Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

1. **What is Central Staff's role in CCSG and how can we better work for you?**
    - a guide to University Park, our voice, a source of information and knowledge with which the Commonwealth locations would otherwise unable to obtain, open lines of communication
    - keep control, plan events, help find answers to questions we don't know
    - provide support and information
    - provide structure of organization, mediate, and bring ideas together
    - to run meetings and makes sure things run smoothly, easier more open communication, guide not lead
    - CCSG role – to assist with any problems that goes beyond the campus and into University policy, once in awhile have someone visit all the different campuses
    - To represent the branch campuses
    - To represent the branch campuses
    - CCSG is a guide to University Park
    - Voice of Council, pot of knowledge, help filter out communication mishaps
    - Provides structure to form
    - Caucus facilitator eases
    - Should be supportive role, not leadership role (all supportive), must be weary of not over controlling
    - Balance of power should be in students, not appointees
    - Elected to be voice, wanted a guide, looked upon to lead
    - Central Staff not including the President and Vice President (response to the above comment)
    - Committee and Central Staff should be guides
    - CCSG (assumedly Central Staff) assist in policy
    - Central Staff should make more visits to campuses (helps staff to see problems {professors, CEO's})
    - Central Staff never visits Shenango Campus
    - CCSG is a guide to University Park
    - Voice of Council, pot of knowledge, helps filter out communication mishaps
    - Central Staff should be careful not to project elitism (flips through hallway, staying together during weekends)
    - Central Staff projects the image that Central Staff's opinion is the Bible which is not good
    - Straight answers to necessary information
    - Structure to bring everything together
    - Not over controlling, balance of power with locations students
    - Resources when problems go beyond campus, University policy not campus policy
    - Should visit more often

2. How does your Commonwealth location benefit from Council weekends?

- Networking, knowledge and understanding of policies
- It doesn't really, we just go back to SGA and report what's happening
- Give ideas to your campus from others, backing to talk to people harder for us to get a hold of, support system
- We obtain information to communicate with our campus
- We learn stuff to better our campus and it makes us realize we are a part of Penn State
- Not sure, it really isn't "made known" to the campus
- We get feedback on how to solve problems the campus has
- Kept up to date on THON info., overall the committee meetings and caucus meetings are extremely informative, it helps to hear what the other campuses are doing
- Campuses are not guaranteed to get anything out of meetings
- If problem on one or more campuses, all can work together to solve
- If Council members are not bringing something back to their campus, they are failing in their duties (priorities placed on attendees by campus SGA's and senators
- Campuses get motivated (develops camaraderie and good work ethics)
- Notices that many policies are not applied properly throughout the Commonwealth by administrators
- Provides networking with hopes of change
- Problems with SAF
- Universal Common Hour
- Members who sit on Council are required to speak about CCSG meetings to SGA (gives reports to SGA and advisors)
- Distributes contact information through SGA
- Not guaranteed to get anything out of sessions
- Possibility of feedback from campuses with similar problems
- If you are not taking something back, then you are not doing your job, it's your job
- Learning from other campuses
- People in SGA's are closer and more motivated after meetings
- More aware and hear other campuses with other/similar problems
- Campus occurrences do not follow University Park policies (find out through Council)
- Networking with the "right people"
- First time we got answers – Common Hour
- Goal oriented, new thing to work towards
- Pass Staff Contact info. through SGA
- Staff's role – careful to not project "greatest leader in the world" persona

- Give impression of “what staff says goes”
- Committee/caucus comes dependent upon staff’s “word and knowledge”
- Staff is human, realize our lack of knowledge

3. What aspects of Council weekends can be improved?

- the shows, less waste less use of time
- I don't like caucus info sessions, they're not interesting and not really informative
- Costs, committee meetings restructured
- More entertaining speakers, cut out idle time and shorten lunch, shorter meetings
- Less boring, either not so late Friday or not so early on Saturday, it is hard to stay awake with no activity just talking
- The gallery, it is somewhat boring for those of use not sitting on Council
- 2 nights in a row is tough on campuses located further away (possibly all day Saturday and not Friday night)
- Meetings are tight on budget, 2 or 3 hotel rooms plus gas and meals, possibly make Council a one day thing
- Seems to drag on, 3 info sessions in a row might be much
- Might help if Caucus and Committee meetings had an agenda
- Committee meetings sometimes redundant, sometimes little gets accomplished
- Many times go around the table to each campus find out what is up with each campus
- Possible half on Friday and half on Saturday
- 2 or 3 minutes per location, sometimes don't get to York Campus
    i. SOLUTION – info turned in by campuses on Thursday or Friday and then disbursed
- Caucus and committee meetings not given enough time
- More time for caucus and committee meetings
- Council does not run the most efficient way
- Diversity Committee talked about campus on Friday and Diversity Summit on Saturday
- Not enough time to cover both
- Committee and caucus meetings should be less formal, afraid to talk
- Committee meetings need to stay on track, more proper guidance needed
- People from gallery can't say anything during Council
    i. SOLUTION – instead of making gallery attend Council, use that time for committee and caucus meetings
- Combine two groups later and give short reports, worse for Gallery
- Minutes taken in Council
    i. SOLUTION – minutes taken during caucus and committee meetings, provides accountability, include these in minutes of Council weekend
- Gallery could talk, but doesn't pay attention
- Getting Central Staff to yield time to gallery is time consuming

