STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2010-2011
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Welcome to the 2010–2011 Student Government Annual Report! It has been an exciting year working with Christina, Pietro, Nick and the rest of the U First team. The U First philosophy is strongly rooted in putting students first in any decision made by our administration and making sure that students felt connected to their Student Government. Going into our term last Spring, we knew a few things were essential for us to accomplish in order to adhere to this philosophy.

One of the things we wanted to make sure was done was to have students knew what Student Government was doing for them. If students are to be the cornerstone of decision making, we needed to do a better job of being accountable to them and bridge the disconnect that sometimes develops between SG and students. This annual report serves as a capstone of this year’s efforts to record and report all this administration’s endeavors to the students who elected us into office.

We also found it essential to create a legacy and ensure that future Student Government administrations had a solid foundation on which to base their projects. Much work remains to be done to serve the students, and this annual report seeks to provide future administrations with a guide on what one administration did, who we worked with, and what our goals and philosophy were.

So to the students we served: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to do so. We are confident that we put forth our best efforts to serve you and put you first. We hope that all the projects we worked on this year continue to work for you and make your college experience that much better. Continue to make SG accountable to you and know that we are here for you.

To future administrations: Best of luck to you! We hope you will use this report as a guide and will be able to gain insights on how to accomplish your platforms from reading this. Remember to keep students first in everything you do. We encourage you to continue this tradition of creating an annual report to not only document your accomplishments, but more importantly, to help future generations of student leaders in their attempts to make the U a better place.

We hope that you enjoy reading what Student Government has done for you in this past year. It has been a sincere pleasure working for you, the students, and know that our door is always open to you.

Matthew Robayna
Executive At Large Internal, 2010–2011
Looking back on it, I have been asked if I would do it all over again. The answer is yes, 100% because I have loved every moment of it; the people, the relationships, the moments, the changes, and the impact. It makes me proud to be a Miami Hurricane. How lucky have I been to get all these opportunities! How lucky was I to serve as your Student Government President! Thank you for everything.

Passion, dedication, and visibility are the worlds I would use to describe this past year’s Student Government administration. In my four years here at the University of Miami, I have never seen so many dedicated individuals find a way to be the voice of the students. We came together as a team and I am proud to say have accomplished much. Looking back on this year, I am proud to say we focused on what really mattered. If students wanted it, then we found a way. We never narrowed our focus. To represent our diverse student body we were challenged to find ways to reach all students in many ways.

We created a new position on the executive board this year, Press Secretary. Ryan Aquilina took the role to a level never imaged. We completely revamped our website, increased our visibility on Facebook and Twitter, and created important, dynamic relationships with the Miami Hurricane, UMTV, Distractions Magazine, and the Ibis. These relationships and outreach tactics were vital to getting key information out to the student body. Ryan made sure that all students knew what Student Government was up to. Natalie Fontela, Senate’s Public Relations Chair spearheaded two SG Awareness Weeks. These weeks involved all branches and met students at different places around the campus. We surveyed students to find out what they really thought. Through these surveys, we found out students wanted free legal aid, service learning courses, new dining options, and a smoke free campus with designated smoking areas. All of these projects are in progress and will be completed in the upcoming year. It is exciting to know that our administration created the foundation for groundbreaking changes at UM.

Vice President, Pietro Bortoletto decided to champion our technology platforms. Student Government had not been known in the past for taking on these issues, but we knew how important technology was to students. Under his leadership and collaboration with Information Technology, we revamped the ACE, course searches, and created a new iPhone, Blackberry, and Android application for UM. These platforms make things easier for students. We also made significant progress in bringing Cloud Computing to
campus. Agreements are currently being looked at.

Nicholas Cote, our Treasurer organized our budget and presented the first ever budget to the Senate. He held Student Government accountable for its finances and found ways to better our accounting system. Nick, Senate, and our Executive Secretary, Jake Krupa, worked closely together to form a new committee called TIPAC to serve as the body that allocates funds to new projects. Student Government is on its way to becoming more accountable. Nick also worked with Academic Affairs and Speaker Pro-Tempore Jordan Thomas, to improve our pre-professional tracks. More information is now available on the Toppel website, along with a relationship formed with the medical campus and law campus to bring better services to students.

Our Chief of Staff-Internal, Romy Portuondo knew the importance of dining issues to students. She worked with dining services to bring the dining hall's nutritional information online. Now students can know what they are eating. She also helped implement a 24 hour C-store during finals along with credit card usage in the School of Communication kiosks.

Through much hard work we were able to bring a personal dream of mine to campus: a farmers’ market. Most told me this would not be possible and that the University would never go for it. We made it happen. Now every week, any student can go from 9 to 2 pm and get a fresh apple or some kettle corn. Another challenging, but worthy endeavor was the ICEEE machine in the C-store. Working with Mel Tenen, the former Assistant Vice President of Dining Services, we were able to bring 4 different flavors of ICEEs to the C-store for students.

Jennifer Deltoro, our Executive at Large-External created our vision of a program called Canes Nights. We wanted to give students new opportunities to see Miami, along with finding ways to collaborate with other student organizations to bring large innovative programs to campus. Our first two programs were a Marlins game and Pitbull concert along with a Beach Bash at Key Biscayne. I cannot wait to see where Melissa Guller, the new Executive at Large-External takes this program. Only bigger and better things can come out of the foundation laid.

The Supreme Court came out in full force this year having a dynamite year. Coordinating with Vincent Foster and Anjoly Ibrahim, we created the Trial Advisory Agency to give defendants in trials an opportunity for true representation. Chief Justice Foster led the court to co-programming, a better filing system of all of the court’s decisions, and a greater presence in SG. They led the charge on the legal aid initiative, working closely with the Student Bar Association. This program should be implemented in the upcoming year.

