SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



# STRONG INSTITUTIONS, SHARED VOICES: SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY AND SDG 16, AY 2025–2026

**At Saint Louis University, good governance is not just written into policy; it shows up in how students and employees choose their leaders, how fees are decided, and how the University works with the city, the province, and the Church.**

Saint Louis University students, both undergraduate and graduate, elect their own leaders. Each year, the student-led SLU Commission on Elections (SLU COMELEC) runs the KASAMA/SSC General Elections. The process opens with the filing of Certificates of Candidacy. Candidates then attend a general orientation on election rules and conduct. Before the vote, the Executive Committee hopefuls present their platforms and answer to the student body at the Miting de Avance.

For AY 2025–2026, the newly elected Executive Committee took its oath on October 19, 2025. It is led by President Mark Alexis Toreno. Once sworn in, the officers speak for the students in dealings with the Administration. Their voice has made a real difference. In a consultation on February 27, 2026, the Supreme Student Council helped bring a proposed 6.5% increase in Other Fees down to 5.5%, and tuition stayed the same for AY 2026–2027.

Faculty and non-teaching staff are represented by the Union of Faculty and Employees of Saint Louis University (UFESLU). Its members choose their officers through the UFESLU Officers Election. The union was registered with the Bureau of Labor Relations on July 15, 1987. Since then, it has negotiated with the University on pay, benefits, and working conditions through collective bargaining.

Elected representatives of the KASAMA/SSC and UFESLU sit as members of University Administration committees. Students, faculty, and staff each have a voice chosen by their own ranks in the decisions that shape their life and work at SLU.




***Students' Union***

SLU recognizes the KASAMA/Supreme Student Council (SSC) as the student government of the University. Its officers are elected by students through a process run by the student-led SLU COMELEC. Chapter V of the Student Handbook sets the rules for all student organizations: each must be accredited every year, have an approved constitution and by-laws, work with a faculty adviser, and elect its officers. Student publication staff are chosen on merit, as the Campus Journalism Act (RA 7079) requires.

When the Administration proposed a 6.5% increase in Other Fees for AY 2026–2027, the Supreme Student Council sat down with University officials on February 27, 2026. They settled on 5.5%, and tuition stayed the same.
The University, in turn, honors outstanding student leaders, organizations, and publications every year through the Gawad San Luis for Students. The 17th edition was held on June 24, 2026.

***Participatory Bodies for Stakeholder Engagement***

Saint Louis University brings its partners into the decisions that shape its future. On October 21, 2025, SLU launched its 3-Year SDG Plan (2025–2028) under its flagship program INAYAN (Invigorating Network and Alliance for Sustainability Achievement and Ecological Preservation). Representatives of the Diocese of Baguio, the City Government of Baguio, the United Nations Development Programme, CHED-CAR, the EU-DENR Green Economy Partnership, and private partners attended. Leaders from the University, the city, and the Church agreed that sustainable development is a shared responsibility of academia, local government, the Church, and local communities.

Stakeholders also help decide what SLU teaches. When curricula are planned, developed, or reviewed, the University gathers input from industry, alumni, faculty, and students before finalizing them. This input covers Program Educational Objectives, Program Learning Outcomes, course offerings, and course content, so that each program stays relevant and responsive to the needs of the communities it serves.

Finally, stakeholders help the University measure its performance. To assess the fourth year of its strategic plan, the Office of Institutional Development and Quality Assurance ran an impact assessment. It gathered qualitative and quantitative data from students in basic education and higher education, faculty, non-teaching staff, suppliers, clients, partners, and recipients of extension and outreach programs. Their feedback guides the University's next steps.



***Identify and Engage with Local Stakeholders***

Saint Louis University has written procedures for how it identifies and works with partners outside the University. Both are set out in guidelines issued by the Office of Global Relations, Alumni Affairs, and Scholarship Programs (OGRAASP).

