

**Special Report**  
**Student Division Guidelines Set**  
**Joint territory student leaders to be appointed over the next few months.**

**By JEFF FARR**  
**Student Division Chief**  
**Santa Monica, Calif., July 16**

American students have always had a lot to say. On our American campuses, whether in the 1960s or the 1770s, many a controversial issue has come to the boiling point. Students have been right there in the heat of all the great debates that have shaped our country — often turning the tide of public opinion one way or the other.

SGI-USA students hope to follow in this tradition. They have a wealth of new ideas — about everything — as I and the other SGI-USA student division leaders learned over the last few months in establishing this division.

To formulate our official guidelines, which were approved June 27 by the Central Executive Committee, diverse student voices were sought. The guidelines, which include a five-point mission statement (please see box, p. 4) and leadership requirements, reflect these voices and give us a framework for the start of student division activities over the last half of the year.

Many areas have had some form of student activities over the last few years. From those places we got lots of advice about what has and has not worked, how the students have seen their role in the organization, etc.

Most areas, though, have had nothing organized — on many college campuses there are SGI-USA students who don't even know one another. Sometimes they are even in the same classes.

The core of the guidelines is the mission portion, since this will set the tone for the division. "Global perspective," for instance — students from foreign countries studying here and/or planning to go overseas when they graduate told us this was important to include.

We added the point on expansion based on the many voices we heard struggling to explain their Buddhist practice to fellow students and teachers, hoping to gain their peers' understanding.

The five points have much in accord with the spiritual tradition set for us by Japan's student division, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary June 30.

At a recent student division gathering in Denver, we studied in *The Human Revolution*, vol. 8, how first Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda patiently lectured Tokyo University students on the Lotus Sutra, imagining the roles they would play in society and the Soka Gakkai 20 or 30 years down the road.

More and more students joined the lectures, leading up to the division's formation (the final division Toda formed), eventually leading to the international student movement the SGI is sponsoring today.

The five points express the American students' desire to join this movement and develop themselves now toward contributions they can make in the future.

The next step for the student division will be the appointment of joint territory student leaders over the next several months.

The Central Executive Committee approved our idea of team leadership — two or three young men and women per joint territory, working together closely (since student division activities will be co-ed).

Title: Student Division Guidelines Set  
Subject: World Tribune 07/25/97 n.3149 p.1 WT970725p01 Santa Monica, California 07/16/97  
Author: Jeff Farr  
Keywords: 07/16/97 California Division Guidelines Monica News Organization Santa Student

One of their first tasks will be identifying the students at each school.

Many new ideas for the SGI-USA are bound to come from these students — I hope everyone's ready. Some ideas will probably be controversial; some will be good, some bad. But from what I've experienced, once these students raise their voices there will be no turning back. As one student recently wrote in an e-mail, "Innovation will be the key to kosen-rufu." The student division will surely be the birthplace of many an innovation for the SGI-USA.

The official student division guidelines are available through your joint territory leaders.

**WT**

Title: Student Division Guidelines Set  
Subject: World Tribune 07/25/97 n.3149 p.1 WT970725p01 Santa Monica, California 07/16/97  
Author: Jeff Farr  
Keywords: 07/16/97 California Division Guidelines Monica News Organization Santa Student