Category 5 created a student incentive program called Hurricane Force. This program increased attendance to sporting events up to 200%. Category 5 Chair Brandon Mitchell and Vice Chair Doug Aguillilla held successful pep rallies, tailgates, and even took students to Ohio State for the big game.

Through all of this, Student Government has found a way to make our campus better. Although, I am sad that it is over, I am so excited for the new board to step up. Taking U Forward has new ideas, a fresh spirit, and the willingness to continue the work we have started. I wish the best of luck to Brandon, Ashley, and Jake and I know that many great things are to come.

To the students: your ideas elected us. We spent hours asking you what you wanted and how we could put U First. You answered and now we found ways to implement your ideas and more. It will always be Ur Voice, Ur Vision, Ur U.

Thank you and Go Canes!

Christina Farmer
President 2010-2011
PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES
EXECUTIVE BOARD
PROJECTS:  

Spring/Summer 2010  

24 Hour C-Store during Finals  
May 2010  
Students are up studying during finals later than ever. They spend countless hours in the library during the night and need snacks to keep them energized. We worked with Dining Services to keep the Convenience Store open for 24 hours during finals, so students would have a convenient place to find that pick me up.

Pearson/Mahoney Volleyball Courts Water Fountain  
Summer 2010  
Christina was playing volleyball with some other students and one of the students commented that the water fountain was broken. It had been broken for over a year. Christina sent an email to Norm Parsons, Director of the Wellness Center, and after a chain of emails the next day the water fountain was fixed. This easy solution really represents what UFirst stands for because it shows how a student can directly change or better something by just speaking up.

Textbook Rentals  
August 2010  
Working with Mel Tenen, former Assistant Vice President of Dining and Auxiliary Services and Wendy Smith, Director of the UM Bookstore, Student Government spoke with Mel Tenen about the issue of affordability when it comes to textbooks. Students had been complaining about this issue for years and Student Government wanted to do something about it. Throughout the summer the UFirst executive board worked with Wendy Smith and gave feedback on the program. We were one of the first universities to bring this program to campus and unveiled it with a heavy advertising campaign in the fall. The number of students who are signed up for the program doubled in the spring. Many students are now renting their textbooks and more titles are available every semester because of the hard work and collaboration of SG and Wendy Smith.

Fall 2010  

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote  
August-November 2010  
This Fall semester, Student Government members from the Executive Board, Senate, the Supreme Court, Category 5 and the Elections Commission, in conjunction with Young and College Democrats, College Republicans and Council for Democracy, registered close to 700 students to vote before the midterm election in order to facilitate a sense of responsibility toward their country. Because of low voter turnout of college students in midterm elections, it is important to get young voters registered in the district in which they reside and to get out there and vote on campus. This ensured that on Election Day the students would be guaranteed the ability to vote. On Election Day, representatives from SG, Young and College Democrats and College Republicans reminded the students what day it was while encouraging them to go to their respective polls to vote.

Ibis Ride Kick Off  
September 16th, 2010  
Student Government, in conjunction with Association of Greek Letter Organizations, Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol, and PIER 21, hosted a kickoff event for the beginning of the Ibis Ride. At the event, Student Government members handed out pizza along with informational flyers on the proper behavior for the Ibis Ride. PIER 21 provided giveaways and their Beer

"...it shows how a student can directly change or better something by just speaking up."
Students had been asking for healthier options on campus, so we found a way to make it happen.

Goggles simulation to educate students on the consequences of drinking irresponsibly. Dean Hall, the Dean of Students, even made an appearance. Overall the event was a huge success, promoting the use of the Ibis Ride and educating students on responsible behavior.

DVD Rental September 20, 2010
Due to a growing need for an easy and accessible way to rent DVD’s on campus, Student Government explored all options available to help make this a reality. With the help of Dr. Richard Walker, a DVD rental machine was installed in the University Center, allowing for inexpensive rentals to be accessed at the front door of students.

Wrapped Straws in Food Court
September 2010
After meeting with Mel Tenen, we discussed putting wrapped straws in the Hurricane Food Court for sanitary reasons. Working with the Dining Services Advisory Board and Dining Services, the Food Court went to exclusively using wrapped straws, bringing in new dispensers.

Speaking to Serve U First October 2010
As a personal challenge to better serve “U First”, the President of Student Government 2010-2011, requested all executives to submit personal goals to Chief of Staff External Anastacia Huyler. Based on these goals, the executive body agreed to have Toastmaster Ambrosine Huyler, President of Club 7178 from the International Toastmasters Organization (an organization geared toward helping improving communication skills) come in and do a participatory lecture that would help executives improve their communication skills with administrators and students.

The event allowed the executive board to learn more about the varying forms of communication and their importance, as well as allowed for a “Table Topics” session on University issues that challenged the board members to answer tough questions on University issues as if proposed by an administrator or student. The executive board was now more well equipped to handle communications with University administrators and student to meet their needs. Such training will be passed onto the incoming executive body to ensure that they continue to put “U First.”

Icee Machine October 6, 2010
One of the UFirst platforms was bringing slushies to our students. Students were really excited about this initiative because it was tangible and would be a treat for students whenever they were in the mood for slushies. Working with Dining Services, we were able to get this machine installed in the C-Store in early October. The machine had 4 flavors, Coke, Blue Raspberry, Cherry, and Pina Coloda. We asked the students to vote at the Miami Hurricane newspaper’s website online for the flavor they would want. They chose Lemonade, so after the first month of the machine we replaced Pina Coloda with Lemonade. We hope to establish a monthly flavor to provide variety.

Fresh Farmers Market October 13, 2010 (and every Wednesday since)
Worked with University of Miami Benefits and the Market Company to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to UM’s campus. The market has everything from kettle corn to cupcakes to pastries. Students had been asking for healthier options on campus, so we found a way to make it happen. We hope to eventually expand the event to more hours.