The Processing and Approval of Partnership Documents (GL-GRA-002), covers Memoranda of Agreement, Memoranda of Understanding, and other formal agreements with local or international institutions, organizations, agencies, and companies. It explains how prospective partners are identified. A partner must be legally registered, have an established profile, and submit a clear proposal, and the partnership must support the University's mission in instruction, research, extension, or student development. Each agreement is then checked by OGRAASP and endorsed to the offices concerned, including the Vice Presidents and the Office of Legal Affairs. It is signed by the University President, recorded in the Agreements Record, and monitored for progress and results.

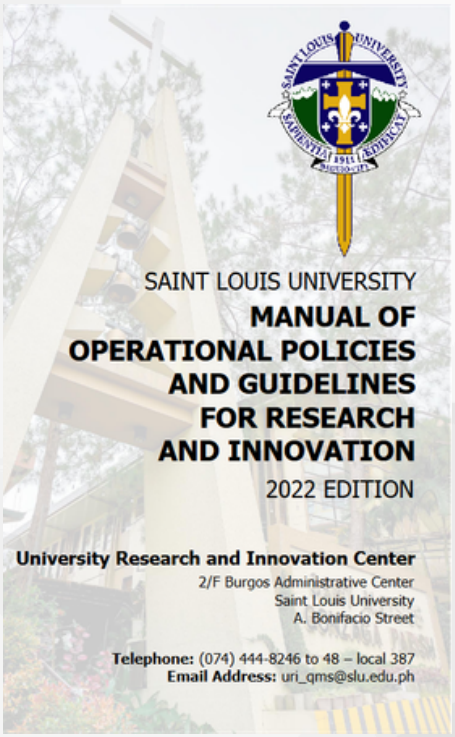
The Management of External Visits (GL-GRA-001), covers how outside groups come to campus. Visitors send a request through official channels and fill out the Visit Authorization and Security Clearance Form. OGRAASP reviews each request based on its purpose, the availability of host units and facilities, safety, and schedule. The office then arranges meetings, campus tours, and presentations with the host units. After the visit, guests may answer a Client Satisfaction Survey, and their feedback is used to improve the process. Taken together, the two guidelines give external partners a clear process for working with SLU, from the first request through formal partnership.

***University Principles on Corruption and Bribery***

Bribery and corruption are offenses under SLU's published handbooks for students, faculty, and administrative staff. So is offering or accepting gifts and favors in exchange for grades or administrative decisions. Each offense carries a set penalty, and cases go through one of four bodies:

- the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC)
- the Special Disciplinary Action Committee (SDAC)
- the University Disciplinary Action Committee (UDAC)
- the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI)

Their members come from the legal office, HR, employees, and students. SLU's stand against corruption also goes beyond its own rules: on October 7, 2025, University President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, led students and employees in the Diocese of Baguio's Prayer March and Holy Mass Against Corruption.




***Academic Freedom Policy***

At Saint Louis University, research is guided by the Manual of Operational Policies and Guidelines (MOPG) for Research and Innovation and the Guidelines on Paper Presentations. Both apply to all teaching employees, from senior professors to newly hired instructors, and they extend to students as well. Under these policies, the freedom to choose what to research and to share the results publicly does not depend on rank.

Senior faculty are free to pursue research that answers real needs in society. They may work across disciplines and collaborate with partners in the Philippines and abroad. When they present their findings at quality-assured conferences, the University provides institutional support.

Junior faculty enjoy the same freedoms. They may set their own research directions, join interdisciplinary, local, and international collaborations, and receive University support to present their work off campus. In this way, SLU builds a culture of open inquiry in which every researcher can contribute to knowledge that serves the wider community.




**Working with Government**

Government offices, from the barangay hall to national agencies, turned to SLU for expertise more than once in AY 2025–2026. The School of Law and its Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran Community Legal Assistance Office (CJMM CLAO) did much of this work, but other offices and schools pitched in too.