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

- 2 nights in a row is hard to do
- All day Saturday meetings
- Friday night activity, Friday night is optional
- Do not like ePortfolio session
- 3 separate info sessions, do not want to listen more
- Less sugar coating, raw facts and move on
- Redundancy in committee meetings
- Committee meetings just one day
- Friday review – overview
- Saturday – agenda
- Hand in topics – Student Affairs, committee reports around table
- Half reports on Friday and half on Saturday
- Major points – talk about those
- 1 big thing and little things
- Adequate time
- More time is good
- Add 5 minute breaks to committee meetings
- Waste of 25 minutes that could be better budgeted to committees
- Diversity – Friday night – what we did Saturday – Diversity Summit couldn't fit in
- Less structure allows for more open discussion
- Campus email chairs, give formal listings of progress, etc.
- 2 members can't make it
- Morning Committee meeting just controlled by committee
- Committee heads act as meeting facilitators, keep meeting on track
- Gallery feels left out, can't say anything
- Gallery should be meeting while Council is in attendance for lengthened discussion time and constructiveness
- Break outs while Council is seated for Gallery
- Take minutes in Caucus and Committee meetings
- Allow for things to be accomplished quicker, caucus and committee
- Hard to stay awake on Council
- Gallery would be soooo bored
- Gallery, not going to pay attention
- Pain to get Staff to yield floor
- Didn't want to have to have someone yield floor

4. Why do you come to Council weekends and how can you improve your locations participation?

- Leadership training, networking
- I come to sit on Academic Affairs, we don't participate with as many people because it is difficult to find drivers
- To gain ideas and support, to benefit my campus, it is hard with cost but gives them incentives
- We accomplish a lot here, the only way to improve is to bring different people every time, stress importance to our SGA's and increase familiarity of SGA with CCSG
- To learn about info that I never knew, make it mandatory for every SGA member or at least the executive board
- I came as a THON dancer, our campus participation can be improved by having what goes on made known to the campus, make students aware of the opportunity
- I come because I need to since I am THON chair at my location
- Come for THON support
- Come to voice my opinion, say what they like and don't like about Commonwealth
- Hone leadership skills, see how leadership is working at campuses, inspires campuses to be better and improve
- Need to make meetings more interesting, once campus went from bringing up 9 people to bringing up 4 people
- Nobody wants to come up for 9 hours of meetings
- Need some kind of incentive, not monetary
- Make more interesting by…1. don't need 1 ¾ hours for lunch (yes we do, yes we do), 2. activity on Friday night
- Good because it show Staff isn't godly, especially for rookies or people new to the system

Question posed by Facilitator: If activity moved to Friday, would your campus go?

- No
- Not cost efficient
- Trying to get people to come up is tough
- CCSG is what you make of it, Friday night activity might be good
- Schedule "as is" is good (weekend agenda)
- Friday meetings for Pre-Council meetings, start at 8 or 10 pm, extended meetings would be bad, instead of debating idle time – use it, too much time allotted for reports or items
- 4 hour drive
- Problems with classes before Council
- Start Friday meetings later if possible
- Waste time doing silly things
- Try doing everything in large room at one time and then move on, this would prevent wasted time by doing unnecessary "roll calls" and time to and from meetings

- Friday meetings and meetings should be later
- Committee reports should be placed in the minutes
- No Friday meetings
- Saturday meeting not extended just more efficient
- Would not come up to ice skate
- Long drive and have to pay for a hotel
- Getting people to come up is hard
- Can earn money and work it at home
- To hard to make ends meet
- CCSG is what you make out o fit
- Too hard to come up Saturday morning
- (disagreeing with previous speaker) Meetings should be conducted on Friday
- Do something fun in the morning, short activity to get people moving
- See what other campuses are doing, no other reason
- See what other campuses are doing
- Come to give opinion on problems with Commonwealth, change to say what's wrong and represent
- Learn leadership skills, compare and learn from other campuses
- Makes use want to become something
- To improve participation – make it more interesting
- 9 hours, just sort of sit there
- Some sort of incentive
- Not incentive but more interesting
- No Friday night meeting, Saturday night activity on Friday, too tired to do anything on Saturday night
- Make lunch shorter
- Hit important points and then the meeting should be over
- Saturday night activity on Friday, opportunity to associate, meet people
- Schedule is OK
- Extending it on Saturday is a bad idea
- Bad to drive both ways on Saturday
- Friday Pre-Council Activity
- In a hurry on Friday
- Late meeting allows more time to finish academics on Friday
- Have to leave at like 3:30 or 4pm
- Don't need newspaper report
- Too much time allotted
- Should undercut time
- 4 hour time, would not get up on time
- Cut out night meeting
- Cut out silly little things
- Roll Call 5 times, should be less
- Get to business on the break out in committee and caucuses