ACE Report Upgrade October 15, 2010
In an effort to improve the usability of the ACE report, Student Government surveyed students from all areas of campus to ask them what they would like to see improved in the ACE report. As a result, Student Government in conjunction with Mr. Bill Vilberg and the Information Technology department have successfully upgraded the ACE. The new ACE reflects our mission to make the lives of students a little bit easier by making improvements that they can easily and quickly access.

TIPAC (Trial Initiatives and Programs Appropriations Committee) October 20, 2010
In order to receive additional funds from the university, Student Government was expected to show transparency and comprehensibility in regards to its budget. In order to do so, a bill was passed by Senate to create the Trial Initiatives and Programs Appropriations Committee, more commonly
known as TIPAC. This committee made up of representatives from each of the branches would determine what new Student Government trial projects would be funded, from a range of programs such as a 24-hour study option or additional Ibis Ride shuttles. With fiscal responsibility as SG’s objective, we hope to receive submissions for great ideas and projects that the students of the University of Miami wish to see accomplished.

Smoking Survey
November 1-November 12, 2010
Working with the Campus Smoking Research Committee and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, a survey was created to gauge students’ opinion on smoking on campus. Law students, graduate students, and undergraduate students all participated, with well over 2000 responses. Using Student Voice and iPod touches to go out to students, the Senate Committees and the Executive & Judicial Branches surveyed students in person. The results went back to the Campus Smoking Research Committee for review. Upon reviewing the results of the survey, it was found that there was support for designated smoking areas as a potential solution in contrast to making the campus completely smoke free. The Campus Smoking Research Committee recommended that designated smoking areas be created, that a subcommittee of on campus and off campus students, faculty, and administration (all smoking and non-smoking) determine where these designated smoking areas should be, and that the committee should discuss how to raise awareness about smoking cessation programs and how to enforce the new smoking rules.

Referenda Budget Bill
November 17, 2010
For the first time, a budget for referenda funds was submitted to Senate for approval. This proposal is in addition to the SAFAC budget that must be prepared. The goal of this additional budget is to create transparency and accountability with regards to the funds allocated to Student Government by the university. Money was set aside to each of the three major branches, to the newly formed Trial Initiatives and Programs Allocation Committee, and a reserve fund to save any extra money provided to Student Government.

Improving the Honors Program
December 10, 2011
In researching what students wanted in regards to the Honors Program, we recognized that some students did not know the program existed, did not realize they
could join the program mid-way through their degree, and did not believe that the current program structure allowed them to maximize their full academic potential in a creative manner.

On December 10, Chief of Staff External, Anastarcia Huyler met with Dr. John Barker, Director of the Office of Academic Enhancement (OAE) and Andrea Dupuch, Assistant Director of the Honors Program to discuss the program’s current challenges and how it could be improved. Informed that there was already a sub-committee involved in planning a new program, Anastarcia agreed to look into comparing other school’s programs and working with an external committee to prepare a program that they saw fit. This program would be compared to the model being developed by the OAE and then be presented with student support to the Faculty Senate.

The planning and development is still underway, but students of the University in years to come can attribute a dynamic and academically challenging revamped Honor’s Program to the combined efforts of the UFirst team and the OAE.

Reaching Out To Financial Aid
January 26, 2011
The 2010 school year began with students still reeling from the effects of the 2008 recession. In addition to the financial struggles that many University of Miami students felt, the Florida State government also cut back on funding, changing requirements for students receiving many federal grants. Chief of Staff External Anastarcia Huyler met with Jim Bauer, Director of Financial Aid on January 26 to find out how Student Government could help to make students aware of new guidelines. Mr. Bauer noted that the 2010-11 executive board was the first Student Government body to ever reach out and extend a hand to Financial Aid. As a result of the information the Chief of Staff gained, the executive board has made an effort to get a word out about program changes and deadlines.

UV Color Printer
February 2011
With the help of Residential Life and Business Services, Student Government was able to advocate for the installation of a color printer and scanner to be installed in the UV computer lab. The demand from upperclassmen for printing has been enormous and we were able to turn the demand into reality.

Course Search Options
March 2011
With the help of IT and Mr. Bill Vilberg,
Student Government was able to make the single largest upgrade to the course search system since it was first developed. Under the new system, students will now be given numerous new criteria in which they can build a course schedule. New search items include class start time/end time, search by professor, number of credits, day of week, and building.

Smart Phone Applications
April 2011
In conjunction with UM Communications, Alumni Relations, and IT, Student Government is proud to present the first ever UM smartphone application. The free application, available for the Android, Blackberry, and iPhone platforms, will give students all the information they desire at their fingertips. Initially the app will include calendars, media, sports and shuttle tracking. Phase two of the application will include access to dining hall menus as well as course offerings available through myUM. The application is slated for release in April.

3 Finals in 24 hours
Spring 2011
In recent years, students have pointed out that the spirit of the “No more than 2 finals in a day” rule was meant for students to not have 3 finals in 24 hours. The rule as it stood with not allowing 3 finals in one day meant that some students might have a final at 5 pm and 8 pm and then at 8 in the morning the next day. Working with Dr. Green and the Calendar Committee, we were able to change this wording to make sure students are able to have no more than 2 exams in 24 hours.

Rent-a-Bike
Spring 2011
The goal of the Rent-a-Bike initiative is to offer all UM students a free bike rental service. Currently, the vision of the project is to have bike rental stations in specific parking garages on campus. So far, the targeted garages are the UV, Ponce, and Pavia Garages. Students would be allowed to check out a bike by showing a Cane Card and return the bike to any rental station within a 24 hour time frame. A proposal has been drafted and presentations to administration will begin in the Spring 2011 semester.