In Baguio itself, School of Law Dean Atty. Yasmine Lee Tadeo sat in on consultations for proposed city ordinances and offered legal input on the drafts. CJMM CLAO went to Barangay DPS Compound to walk officials and residents through the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, which encourages neighbors to settle disputes amicably before going to court. And on August 26, 2025, SLU students met with Metro Pacific Tollways to talk about the city's Smart Urban Mobility Project. That session was the last of 30 sector consultations run by the City Government's Public-Private Partnership Interim Negotiation Committee.

The province and region benefited as well. On October 17, 2025, CJMM CLAO teamed up with the Benguet Provincial Government Employees' Association to host a webinar attended by 30 provincial workers, covering the Local Government Code, employee benefits, parliamentary procedure, and collective bargaining agreements. A month later, on November 26, it briefed DSWD-CAR staff on the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313). In July 2026, SLU representatives met with DILG-CAR officials and civil society leaders to review the first phase of the Cordillera Civic Academy, bringing research-based recommendations to improve local governance.

Some of the work reached national agencies. Through the ANTENA Consortium, SLU joined CHED and 10 other Philippine colleges and universities in writing the International Relations Office Management Guide for Philippine HEIs, now a reference for schools building their internationalization programs. In April 2026, the Data Protection Office and ISTSD hosted the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Caravan, together with the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group, the Asia-Pacific Data Privacy Organization, and CHEERS, for a frank exchange on cybercrime and data protection. The School of Advanced Studies, meanwhile, helped produce 18 Bloom Books in the mother tongue of Aeta Mag-Antsi learners in Tarlac, materials that could shape how Indigenous children are taught. Different as they are, these efforts share one aim, in keeping with SDG 16: public institutions that work better for the people they serve.




***Policy- and Lawmakers Outreach and Education***

For the law students of Saint Louis University, AY 2025–2026 was a year spent outside the classroom as much as in it.

Working under the School of Law's Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran Community Legal Assistance Office (CJMM CLAO), and under the supervision of their professors and partner lawyers, they ran seminars, webinars, and legal aid clinics for barangay officials, local governments, schools, and ordinary citizens. The idea was simple: people should know the laws that affect them and the rights they can claim.

Some of the most useful sessions were with local leaders. On October 18, 2025, the clinic teamed up with the Local Government of Vinzons, Camarines Norte, for an online session on tax compliance for micro, small, and medium enterprise owners. Four days later, on October 22, the clinic and the Dativa Cristobal Foundation went to the evacuation center in Barangay Ucab, Itogon, Benguet, for a "Unified Barangay Seminar." Local leaders and residents worked through role-plays and open forums on how to settle disputes under the Katarungang Pambarangay system and what the Anti-VAWC Law protects. The clinic also brought in Atty. Robin Dizon of EMB-CAR for a forum on environmental laws, from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

The students also went where legal help is often hardest to get. On September 25, 2025, they offered free consultations to persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the Baguio City Jail Male Dormitory. Two months later, on November 27, they visited the Female Dormitory with the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation to give PDLs paralegal training on the Indeterminate Sentence Law, Good Conduct Time Allowance, parole, and probation. Closer to the public, the clinic and the Dativa Cristobal Foundation set up free legal aid booths at Malcolm Square during the 116th Baguio Charter Day, and again at the Diego Silang Lobby during SLU's Foundation Day week (November 24–28, 2025). People could get legal advice there or have affidavits drafted and notarized.

Schools and organizations came calling as well. The clinic talked with high schoolers at Saint Louis School, Inc. about the Safe Spaces Act and the Cybercrime Prevention Act, and with educators and administrators at Xavier University Grade School about the Magna Carta for Women. It helped Child and Family Service Philippines, Inc. strengthen its data privacy practices, and joined SLU's Mining Engineering Department for a webinar on responsible mining for fourth-year students. The University's Data Protection Office, for its part, trained school leaders of the Diocesan Schools of Abra on the Data Privacy Act. Together, these efforts reflect what SDG 16 asks for: communities that understand the law and institutions that answer to it.



**Participation in Government Research**

At Saint Louis University, research isn't done in isolation. Over the past year, SLU worked alongside national agencies, regional offices, and the Baguio City Government to turn academic work into something communities and public offices can use.

