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COMPENSATION FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT HBCUs

How the Historically Black Colleges Pay Their Student Government Leaders

At many of the nation's colleges and universities, student government leaders are given free tuition, room and board. Sometimes they also receive a generous cash salary. The black colleges are no exception. At many historically black colleges and universities, the student body president receives tuition waivers or a substantial cash salary.

Assuming the task of president of the student government association at a large college or university can be a full-time job. Many student leaders put in many hours organizing campus events, budgeting student government funds, adjudicating disputes, and presiding over various student representative organizations. Today about 70 percent of all college students hold part-time jobs to help pay for college costs and books and to have spending money. But often student government leaders are obliged to spend so much time on campus activities that they are unable to also hold down a part-time job. Many of the nation's black colleges and universities now compensate the school's student government president so that student government positions will remain accessible to all students without regard to their financial situation.

According to a survey of 150 colleges and universities nationwide conducted by *Student Leader* magazine, the compensation of the student government at the University of Miami in Florida is the most highly compensated student government leader. The elected leader at that university receives a \$9,140 tuition waiver. At Washington State University, the president of the student body receives a cash salary of \$15,643. At Stanford, the president of the student body is paid a salary of \$4,500. At Berkeley, the elected student leader receives \$200 per month, free football tickets, and a 10 percent discount on all merchandise purchased at the student store. At the other extreme, the student government president at Rice University is not compensated at all. At the University of Michigan, the only compensation is free parking.

JBHE Survey of Historically Black Colleges

JBHE surveyed a group of the nation's largest and most prestigious black colleges and universities to determine if they too compensated their student government leaders. Of the 13 black colleges surveyed, 10 offer some compensation in the form of cash or waivers for tuition or room

Compensation of Student Body Presidents at Selected Black Colleges and Universities

Black College or Univ.	Compensation of Student Association President
Albany State University	\$300 per month salary and free parking pass
Clark Atlanta University	\$3,000 per semester for tuition and free room and board
Dillard University	None
Fisk University	Free tuition and room and board
Florida A&M University	\$10,000 salary per year
Hampton University	\$1,200 salary per year
Howard University	Free tuition and room
Morehouse College	Free room and board
N. Carolina A&T Univ.	Free tuition and room and board and \$200 per month salary
Spelman College	Free room and board
Tuskegee University	Free room and board
University of D.C.	None
Univ. of Maryland, Eastern Shore	None

Source: Survey by the JBHE research department.

and board. At Fisk University and North Carolina A&T University, the president of the student body pays no charges for either tuition or room and board. At North Carolina A&T, the school also provides \$200 per month in salary. Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, and Tuskegee University offer free room and board to their student leaders. Clark Atlanta also adds \$3,000 per semester for tuition. At Howard University, the student body president is relieved of tuition and room costs, but boarding fees are not waived.

Florida A&M University may offer the most attractive compensation package among the black colleges. At this school, the student government leader is paid a cash salary of \$10,000 per year. Hampton University and Albany State University also offer strictly cash compensation, but at levels far below that provided at Florida A&M.

Dillard University, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore offer no compensation to their student government leaders.