Ongoing

Canes Nights
Throughout the semester, Student Government piloted its new Canes Nights initiative, a programming series that aims to give UM students an opportunity to get off campus and experience different parts of Miami that they otherwise might not get the opportunity to explore. Canes Nights has so far had a trip to a Florida Marlins game and a Beach Day at Key Biscayne.

Service Learning
Over the past two years, Student Government has been working closely with the Community and Civic Engagement Task Force at the University to try to bring additional service learning courses to UM. SG members have put together two reports in the past year that were presented to the Task Force, including a report showing that students overwhelmingly favored the implementation of service learning courses (72% in favor) and a report that gave members of the Task Force specific ideas for methods of implementation based on in depth feedback received directly from students.

US1 Overpass
After several of years of struggling to secure funding and approval, the US1 overpass has finally been funded and approved. With the help of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, the project will begin construction shortly and will take two years to complete from the moment ground breaks. The overpass is designed in a Coral Gables Mediterranean style and will have full wheelchair accessibility. The overpass will be dedicated to the memory of a UM student who died when she was hit by a car crossing US1.

U Statue
With the help of architecture students Kevin Jones and Aaron Perelstein, the Office of the University Architect, Student Life, and Alumni Relations, SG has worked on the design and location for the first ever U statue to be built on campus. The statue will become a rallying point for students for pep rallies, photos, tours, and much more. The statue is currently completing design fundraising will begin in the Fall of 2011.

“The statue will become a rallying point for students for pep rallies, photos, tours, and much more.”
Senate has been hard at work for the 2010-2011 year. We ended the 2009-2010 academic year by confirming a new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, passing a bill to make the repair of the Stanford Residential College Elevators a priority, and a bill to encourage composting on the University of Miami campus.

During the summer, Senate worked on a Student Government first – a summer SAFAC appeal. Category 5 appealed their allocation for their annual Football away trip, this year to Ohio State. In an overwhelming vote of 13 to 1, Senate voted that there was an egregious oversight and recommended changing the allocation to allow Category 5 to go to the Ohio State game.

When we got back from summer break, Senate held a confirmation hearing to confirm President Christina Farmer’s replacement for Vice President. On September 1st, 2010, by a vote of 24 to 2, Pietro Bortoletto was confirmed as Vice President.

During the beginning of the fall semester, Press Secretary Ryan Aquilina brought forward a Referendum to increase the Student Activity Fee by $1 for Student Government. Senate voted on whether or not to put the Referendum on the ballot or to make Press Secretary Aquilina go out and get the 500 signatures necessary to put it on the Fall 2010 Election Ballot. Senate voted down the action and Press Secretary Aquilina went out and got well over the 500 signatures he needed. Senate put the Referendum on the ballot and approved of its passing after the election.

Arguably the biggest thing Senate did this year was pass 8 bills that created a financial overhaul of how Student Government budgets and plans the use of semester funds. Written by Policy & Finance Chair Jennifer Safstrom, Treasurer Nicholas Cote, and Executive Secretary Jake Krupa, the bills created a concrete way for the approval of a semester budget. The budget is to be written by the Treasurer after consulting the President, Speaker of the Senate, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and submitted to the Senate for approval at least 2 weeks before the end of the semester. The bills also created the Trial Initiatives and Programs Allocation Committee (TIPAC). Student Government members can go to TIPAC to request funds for brand new projects that were not allocated for in their branches original budget.

So far this year we have given Co-Sponsorship money to the Native American Programming Board, the Homecoming Executive Committee, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Funday.

Other major bills we passed were “A Recommendation to Erect A Statue of Sebastian the Ibis on Campus” which was spearheaded by the University Affairs Committee, “A Recommendation to Explore Alternatives to an Internal Road Through the John C. Gifford Arboretum” and “A Recommendation to Create a Centralized Pre-Professional Advising Office” written by the Academic Affairs Chair Michael Kaplan, Vice Chair Erica Barrios along with Treasurer Nicholas Cote and Cabinet members.

During the spring semester, Senate focused on a few major projects. Senate passed a recommendation to add more vegan friendly food options on campus. Also, we passed a recommendation to allow Academic Senators to be involved in the search process for their college’s new deans. Senate approved a SAFAC appeal for COSO’s SOAR Awards. A resolution was passed in honor of Keith “Fletch” Fletcher for his work at the University of Miami. Two different organizations came to Senate asking to place a referendum on the ballot. The Senators asked the organizations to go out and get 500 signatures to be placed on the ballot. Distractions Magazine, COSO, and a committee of students working to get extra funding for Student Government’s green initiatives came back with signatures and were placed on the ballot. COSO and SG’s referendums passed while Distraction’s did not. Lastly, Speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate elections took place in March. The new Speaker of the Senate is Michael Kaplan and the new Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate is Kenneth Esman.

Aaron Esman
Speaker of the Senate, 2010-2011
PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES
SENATE
PROJECTS:

Academic Affairs

This year, in Academic Affairs, we explored a number of interesting projects. We continued working on our previously unresolved projects, such as new Excused Absence Policies, Create-Your-Own-Major, and pushing back the Add/Drop Date to allow more freedom for students. The Academic Affairs committee will continue working with Administration to see these projects through to completion.

A few new projects that we looked to accomplish and will see through in the upcoming school year are a Chinese/Asian Studies Minor, similar to the new Arabic Studies Minor that will go into effect in the Fall. Another idea was linking the myUM Teacher Evaluations to the teachers’ names in Course Offerings. This way, students can see what their peers think about the teachers and courses they are thinking of signing up for.

University Affairs

Wireless Canes in Dining Halls
February 18, 2010
After discovering that the dining halls were not connected to Wireless-Canes, University Affairs worked with the IT department to extend coverage to both residential dining halls.

