

## **Abstract**

From the founding of the Throop University in 1891, Caltech has allowed its students great freedom to govern themselves. This study investigates the key aspects of Caltech student self-governance, constructing a history of the Student Houses from 1930, ASCIT from 1913, and the Honor Code from 1910 to the present. The report also includes a brief historical sketch of undergraduate student life and a history of student issues and attitudes at Caltech. The goals of this study are to establish a historical framework from which to understand the growth of student governance at Caltech and to investigate the ways in which student governance has changed, in particular to assess the extent to which current student concerns are new developments or longstanding issues. This study includes both quantitative and qualitative analyses that draw on archived student publications, Institute histories and memoirs, a 2002 survey of alumni created and conducted for the purpose of this study, and personal interviews with alumni and faculty. The study's findings include (1) substantive changes in the scope of the honor system over time, (2) correlations between honor system changes and honor system compliance, (3) a substantial increase in office and committee membership opportunities for student participation, but (4) a decline over the past decade in students' perceptions of their influence on campus policies coupled with (5) an increase in administrative regulation of students, and (6) a relatively constant array of student concerns throughout the years.