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

- Friday meeting possible too late
- Hard to get there on time without skipping classes and agree with above
- Lot of interaction with people in Committee meetings
- Committee reports after breakouts
- Saturday meeting not longer, but more efficient
- Council is monotonous

5. **What do you believe the role of CCSG should be in the Commonwealth system and in Penn State University?**
    - Represent the interests of all the locations at University Park
    - Support system
    - We should be ultimate because we represent the entire University and not just University Park
    - To be the voice of all the Commonwealth locations, to help us be represented in the Penn State system as a whole

6. Any further questions, comments, or questions

- To make it here on time students often miss class to make it here on time Friday nights
- Campus visits
- Keep Friday meetings
- I agree with the campus visits of CCSG Exec. Board, because student at York don't know about it. They don't know then there is a higher level to share their "big deal" or concern with.
- Wednesday before the meeting let the representative of each section hand in their paper so you know how long they will stand.

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

1. **What is Central Staff's role in CCSG and how can we better work with you?**
    - Staff's role – happy with it
    - Look to staff for advice
    - Really do see Mike as a coordinator
    - Staff coordinates/facilitates
    - All-U-Day, lack of communication
    - Staff to campuses, poor communication
    - Good communication needs to work both ways
    - Not knowing who exactly staff is
    - What do members of staff do – maybe a brief explanation of our job along with our picture on the website
    - Cliff notes on staff
    - See us as helpers
    - To make the organization work

2. How does your Commonwealth location benefit from Council weekends?

- New ideas, stuff to take back
- Feel apart of something
- Mini-retreat, entirely focused on Student Government
- Networking, talking to people with similar issues
- A lot of people don't come back because they give up a weekend and not a lot of things are getting done, a lot of talk
- Meeting only 3 times a semester, communication breaks down between that time
- A lot to take back to clubs
- On track, gives goals
- Longer, maybe more productive
- As things get rolling, its time to go
- Networking, issues, etc.

3. What aspects of Council weekends can be improved?

- Friday meeting, 2 hours “welcome”
- Tired Saturday morning
- Activity on Friday night
- President meeting longer on Saturday morning
- Friday night an unnecessary cost
- They have to bring a certain amount of people, as per their constitution
- Most things can be done Saturday
- More time for committee/caucus meetings
- Frustration, SGA’s not all on the same page, leads to difficulty understanding each other – governing vs. programming
- Can CCSG help to get everyone on the same page? Doing both?
- Incorporate president meeting during the day
- President meeting either Friday night or Saturday morning, not both
- Meeting 9-6 Saturday, move things back an hour?
- Not getting anything out of info sessions
- Gallery gets bored, falls asleep
- Separate Council from Gallery, during committee meetings have the presidents meeting
- All it takes is one person from the gallery to say something
- More efficient to take the gallery out, to involve them differently
- Only president speaks during caucus meetings, maybe only have presidents at those to report back to the campus, and have other people at committee meetings
- More microphones
- Comfortable chairs

4. **Why do you come to Council weekends and how can you improve your locations participation?**
    - Learning experience
    - Required for THON
    - New president, learning
    - Learning from other campuses, ideas
    - Something “higher” than ourselves to report to, to take back to campus
    - Many people can’t drive, don’t have people to drive, affects attendance
    - Missing work = problem
    - Always the same people are coming
    - Make it cheaper for them
    - One person gets turned off, takes that impression back to the campus
    - Requirement make it difficult
    - Speakers best thing
    - “Trim the fat”
    - Reports – don’t get much out of them, read the minutes
    - Only purpose is the committee meeting
    - Formal attire for the Gallery
    - Formal attire = professionalism
    - Dislike Robert’s Rules – conversely, keeps us on track, keeps order
    - Maybe modify Robert’s Rules to fit these meetings
    - Incentive for coming
    - Is a student allowed to drive a PSU vehicle, i.e. van?
    - Constitution
    - Communication tool to University Park – more power with big issues
    - I am required for THON, I can’t because my president is a bastard

5. **What do you believe the role of CCSG should be in the Commonwealth system and in Penn Sate University?**
    - Voice of campuses
    - For campuses to feel a part of a bigger thing, a part of PSU, to bond with people from other campuses
    - Makes them feel apart of the University
    - Right now, I feel a part of the meeting
    - CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION
    - Make life better for the half of the undergraduates that aren't at University Park

