



## Synopsis

What is your level of understanding of the many moral, ideological, and political issues that student affairs educators regularly encounter? What is your personal responsibility to addressing these issues? What are the rationales behind your decisions? What are the theoretical perspectives you might choose and why? How do your responses compare with those of colleagues? *Contested Issues in Student Affairs* augments traditional introductory handbooks that focus on functional areas (e.g., residence life, career services) and organizational issues. It fills a void by addressing the social, educational and moral concepts and concerns of student affairs work that transcend content areas and administrative units, such as the tensions between theory and practice, academic affairs and student affairs, risk taking and failure; and such as issues of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and spirituality. It places learning and social justice at the epicenter of student affairs practice. The book addresses these issues by asking 24 critical and contentious questions that go to the heart of contemporary educational practice. Intended equally for future student affairs educators in graduate preparation programs, and as reading for professional development workshops, it is designed to stimulate reflection and prompt readers to clarify their own thinking and practice as they confront the complexities of higher education. Student affairs faculty, administrators, and graduate students here situate these 24 questions historically in the professional literature, present background information and context, define key terms, summarize the diverse ideological and theoretical responses to the questions, make explicit their own perspectives and responses, discuss their political implications, and set them in the context of the changing nature of student affairs work. Each chapter is followed by a response that offers additional perspectives and complications, reminding readers of the ambiguity and complexity of many situations. Each chapter concludes with a brief annotated bibliography of seminal works that offer additional information on the topic, as well as with a URL to a moderated blog site that encourages further conversation on each topic and allows readers to teach and learn from each other, and interact with colleagues beyond their immediate campus. The website invites readers to post blogs, respond to each other, and upload relevant resources. The book aims to serve as a conversation starter to engage professionals in on-going dialogue about these complex and enduring challenges.

**Short Contents**

The 24 questions are organized into four units.

- I. The Philosophical Foundations of Student Affairs in Higher Education explores the implications and complications of student affair educators placing learning at the epicenter of their professional work.
- II. The Challenges of Promoting Learning and Development explores the challenges associated with learning-centered practice.
- III. Achieving Inclusive and Equitable Learning Environments addresses crafting learning environments that include students whose

needs are often labeled "special" or students and/or student subcultures that are often marginalized and encouraged to adapt to normalizing expectations. IV. Organizing Student Affairs Practice for Learning and Social Justice addresses the organizational and professional implications of placing learning and social justice at the epicenter of student affairs practice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm currently a Residence Hall Director. My staff and I are working our way through this book in a "book club" format. It encourages such good conversations about so many topics we all struggle with in the field. Definitely an excellent read for any higher ed professional, and/or staff development conversations.

This book is a great book, I will recommend this book to everyone in education and wanting to learn about Student Affairs.

Great book!

Similar to the ASHE Reader; has some great articles and some not-so-great ones. It's a textbook, so one can't expect it to be riveting reading, right?

My wife needed this book for her grad program. We're a little surprised on how long it took from the

purchase date until we received it. Shipping was slowed compared to most items we purchase on including several books for her grad program. The book did come in perfect condition and we were able to use it for her course. I recommend that you should consider buying books for college, especially if you're in a grad program to save some money.

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