Housing Forum
March 9, 2010
When the first Housing Lottery took place last March, many students were angry and confused by the results. Acting quickly, University Affairs organized a Housing Forum, which featured a panel of administrators, where students could have their personal questions and concerns addressed.

C-Store Toiletries
March 24, 2010
After brief polling of the student population, it was determined that there existed a need for a larger variety of toiletries in the C-Store. Working with the C-Store, University Affairs was able to bring in significantly more products desired by students.

U Statue
April 14, 2010
University Affairs benchmarked other schools in the ACC and comparable institutions to discover that UM was one of the only Universities lacking a statue of its mascot. Interaction with undergraduates made it clear that such a statue was desired by the student body. Expressing this concern to the administration, University Affairs authored a bill recommending the statue’s construction.

Stanford Elevator Repairs
April 21, 2010
Recognizing a substantial concern from residents of Stanford Residential College, University Affairs worked to facilitate the renovation of the elevators at a date earlier than it was previously scheduled.

Vegan Food Options
February 9, 2011
After working with vegan groups on campus, Senator Leela Mundra wrote a recommendation to add more vegan friendly food options on campus. The bill passed Senate unanimously. As of March 2011, Chartwells is working to substantially increase vegan food options at dining halls and the food court by almost 65%.

Policy & Finance

Category 5 Appeal of SAFAC Allocation
Summer 2010
Over the summer intersession, one of the most notable appeals was processed by the committee remotely. After receiving an advisory opinion from the Student Government Supreme Court, the SAFAC Appeal submitted by the Category 5 Spirit Programming Board was passed by the P&F Committee and Senate for consideration by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Patricia Whitely. This was important in preserving the appeals process as well as instituting a protocol by which appeals can be effectively addressed in a timely fashion, even when Senate is not regularly meeting. Also, had the appeal not been granted, Category 5 would not have been able to host their away trip to support the Hurricanes against Ohio State.

Co-Sponsorship Allotments
Fall 2010-Spring 2011
Another key function of the P&F Committee is that it processes co-sponsorship requests from student organizations registered with the Committee on Student Organizations or an official Greek organization registered with the Office of the Dean of Students. The Committee votes

“This was important in preserving the appeals process as well as instituting a protocol by which appeals can be effectively addressed in a timely fashion.”
to allocate a recommended amount for events open to all University of Miami students, which take place within the boundaries of the University campus. Over $2,000 has been allocated to sponsor numerous events which enhance the UM community by furthering diversity, promoting community service and fostering a true ‘Cane spirit. These events include, but are not limited to, Homecoming, Fun Day, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity’s Ms. Black & Gold Pageant, and the Association of Commuter Students’ Commuter Week.

Budget Bills and Trial Initiatives & Programs Appropriations Committee
Fall 2010
The most important accomplishment of the P&F Committee is likely the series of bills that created a budget for Student Government, which passed Senate without a single vote in opposition. It was only after passing through the Policy & Finance Committee that SG has now implemented a procedure through which it can be more fiscally responsible and accountable to students. It sets up a process by which a budget will be created and approved; also, it delineates how funds will be allocated internally to SG through the Trial Initiatives & Programs Appropriations Committee (TIPAC). This legislation was an instrumental step in generating support for the referendum for Student Government, which passed in the fall election. These bills garnered support from multiple parties, including the Vice President for Student Affairs, who ultimately approved the referendum as a result of the additional protocols established in the legislation. Funds for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of SG, as well as TIPAC, were allocated through a unanimous vote by the Senate after a bill was presented by the SG Treasurer.

Co-Sponsorship Allocation Guide
Spring 2011
The Committee has created a co-sponsorship allocation guide as a mechanism to establish clear standards in fulfilling funding requests. Given the limited amount of funds available, we established this guide in order to simplify the request process and create transparency in the allocation system. It will allow for greater accountability for those who solicit funding and ensure that SG is promoting those events which will have the greatest impact on the university community.

Co-Sponsorship Follow Up
Spring 2011
P&F has begun issuing a follow-up form for all recipients of co-sponsorship funding. As an effort to track our spending and ensure that organizations use the allotted funds responsibly, this form will be submitted to the P&F Committee after the event takes place. It will be recorded for future consideration, allowing the Committee to record its past allocations and evaluate how successfully funds have been allotted in the past.

Fundraising Packet
Spring 2011
Description of project or event: The Committee is in the process of developing a sponsorship packet as a means by which SG would be able to raise more funds to distribute to organizations and spend on its programming to foster student involvement and awareness. In order to promote the many activities of SG as a whole, and to highlight its countless accomplishments, the P&F Committee is looking to solicit community support to enhance programming in the future.

“SG has now implemented a procedure through which it can be more fiscally responsible and accountable to students.”
Public Relations

This year in our Public Relations Committee we focused on three projects: the SG Leak and the Fall and Spring Semester Student Government Awareness Weeks.

This year, the SG Leak was a new addition to the Public Relations Committee. The goal of the SG Leak was simple: to provide accurate and updated information about the ongoing progress and activities of Student Government. To do so in an atypical manner, the SG Leak would be posted on the inside doors of all bathroom stalls. Providing an easy to read and to the point format, the SG Leak became a popular aspect of our committee. Next year we hope to expand the SG Leak to consistently run every week in order to keep the student body well informed and up to speed.

Following the semesters tradition, Student Government Awareness Week serves the purpose of increasing the awareness of Student Government related activities. This year we decided that each branch would have the opportunity to have their “own day” within the week to display what they do to the student body.

The fall semester’s Student Government Awareness Week was not as big as the spring event but nevertheless they still had the same importance and both brought attention to Student Government.