6. Any further questions, comments, or concerns

- More governing as SGA, maybe CCSG trying to implement among campuses
- Focus on specific things as far as issues
- Responsibility to inform people before coming too
- Professionalism (dress)
- Parliamentary procedure
- Need more strippers and midgets

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

1. **What is Central Staff's role and how can we better work with you?**
    - To help campuses out (said CCSG, not Central Staff when answering)
    - Create publicity/awareness of other locations
    - Want Central Staff to visit each campus to have an awareness beforehand
    - Committee/Caucus directors to interact more with issues because many times issues in one meeting affect another
    - Want Central Staff to worry more about individual campus goals rather than CCSG's
    - CCSG (Central Staff) serves campuses, not campuses serves staff
    - To help answer any questions or problems
    - Publicity
    - Representatives to campuses
    - Central Staff serves the campuses
    - 1 meeting committee and caucuses
    - Central Staff should represent the needs of the campuses at University Park. The caucus and committee directors must communicate with each other
    - To make sure the meetings run smoothly and effectively. To better work, I feel we should be a little more strict on not running late (i.e. today with the IT director). Provide more campus awareness
    - To help with the SGA's at the campuses along with helping the campuses in general
    - To work for the Commonwealth campuses, to get us to work together as one college, to come to our campuses and work with our people
    - Sit at big table and run meetings, learn who we are, try to pretend you care about us, this is politics
    - Just to know about the individual campus more
    - Some staff seems territorialistic towards their former locations and too authoritarian
    - Can work better by coming to campus with SGA meetings on occasion, to find out what's going on then at CCSG meetings Central Staff will know where we stand as a campus
    - Represent us on University issues, maybe try and have some staff members come and visit the campuses
    - Coming to campus to see operation in progress
    - Good experience so far
    - Look over everything
    - To make the meetings run smoothly and to hear out our problems
    - Keeping the campus more informed, keeping in touch, following up
    - Their role is helping Commonwealth campuses
    - Role is to work with all of the campuses to unite and work as a whole

- Connection between University Park and all Commonwealth campuses, be available for questions and help
- Get information for us, help solve our problems not entire University, create publicity and exposure at University Park
- Liaison between University Park and campuses, speak on behalf of

2. How does your Commonwealth Location benefit from Council weekends?

- Able to bring back ideas from other campuses
- Brainstorm together to solve problems
- Gain feedback from other campuses having problems
- Good committee structure
- Enthusiasm helps other campuses
- Learning steps/progress that Central Staff is making
- Good experience to learn how to get involved
- Bring ideas from other campuses
- Time to brainstorm
- Feedback from campuses
- Committee system helps to set direction
- Seeing enthusiasm
- Steps taken to help
- Good experience
- The benefit is having the opportunity to interact with student leaders from different campuses
- We benefit because Council is the one time in particular that are voices can be heard if desired
- We bring back ideas back ideas to our campus with hope to get more involvement
- We take many ideas home to our campus. We get feedback from other campuses and put them to use our ours.
- We get to stay at a great hotel for free and eat real food for free
- Mostly just the experience for someone who has never been here and will be a future leader
- The committee system is a valuable asset for ideas and direction for committees in location SGA's
- We get new ideas and ways to run more efficiently
- Students are informed on what is going on down here and abroad
- Information given here is utilized for the improvement of the campus
- Gives us an opportunity to voice concerns to all SGA members and provides open and diverse feedback
- Meet with caucus
- We get to speak our voice and we get to be recognized
- Gain ideas, discuss common problems and ideas, infusion of enthusiasm, a resource for more connections, networking
- We take the overall information and discussion points back to our campus so our individual student body can work with them
- Benefits from getting ideas and thoughts on issues from the other campuses. We also benefit by working as a team.
- We are able to learn what steps Central Staff is making, we also get to learn how other campuses work and we can take that back

- Ideas from other campuses, find people with the same ideas willing to work on similar issues

3. What aspects of Council weekends can be improved?

- Prepare more for Caucus and Committee meetings; need more structure and agendas
- Earlier Friday meetings
- Change length of Saturday meeting somehow
- Stay on agendas
- Streamline meeting; more discussion and time for interaction and less reporting
- Updates on progress that has been made, more follow up
- More time in committee and caucus meetings
- Different system of breaking apart caucuses – arrange differently to put like campuses together
- Email agenda (caucus and committees) ahead of time so members have time to discuss
- Housing and Food issues in SAC
    i. Subcommittees in committees for specific issues
- More administration at meetings to have immediate answers
    i. Ex. Housing and Food
- More information about what is happening up here and getting done up here
- Make committees set to campus needs, group according to issue
- Caucus directions having direction
- Meeting length and time
- Stay to agenda
- Streamline meetings
- More interactive discussion time and less reporting
- More committee time
- Arrange possibly size caucus system
- Committee and caucus agenda emailed out
- Answer to questions now
- The Council meetings need to be streamlined. More discussion needs to take place in caucus, committee meetings and during Council as well
- Having the Friday meeting earlier so we aren't out so late on Friday nights
- Time of meeting on Friday and the length on Saturday
- More time in committee and caucus meetings. We benefit more from those than anything else.
- It's a headache – everyone just sucks it up and goes because we know we have to – if it was something that we could come here and get our problems solved rather that being told where to go to find the answer it would be so much better
- Better organization, follow agenda
- Sometimes it seems that campuses have different amounts of sway, level it or give the "big" schools "big" say