On February 2, 2026, SLU's Research, Innovation, and Sustainable Extension (RISE) Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the Philippines Baguio. The signing took place at Balay International during an event led by UP SILBI (Social Innovation Laboratory and Business Inclusion), UP Baguio's innovation hub. Under the agreement, the two universities will jointly run capacity-building activities, support startups, and share knowledge, drawing on partner schools, industry, and the local government. The event was made possible by DOST-PCIEERD's Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship (HEIRIT) program. Vice Mayor Atty. Faustino A. Olowan and Budget Officer Leticia O. Clemente said the city has funds available to support the effort. DICT-CAR Regional Director Jimmicio S. Daoaten put the challenge plainly: it would take "magic," meaning real cooperation among academe, government, and industry, to make the promises happen. SLU students showed what that could look like. The Last Se7en, a team of computer science students, presented Auscultate, an AI tool that helps health workers diagnose lung diseases from lung sounds. The project had earlier placed first runner-up in the 10th Philippine Start-up Challenge.



A month later, on March 25, SLU hosted DILG-CAR's Technical Working Group as it planned the Civic Academy Society program. The program is building learning modules for civil society groups in three areas: values and leadership, local governance operations, and soft skills. Several schools and organizations in Baguio are pooling their expertise for it, and SLU President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, serves as the project's convenor for 2026. The first set of lessons was scheduled to start in June at SLU and Benguet State University.

Students also took on research with public agencies. At the annual iCREaTe showcase, held March 23–26, 2026, one study done with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) looked at the social benefits that families in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) say they have experienced. It won Best Paper in the category for the School of Accountancy, Management, Computing, and Information Studies (SAMCIS). Work like this, built with government and not just about it, helps public programs rest on evidence, in line with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).






***Neutral Platform to Discuss Issues***

At Saint Louis University, the campus is open to people who propose policies, people who question them, and people who push for new ones. Over AY 2025–2026, SLU hosted government partners, private companies, advocacy groups, community leaders, and students. The University didn't pick one viewpoint over another. It gave each a place to be heard and to be questioned.

On August 26, 2025, it was the turn of the proponents. In line with the City Government's Public-Private Partnership Interim Negotiation Committee, SLU hosted Metro Pacific Tollways at Fr. Francis Gevers Hall to present Baguio's proposed Smart Urban Mobility Project. The event was the last of 30 consultations held across sectors. Leo Gonzales of MPT Mobility Corporation laid out how the project would tackle congested roads, fragmented public transport, scarce parking information, and weak traffic enforcement. He stressed that the City Council would have the final say and that public input mattered. Students from four schools then questioned company officials directly in an open Q&A.



SLU opened the same doors to those who challenge government policy. On November 22, 2025, law and political science students, with the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, held “Five Years of Terror” at Theophile Verbist Hall. Lawyers, a Baguio City Councilor, community leaders, and an Indigenous woman accused under the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act shared their concerns about how the anti-terror laws affect Cordillera communities. On July 10, 2026, the University hosted the “Dapat Isa Lang” educational forum with the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, and the Diocese of Baguio. There, Atty. Carlo Gino Africa explained a proposed anti-political dynasty law to clergy, parish leaders, and senior high school students and teachers.

Discussion on campus also went beyond any single issue. On October 16, 2025, the School of Law’s Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran Community Legal Assistance Office held “Voices and Values: A Forum on Good Governance and Community Empowerment” for Political Science students, focusing on ethics, accountability, and integrity in public service. Whether you’re presenting a government project, defending rights, or pushing for reform, SLU offers the same thing: a safe space to make your case and hear others out. That openness is what SDG 16 means by inclusive, participatory institutions.



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***Graduates in Law and Civil Enforcement***

Saint Louis University had 4,416 graduates in SY 2025–2026.
Of these, 180 finished programs in law and governance: 120 in Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 39 in Juris Doctor, and 21 in Master of Laws. That is about 4.1% of all graduates. Many of them are expected to go on to serve in the courts, in government, and in public service.