On Monday, Category 5, the Spirit Programming Board under Student Government, displayed their pep and ‘Cane spirit through a mini-pep rally. They had music playing on the Rock and handed out food from Power Pizza that was partially donated. On Tuesday, the Judicial Branch and Elections Commission handed out surveys in the UC Patio for students to fill out. Through this process they were not only able to gather information, but also able to personally communicate with some of the students. On Wednesday, we held Senate on the Hecht/Stanford Bridge. Through this event we were able to display what the Senate body does and discusses in their weekly meeting. This was a good way for the freshman to learn about Student Government in general and possibly become interested in Senate. On Thursday we held our final events. In the morning, all of Student Government came out to have breakfast with the student body. We handed out free breakfast on the Rock and reminded students to vote in Student Government elections as well as reminded them of the new initiatives that Student Government had brought this year. Later that afternoon, the Executive Board passed out pieces of cake from Publix in honor of the UFirst ticket’s wonderful year in Student Government. On Thursday, we ended the week with a Category 5 pep rally for the big Duke basketball game occurring that Sunday. The UM cheerleaders and Sunsations performed while a crowd gathered to pick up slices of pizza from Power Pizza. Cat 5 threw out free orange shirts to the students and played music for the entire campus to hear.

On Monday we kicked off the week with the Student Government breakfast on the Rock. We got a great response from the students coming in and speaking to members from every branch in Student Government. On Tuesday, the Judicial Branch and Elections Commission handed out food from EVOS restaurant while promoting the “Get Out The Vote”. Through this event, they were able to explain the rules and logistics of campaigning and elections to any student that might have been interested. On Wednesday during Senate, President Christina Farmer spoke on the Rock to the student body through her State of the U speech. The Executive Board passed out pieces of cake from Publix in honor of the UFirst ticket’s wonderful year in Student Government. On Thursday, we ended the week with a Category 5 pep rally for the big Duke basketball game occurring that Sunday. The UM cheerleaders and Sunsations performed while a crowd gathered to pick up slices of pizza from Power Pizza. Cat 5 threw out free orange shirts to the students and played music for the entire campus to hear.
SUPREME COURT REPORT
The Court took on a number of projects this year not directly related to Constitutional matters, allowing us to better integrate with the rest of SG. Working closely with the Honor Council to hold the Climb for Memory, the Court brought the World Memory Champion, Nelson Dellis, to campus on November 29, 2010. The event was held just before finals and taught students basic memory techniques and raised awareness for Alzheimer’s Disease. The Court helped plan the facilitation of the event, reserved vendors, and helped coordinate the execution of the event.

One of the most important initiatives the Court took on this semester was Free Legal Aid. The Court, in collaboration with the Executive Branch, partnered with the University of Miami School of Law’s Student Bar Association to bring a Free Legal Counsel service to the undergraduate student population. The program is in its finalization process. The first step, which will take place in Spring 2011, will be workshops educating students about pressing legal issues such as tenant-landlord disputes, fake ID’s, and alcohol and drug charges. The workshops are to be educational preventative measures that will continue through and after the program is finalized in Fall 2011. The finished project will include both the workshops and actual lawyers who will offer free counsel to students on any legal issue the student has. This part of the project will hopefully be completed in the coming year.

The Court helped resolve some Constitutional issues this semester, passing judicial review on the Senate-created “Constitutional Committee”. Senate created a committee composed of delegates from the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, along with a delegate of the Elections Commission, that was charged with the duties of revising and reviewing the Student Government Constitution and Statutes. The Court declared this committee unconstitutional on numerous reasons; mainly because it merged the separation of powers and empowered delegates to exercise responsibilities outside of the scope of their respective branches. The committee was rescinded. 

The Spring 2011 Election saw only one major trial, witnessing the debut of the Trial Advisory Agency. The “True to ‘U’” ticket was charged by the Elections Commission with violating the elections code that prohibits graphic campaigning at the Rock. The Court ruled unanimously that the ticket was guilty of the aforementioned charges and allocated fifteen (15) points as punishment to the ticket [Note: The accumulation of twenty (20) points disqualifies any ticket or candidate from an election].

The Court looks forward to continuing to work closely with the other branches of Student Government over the coming years and continuing to work diligently on projects that benefit all students.

Vincent Foster
Supreme Court Chief Justice, 2010-2011
PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES
CATEGORY 5
HURRICANE FORCE

This year, Category 5 and Student Government launched a new initiative—Hurricane Force. Hurricane Force is a point-based incentive program designed to reward students for attending home Hurricanes Athletic events. Students received points for attending games and rack up their points to redeem prizes from t-shirts and mini footballs to courtside seats and TV’s. At the Winter Intersession, Hurricane Force has increased attendance by more than 200% at some events.

OHIO STATE AWAY TRIP

September 11, 2010

This year, Category 5 and Student Government worked with Student Affairs and planned a student trip to the Ohio State football game in Columbus, Ohio. Seventy-five students were able to accompany the team on the trip up to Ohio and watch the ‘Canes take on the Buckeyes.

FOOTBALL PEP RALLIES

September-November 2010

Category 5 worked diligently this semester to bring Class-A pep rallies to the students. Before the FAMU game, FSU game, Maryland Homecoming game, and Virginia Tech game, we worked with the Athletic Department to present pep rallies both at the Hecht/Stanford bridge and on the Rock. Pep Rallies were open to all students and hosted by Power 96, Sebastian the Ibis, and the Cheerleading team.

GO ‘CANES!

MIDNIGHT WATCH PARTY

November 15, 2010

For the Miami Hurricanes’ midnight basketball game vs. the Memphis Tigers, Category 5 decided to host a watch party in the BankUnited Center for the top 50 Hurricane Force point-getters at that point in the season plus one of their guests. Guests enjoyed 5 flat screen TV’s to watch the game and had food and drink as well.