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

- More caucus meetings
- More time with caucus meetings
- This is my first time
- The preparation of the caucus and committee directors
- Less deliberation over the same subjects
- Run Robert's Rules better
- More breakout sessions, it gets long and drawn out after awhile
- Formality of meetings
- Formality of meetings, time should be given more to issue based

4. Why do you come to Council weekends and how can you improve your locations participation?

- To get ideas from other campuses
- To represent your campus
- Sense of unity with everyone together
- THON for the most part but has become a learning experience
- Improve locations participation
    i. If students see it is beneficial than they will be more inclined to come
    ii. Split commuter/residential campuses
- Think tank
- Representing campuses for all University
- Sign of unity
- Learning experience
- Want to know what is going on
- Up here at University Park
- How we have progressed
- More follow up
- Not set committees make up our committees
- Circulation
- Meetings for residents and commuters
- Attending CCSG is one of duties as a member of SGA. I represent my campus. The way to improve the locations participation would be to discuss issues relating to my campus.
- I come every time and I don't see our locations participation as being a problem
- I come up because of THON, better ideas for activities
- I come because I am co-chair of THON. My campus is 51% adult students (non traditional). It is also a commuter campus and it is hard to get people to participation
- I have to sit on Council, we have had many people, everyone in SGA to come and see what it is and what we're doing so they know how important it is
- Come to give as much information as needed from my campus. Don't really think participation can be improved
- My location needs to bring more to have a voice
- To learn what is going on with other campuses and to get new ideas for our campus, participation can be improved through caucus meetings
- Shows that we are all one university, not 19 separate campuses
- More advertisement of what was discussed and get ideas to discuss to bring down
- To be active in SGA activities
- Improve participation by making each trip fun so its more like play than work

- I wanted to see what was going on and also maybe to get a chance to speak my own opinion, get ideas from others
- Gain ideas, discuss common problems and ideas, infusion of enthusiasm, a resource for more connections, networking, a connection to Main Campus
- I came this week because I am dancing for THON. Spreading the work of CCSG to concerned students would be a fine way to get new ones to CCSG
- I come to get and receive ideas to better our campus and others. Also to find out what's going on at other places than my campus
- I come as a member of SGA, by informing my campus of the work CCSG does to help us
- My campus heavily participates already

5. What do you believe the role of CCSG should be in the Commonwealth system and in Penn State University?

- Bring everyone together, represents student body, are the voices of the students
- Help unite, to be a part of University Park
- Recognition that locations do exist with administration
- Student initiative to take information back to campuses, gives student experience to be improved upon
- "Cancel out" USG to make more issued unified with USG and CCSG to balance out power
- CCSG thinks to highly of themselves and has far more power than USG
    i. Need positive PR about things that are done
- PR on campus level
    i. SGA's need to publicize
- USG accomplishes goals, so do we
- Voice of campuses
- Help to be part of University Park
- Way to let people know they are there
- Real world knowledge
- Thought we are not level with USG
- Get things accomplished
- To make the commonwealth and PSU in general, one of the best places to be
- I believe the role of CCSG should be somebody that a campus can look to for help along with making the Commonwealth a big part of PSU
- To work with USG and get our name out
- CCSG should be the ends to a means – this should be a place where we do what is best and solve problems rather than just dress up and pretend to care
- To know the problems and try to solve them instead of stating more problems
- To unite the Student Governments as one strong voice
- CCSG bring student viewpoints to the faculty and administration of Penn State and it should play a vital role in all decisions made
- CCSG should be there to council the government and offer help and guidance
- To use "one voice" and align the goals of all the SGA's in the Commonwealth
- It should play a big part in any decisions made. We are the students and we should have proper representation
- Let the idea that we may be 19 campuses but we are 1 University be explained

- It should be where ideas are brought up then discussed. It should be the central part of student government
- Yes, I feel that they should implement the Commonwealth and University as a whole
- Connection for locations and University Park; work for the Commonwealth to get respect that University Park gets

