the SACNAS National Office. Submits Chapter Annual Report and conducts communication with the National Office. Reports chapter information such as changes to by-laws, board members, contact information, etc., to National Office. Keeps current with literature and report current events from National Office. Coordinates all activities involving National Organization such as the annual SACNAS National Conference.

Section 2. Nominations:

1. A minimum of two individuals shall be nominated for each office. Individuals may be nominated for more than one office, but may fill only one position.
2. Individuals seeking nomination must be active chapter members.
3. Secretary shall record nominations and make available to the membership properly written ballots for election.
4. Nominations shall be held one month prior to the last meeting of the academic year.

Section 3. Elections/Voting:

1. Elections shall be held three weeks prior to the last meeting of the academic year
2. All active members are eligible to vote
3. Voting shall be conducted as a secret ballot and tally shall be conducted in the absence of the said candidates
4. Ballots shall be tallied by the current secretary and two members appointed by the president



SAMPLE BY-LAWS FOR STUDENT CHAPTERS

5. In the event that there is not a majority vote, the top two candidates will hold a run-off election
6. Officer terms shall be one academic year

ARTICLE VI

QUORUM, MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorum:

1. A quorum must consist of at least fifty percent of all membership and a majority of the officers

Section 2. General Meetings:

1. All members are required to attend regular meetings. Consistent failure to attend meetings may result in suspended voting rights
2. Meeting Agendas shall be prepared by the president and secretary.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE

1. The treasurer and president shall be responsible for preparing a budget every academic year
2. All distributions of funds shall be approved by the president and treasurer

ARTICLE VIII

RESIGNATIONS AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Resignations:

1. An officer may resign from office at any time, by giving written notice to the president or vice president. The written notice of resignation must be received and acknowledged by the governing body of officers.
2. During a meeting when a resignation is presented, nominations will be taken to fill the vacancy and voting procedures will be conducted as stated in Article V with the exception of Section 3.1.

Section 2. Removals:

1. Shall any member have knowledge that an officer is not fulfilling his/her duties or that an officer has acted or participated in activities that violate the mission of the chapter, he/she may call a meeting to explore charges.
2. A two-thirds vote, excluding officer under investigation, is needed for a removal.
3. Upon removal, nominations shall proceed as indicated in Article VIII.