SHOUT-OUT SATURDAY

February 19, 2011 & February 25, 2011

Category 5 honored two student organizations, Hecht College Council and the Association of Commuter Students, at two different home baseball games. For one baseball game, each organization had a member throw out the first pitch. In addition, other members would participate in numerous on field events such as Dizzy Bat and Burger Relay. By doing this, we built up a large attendance to support our student-athletes along with giving students a once in a lifetime experience.

HAITH’S FAITHFUL BASKETBALL GIVEAWAY

March 2, 2011

Before the Maryland Basketball game, all members of Haith’s Faithful were given raffle tickets. During halftime, there was a raffle and the two winners each received a basketball that was signed by the entire Men’s Basketball team. This was to show the Faithful members how appreciative we were that they had dedicated themselves to coming to every home basketball game and try to thank them in some way, aside from the T-shirts they received earlier in the season.

“Hurricane Force has increased attendance by more than 200% at some events.”
PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

ADVISORY BOARDS, CABINET, & EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS
Advisory Boards:

Auxiliary Services

The Student Government’s Auxiliary Services Advisory Board is currently working on different projects to improve the student experience. One of the main parts of student services that we are currently working with is the Coral Gables Campus Bookstore. As part of the different initiatives and rewards your bookstore gives you, they had a Student Appreciation Day Thursday, November 18th where students of the University of Miami receive 20% off any single apparel or gift item! We have strived to bridge the communication gap between the administrators, faculty, and students in charge of the different sectors under auxiliary services (Bookstore, Mail Services, Vending Services, and Logo Licensing). We are also currently working on an open forum, improving logistics for the textbook rental program, “Spirit Day” before different home games, and vending services.

Dining Services

This past year DSAB worked in helping promote and make students aware of the nutritional facts of the food that we serve our students who eat at the dining hall. They are now available online and we are trying to push a night where we can have people access them easier and become more aware that you can access them at anytime as well. We also worked on signage to indicate if meals met certain dietary standards, be it vegetarian, vegan, etc., along with certain ingredients that people might be allergic too. Similarly to the nutritional facts, we want to push how Chartwells is equipped for all type of meals. We also made sure that the soda machines were always carbonated and tested more frequently. Another item was pushing Oasis to run more smoothly and offer better customer service during rush hours, especially during breakfast. We also worked on increasing the amount of fresh fruit offered in the dining hall during the spring semester, especially in making sure that plenty was available throughout the day. We also worked with organizing the bread and bagel sections so that it appears cleaner and more easy to access for students.

Library

The Library advisory board is working in a DVD cataloging project to maximize use of the free DVD’s and movies housed in Richter. The project is still in progress. The library is still very interested in finding way for 24/7 possibilities but are limited in funding and staffing. We have been brainstorming to work with these limitations.

Parking & Transportation

Parking & Transportation is in the process of making a book of guidelines for making appeals. We have also discussed shuttles around campus and will each be taking turns observing them to report back to the Transportation office. Our plan is to make a tour of campus before the semester is over to take a sign tour and assure that all parking lots are labeled correctly. We also want to educate board members on which lots get the most tickets and why.

UM Police Department

The UMPD Advisory Board has been working on an initiative to mark parking lots with with easily identifiable location codes. Come summer, the University will paint each entrance to each row in the parking lot with the correct identification numbers as well as place signage throughout the lots, making identifying your location in case of emergency (as well as remembering where you parked) much easier. The discussed lots for the summer will be School of Communication lot, Memorial lot & Bank United Center lots. Future projects will include the Music School lot with a restructuring, as well as the Wellness Center lots. The board is currently detemining whether or not the majority of the classrooms have an emergency speed dial pre-programmed on the phones within each classroom. We think this would be a key feature in case of an emergency.
Cabinet:

C-store prices
Cabinet has carefully cataloged and tracked the price inflation in several C-store items. In making cost comparison analysis to local vendors such as CVS, Publix, and Walgreens, Cabinet discovered that the prices for goods at the C-store were drastically inflated. As a result, a report was compiled as is being submitted to dining services with detailed complaints as well as recommendations for prices to be displayed on all items.

Wi-Fi
Cabinet has skillfully identified several wi-fi spots around campus that offer poor or no connection at all. The data was compiled and submitted to IT so that they may begin to work on repairing and installing the necessary equipment to offer full wi-fi around campus.

Smoking Task Force
Cabinet has worked on proposals to the smoke free campus initiative including mapping locations and developing policy procedure and implementation guidelines.

External Appointments:

Faculty Senate
As Faculty Senate Student Representatives, we have attended and continue to attend every Faculty Senate Meeting and we serve as a link and source of information between the Student and Faculty Senates. Each meeting, we provide them with an update concerning what SG initiatives are in progress and have been completed. We then, in turn, report to the Student Senate during the beginning of their meeting about the happenings and updates from the Faculty Senate. We have also been utilized by the different faculty members when they are in need of input from students. So far, we have met with various individuals concerning: the definition of a student in the Students’ Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, feedback about University of Miami student health insurance, and the future changes that will occur in the honors program. We continue to be available to any faculty that needs student input and enjoy assisting them in anyway possible.

Green U

Expanding Recycling
Spring 2011
In conjunction with with Matthew Robayna from the Executive Board and Ian McKeown, the Sustainability Coordinator at UM, we have put together a proposal to change/expand recycling in the Memorial Classroom Building. Ian presented the proposal to Facilities. Much of the work was, unfortunately, out of our hands. The desire to complete this project was due to repeated statements/complaints from students about the lack of adequate recycling in the classrooms.

“Take Your Top Off” Campaign
Spring 2011
In conjunction with with Matthew Robayna and the Green U Committee, we are working to effectively launch this campaign. The basic premise of it is to educate the student body of the fact that bottle caps are not recyclable, so they should be thrown away. We intend to use the campaign to educate the student body about many ways to be “green” on campus, and to increase awareness and excitement about Green U, Student Government, and recycling in general.