6. Any further questions, comments, or concerns

- Will we have access to the minutes of this meeting
- Why has it taken Central Staff this long to realize the problems and concerns in the Spring semester? It's too late in the year for this. Presidents have been constantly voicing problems and nothing has been done
- Caucus info sessions should have been done. Students have other worries (tests, papers, homework, etc.) and this did not help
- Presidential platform goals
    i. Think Council works for staff
    ii. No goals rather how can we help the campuses more
    iii. Goals set at first meeting in September
        1. Someone disagreed with that because it may be too late – CCSG should be involved in the Leadership Conference
- Cut down meetings and meeting times
    i. 1 mandatory OCM (Out of Council Meeting)
    ii. 2 Council meetings
    iii. Semester 1 - 2 or 3 Council meetings
    iv. Semester 2 – 1 OCM
- Elimination of committees
    i. GAC, more lobbying, Rally at the Rotunda does not work
        1. need to worry about administration at University Park
- Platforms a waste of time
- Eliminate certain committees
- Spend more time on individual campus problems
- Quit the information sessions
- CCSG makes me feel like a true Penn State student even though I am at a location, it makes me have greater pride and spirit and in this school because I am involved in everything
- We are one University and should be treated equally not like University Park is better
- Separate meetings for residential and commuter campuses to discuss issues
- More production in committee meetings

1. What is Central Staff's role in CCSG and how can we better work with you?

- We are a resource
- Central Staff is doing a good job
- Ya'll are a good resource
- Point in the right direction
- More efficient committee meetings

- Delegation of responsibility is important to function effectively. More centralized individuals representing a group could result in misrepresentation/lost information, spreading individuals too thin
- To help you solve problems at your locations, keep in contact more, get to know us, we want to get to know the president, vice president and all others, not only the committee directors
- Pursue ideas and bring forth what comes up at meetings or between meetings especially a good number campuses will be affected
- Act as an information source
- Be more friendlier, interested more in the people other than the president
- More smaller meetings like this
- Maybe Central Staff can attend one locational meeting a semester at a Commonwealth location
- Central staff is there to see to it that life at the Commonwealth campuses is the best that it can be and to serve the Commonwealth to the best of their ability

2. How does your Commonwealth location benefit from Council weekends?

- Real charge and pumped up, stinks when you have to tell people they can't come, bouncing ideas from one another, meeting within caucus and then meet with other campuses – more campus interaction outside caucus, tangible benefits to take back
- CCSG provides an opportunity to support satellites, disperses information, analgous to the internet
- Steal ideas from other campuses
- Get their issues looked into and possible get it further resolved
- Go back with ideas and solutions to problems
- Information about Law, etc.
- Bounce ideas, share ways to improve campus – promote activities
- Representation, new ideas, directions of the University, money becomes a problem, but I believe the above the cost
- We do not see many changes at our campus as a result of Council weekends

3. What aspects of Council weekends can be improved?

- Frequency of meetings (have too many), big OCM might be just as good
- More student speakers
- Set a better agenda for speakers (speaking time, question/answer time)
- Want products – list of accomplishments (immediate results)
- Activity after Friday's meeting
- Done so many results
- Too much going on at once
- Don't like caucus info sessions – too much like a project
- Too long
- More time spent on big problems with round table discussion committee info session
- Gallery should be more involved
- Have a meeting during the Presidents meeting for everyone else, add more to let people learn and do more and get to know each other more
- Run more efficient committee meetings, see more interested in your issues
- More time with speakers for questions (ex. 2 maybe 3 questions for Dr. Jones)
- Set better agendas for speaking/questions
- Length of meeting (less), speakers
- More breaks (one in the morning and one for lunch)
- Need to have some tangible products to take back to the campus, something needs to get accomplished every meeting
- Something should be done financially so everyone who wants to come can
- Better direction with committees
- Better direction with caucuses
- Activities on Friday night
- Different speakers
- Perhaps a revision in the amount of committees and their focus
- Caucus and committee sessions NEED to be restructured. It's all talk and no action. Also, we need to have more big group instruction
- I like the idea of fewer CCSG meetings, but in it's place official caucus meetings
- Keep information sessions, they are a good way to get people involved
- More caucus information during the weekend

4. **Why do you come to Council weekends and how can you improve your locations participation?**
    - Can't get all committee chairs here and miss some information, should have 2 representatives come from each campus
    - More centralized
    - Communicate with non SGA members (bring up club members)
    - Later start time on Saturday
    - Description of agenda events to fill those who may not have been representatives; you have to know what is going on to give feedback
    - We insist that each weekend we bring up the same people which benefits us even more as a campus
    - To get "pumped up" about Student Government, spread the word to students not involved in SGA and tell them what CCSG is about
    - For ideas and problem solving
    - Look for something before hand to discuss
    - To learn more
    - Make a mandatory "x" amount of people from each C.C.
    - Try and find a way to gain active SGA members to represent different things (Academic Affairs) and others, etc.
    - Get more students from campuses involved – it's always the same few SGA members – other voices don't seem to be heard; I'm here because I am a dancer, I feel like a lot of this weekend isn't relevant to me since I've never been to CCSG before and won't get an opportunity to come back, so I feel like I didn't have any reason to be here except for the short time I spent in THON meetings. This should somehow be amended for next year
    - The gallery can become more involved by having an open section on the agenda for comments from the gallery
    - I come to discuss with other campuses about important issues. Sometimes I feel that these issues are being pushed aside

5. What do you believe the role of CCSG should be in the Commonwealth system and in Penn State University?

- Act as a collective voice
- Resource of information
- Need stronger unity
- Gallery must be involved more – more group activities
- Get the people sitting on Council more involved
- Don't/can't change the agenda, tell people they have that power
- Intimidating atmosphere
- Feel that it is Central Staff vs. Council, want to get to know more of Central Staff
- Central Staff get to know more than just the Presidents
- To increase participation, increase the bonds within CCSG, after meeting activities are not always attended, low turnover is a very important aspect that deserves meeting time (ice breakers, etc.)
- Share ideas about problems faced by each campus and solutions that are found
- To support the commonwealth
- More unity – less bickering and going in circles, only need response if suggestion will help or better the situation
- Voice of C.C.
- Voice concerns and opinions of all commonwealth locations
- CCSG should get actual goals accomplished for the campuses. What got accomplished this year?

6. Any further questions, comments, or concerns

- Leadership Conference - should know more about SAF guidelines
- Leadership Conference – provide other organizational sessions during SGA time
- Have discussions about major issues (more Council discussions)
- Have different speakers – more variety
- Go to lunch with caucuses
- Glad we are no longer in 301 HUB ☺
- Everyone likes Heritage Hall
- Need to have a longer Friday meeting for THON or do more THON stuff
- Would like to be present at several committee meetings at once
- Print out power point information sessions for everyone in the gallery and on Council
- Information sessions should be on a need to know basis
- Intimidating atmosphere
- Parliamentary procedure is very intimidating and confusing, make people more knowledgeable
- THON should either get in or out or have more opportunities geared towards THON
- Have workshops/groups geared towards specific concerns and allow time to migrate on their own to seek out needed info. instead of information sessions
- Process by which gallery speaks is intimidating and formalized, people there are new and the situation may be uncomfortable
- This was a more dynamic way of communicating
- In the beginning of meetings, have an opportunity to clear up any further inquires from the prior meeting or have information in a report
- I agree with movement on issues. Some are beaten to death. Discuss and make goals for the likely. Time in which you can make a difference is short. Use it and do something (make long term and short term goals)
- I found the info sessions less beneficial. Certain issues do not pertain to all, time is valuable; put the contents on info sessions into a report, prioritize time
- Have groups meet that are made of random campuses. This will help bring more issues to light
- Gallery – allow groups to get together and have a speaker speak on their behalf concerning the issue
- Caucus – allow each caucus to interact with other campuses and caucuses
- Change topics including speakers – speakers are good, bring in different ones about different topics

- Along with the folders the first night try to type out a list of accomplishments (etc. got tuition lowered from 15% to 13.5%), tangibility is good
- The caucus info sessions take time and by the end the time could be better spent discussing problems in our caucuses and University wide
- Results of reports need to show tangible benefits of what CCSG has accomplished
- Activity Friday night instead of Saturday night
- Information session – speaker instead
- No food available – maybe a snack or something available
- Speakers are getting repetitive; the same each year, President Spanier is ok, but the others, unless area is involved with current happenings
- Question/answer session during caucus meetings between different campuses
- Ways to exchange campus ideas
- Committee information session instead of caucus information session
- Saturday start time is too early
- Gallery should be more involved
- More council discussions, I only know what is going on with my committee
- Don't like caucus information sessions/time could be spent better
- Gallery more involved by asking questions, making the microphones more accessible
- Too many surveys without tangible evidence
- Caucus information sessions alright, but need to talk about problems more
- Don't change the meeting times
- This project would work better if you used outside observers and not Central Staff, more people might speak up if they know for sure that the observers are non-biased, great idea though
- Central staff needs to act like equals to the people of the commonwealth. The people are University Park see to lose sight at times they are not here for power or to help University Park. They are here to serve the commonwealth. That is what they were elected to do. I do not get a sense of unity or equality from the people on Central Staff.
- Information sessions do not pertain to all the campuses and take up too much time to plan

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Council Discussion – February 1, 2003

1. **What is Central Staff's role in CCSG and how can we better work with you?**
    - Staff – provide guidance, does everything, it's a great thing, happy we come to them and they can come to us for whatever
    - Work with Central Staff, when gives reports (committee) "we'll look into it" – get back to Council – maybe the next week an email should be sent to the President and all committee members
    - Committee meetings – once you go to committees the members state what the committee wants to do when reports, problem – campuses rely too much on staff, more interaction
    - Problem with commuter locations having people come back to work on stuff
    - Not everyone is same on these committees – don't get same report
    - Would like to see a 2 person council to eliminate miscommunication, can write up a resolution with all on the same page
    - Can't understand scope of CCSG until they walk in and see it – build off of 2 person council but still have the gallery able to come in
    - Problems you don't want it too big or too small – ratios come in here with different sizes of 19 campuses
    - Had to tell what person is slacking – it falls on the whole committee and then on the director
    - Consistency is hard but there is an attempt
    - Central Staff is an excellent information source and they work great with us
    - Central Staff for CCSG has played a big role in my CCSG experience. You guys have been there to guide me and to help me out when I needed you. I think you're doing a great job guys, keep it up ☺

2. How does your Commonwealth location benefit from Council weekends?

- Report back to presidents and clubs, give contact information
- Great – they (at campuses) get excited
- What CCSG does as a whole is focused on in campuses, this should be taught to the campuses so that they can be independent and not rely on CCSG as much
- Refuels they – get new ideas back to campus
- Caucus meetings are very beneficial – get ideas and new things to take back
- Ideas are the main thing – what did/didn't work
- Feel not alone – warm and fuzzy
- 1st experience here – enjoying it and getting stuff from other campuses and meetings
- Allows progression ahead together and as individuals learning from one another, collaborating together
- Issues (big ones) have been brought up to CCSG, have gotten commuter appreciation day from another campus
- My Fayette campus takes back this information and most of the time we use it and we benefit from it
- It's excellent. It gets everyone excited back at McKeesport. A lot of people want to get involved

3. What aspects of Council weekends can be improved?

- Held back due to change of people within the committee, hard for newcomers to transition in and know what's going on
- Agree with need of consistency – goes back to 2 person model
- A solution to above comment – each caucus (well most) have ANGEL, you can get minutes from each council meeting so put up minutes from caucus/committee on ANGEL
- As organization grows, you have the ability to be more structured and can keep consistency – make it a part of an SGA person's job, desires is within Council – they can do it if they want, Council feels blindsided sometimes. They haven't taken the responsibility of itself to say this is where we want to go. Some feel offended the leadership are trying to push their own way – own agenda
- Best way to handle shouldn't be in Council – should be in a President's meeting
- For those who can't make it have good reasons, tries to keep consistency, 2 members on every committee
- Legislation and information needs to come from sooner and in a better organizational matter
- Don't need to rely on committees for every little thing – we need to do it ourselves; there are bigger scopes for focus on "PRIORITZE"
- There's an explosion of ideas when we get here to where people can see what they're doing and can write legislation that weekend
- The attraction of the activity afterwards. They also should have some type of programs that sort of teaches us how to run meetings
- In my opinion, at open forum, people need to speak up more and tell them their opinions. And at the end when we are suppose to lives (like a set time of 5) we need to be dismissed and now help after a lot more time for that

4. Why do you come to Council weekends and how can you improve your locations participation?

- THON – required to come
- 1st time here – participation is good usually
- Participation is good – about 6 come down and get ideas
- Get ideas
- Love getting involved, meet new people, brainstorm
- Own self interests, for campus, to keep Presidents on top of all, keep stress for more people at location
- Get help/ideas/support from other locations
- All SGA Exec. Boards required to come – start inviting clubs President also
- Come for THON, build morale
- Get ideas, report to Senate in case there is an initiative to be taken
- Ideas take back to Senate, good part have to cut it off for money reasons and what not
- Wouldn't be a good president, keep a good SGA lead by example
- Didn't feel alone, small contact with few campuses, makes you feel like you are hitting a brick wall
- Get others involved
- Invitation but no interest – improve understanding of what CCSG is
- Have to, could send ideas through email - $1000-2000 spent to come here a year
- People agree there's not enough benefits (students, staff, etc.)
- Need to be optimistic to get stuff done
- Where all the campuses unite and become one united voice as Penn State as a whole
- It's an exciting weekend. I enjoy being involved in PSU's student voice.
- I personally come to council weekends to get ideas and take the back home to my campus and use them. I'm involved in a lot of thins and to swap ideas is a good thing. I t make us come together and unite us as a whole.

5. **What do you believe the role of CCSG should be in the Commonwealth system and in Penn State University?**
    - Good idea, look up to and see how things are done, Roberts Rules – learning
    - Voice of campuses, if any problems we (staff) talk to administration if the students at campuses still need to help – we help
    - Make one united voice for University
    - Different SGA's problem – all focus on different issues
    - One common definition of what should be done at campuses – way to work/run
    - We elect the President and Vice President = they represent 19 campuses – respond to problems and concerns – PROBLEM – attempt to power
    - Not well defined as Council – power President and Vice President have vs. freedom President and Vice President they have
    - Make decisions – should be the council, we have an opportunity to
    - Campus's voice – bothers when President signs off things – bill passage "looked at resolution – it was approved"
    - CCSG should be the voice of the Commonwealth colleges. They also provide us with examples of how we should run SGA.
    - Where all the campuses unite and become one united voice as Penn State as a whole.

6. Any further questions, comments, or concerns

- I felt that we should be able to voice our opinions. We are not allotted that much time to do so.