“We have also been utilized by the different faculty members when they are in need of input from students.”
This year was one of transition for the Elections Commission. Coming off of a tumultuous election in Spring 2010, the Elections Commission sought to shore up the Codes once again with an Elections Code Summit, including representatives from all branches of Student Government. To start off the academic year, the Elections Commission helped spearhead a Student Government-wide voter registration initiative. This allowed the Commissioners to get involved in an SG project outside the normal scope of traditional SG elections. Fall Elections saw the Elections Commission completely filled for the first time in a few years, with many new recruits. Twenty-five Senators were elected in the Fall, many of them new faces to Student Government. The Fall Election also saw the passage of a referendum to increase the Student Activity Fee by $1 a semester for Student Government initiatives.

Spring Elections saw three tickets vying for President, Vice President and Treasurer. With 1,554 total votes cast, the “Taking U Forward” ticket won the election in the first round, avoiding a run-off election. In addition to the executive board positions, two referenda were passed, including a $.50 a year increase in the Student Activity Fee for the Committee on Student Organizations and a $5 a year increase for Student Government green initiatives.

Joel Lugones
Elections Commission Chair, 2011
SUMMARY OF FINANCES

“This past year, Student Government has improved how the budget is allocated and handled to build transparency and accountability.”

This past year, Student Government has improved how the budget is allocated and handled to build transparency and accountability. With budget bills and the formation of TIPAC (Trial Initiatives and Projects Appropriations Committee), more people are aware of how Student Government’s money is spent. With the passage of the $1 per semester referendum that passed in the Fall election, Student Government made significant changes to how money is allocated to ensure that the money was spent in the best interests of all students.

About 18.37% of SG’s total budget went to the Trial Initiatives and Programs Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating money to and financially overseeing various projects members of Student Government take on over the course of the academic year. The remainder of the funds were allocated amongst the branches, with 34.67% going to the Executive Board, 30.36% going to Senate, 11.77% to the Supreme Court, and the remainder allocated to a reserve/emergency fund category with which funds are set aside in case of emergencies. These monies can also be used by future Student Governments in the case that referenda money has yet to be received. To improve the Student Government office, $2,250 has been set aside to replace outdated computers in the office. Also, $5,000 for co-sponsorships with other organizations was allocated. Canes Nights is another initiative that received a lot of financial support to provide safe programming and transportation for students to events invents including Florida Marlins games, beach days, and more. Canes Nights was also partially funded by the Department of Parking and Transportation (to provide busing to and from events). Finally, a couple thousand dollars of the budget was allocated for publicity to advertise and reach out to students throughout the year, which led to a strong Student Government presence on campus.

Next year, Student Government will have an extra $20,000 in referendum funds that will be used to fund TIPAC. These funds will be used to ensure that future Student Government projects have greater reach and continue to serve the students.

Nick Cote
Treasurer, 2010-2011
Executive Board
- President: Christina Farmer
- Vice President: Valentina Lamas (Spring 2010), Pietro Bortoletto (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)
- Treasurer: Nicholas Cote
- Executive Secretary: Jake Krupa
- Chief of Staff External: Pietro Bortoletto (Spring 2010), Anastacia Huyler (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)
- Chief of Staff Internal: Romy Portuondo
- Executive at Large External: Jennifer Del Toro
- Executive at Large Internal: Matthew Robayna
- Press Secretary: Ryan Aquilina
- Speaker of the Senate: Aaron Esman
- Speaker Pro Tempore: Jordan Thomas
- Chief Justice: Vincent Foster
- Elections Commission Chair: Fernanda Sanchez (Spring 2010-Fall 2010)
- Joel Lugones (Spring 2011)
- Lindsey Kushner (Spring 2010)
- Joel Lugones (Summer 2010-Fall 2010)
- Nikita Gurudas (Spring 2011)
- Brandon Mitchell
- Douglas Aguilllla

Cabinet

Advisory Boards & External Appointments
- Auxiliary Services Advisory Board: Claudia Fele Cruz, Chair, Zach Bernheimer, Dunia Capdevilla, Monica Meyer, Stephanie Parra
- Dining Services Advisory Board: Kesem Omer, Chair, Jonathan D’Ambram, Alexandra Perez, Andrea Venkatesan, Michelle Walsenburg, Andrew Wyatt
- Library Advisory Board: David Grieser, Chair, Christine Eaton, Emily Estes, Nick Moore, Mike Piacentino, Kimberly Thompson
- Parking and Transportation Advisory Board: Adrienne Ball, Chair, Nawara Alawa, Danny Barry, Adam Frenkel, Molly Geklinshy, Sunneal Nandigam, Jessica Telleria
- UM Police Department Advisory Board: Christopher Carvajal, Chair, Jeffrey Fiorentinio, Trevor Fiorentinio, Carly Kaplan, Katie Mato, Mark Reardon, Stephanie Smart, Robyn Wojeck
- Faculty Senate Representatives: Sabrina Bunch, Michael Kaplan, Charlie Levinson, Andrew Luer, Claire Heckerman, Student Affairs, Alayn Govea, Academic Affairs, James Landis, Master Planning and Building, Scott Braum, Athletic Affairs
- Senate
- Speaker of the Senate: Aaron Esman
- Speaker Pro Tempore: Jordan Thomas
- Parliamentarian: Rachael Goldberg
- Senate Secretary: Lorell Guerrero (Fall 2010)
Senior Class
   Molly Piccione (Fall 2010)
   Gesy De Souza (Spring 2011)
   Cameron Harati
Junior Class
   Samantha Flanagan, UA Chair
   Kulveer Dabb
Sophomore Class
   Jack Corbett
   Nick Taubes
Freshman Class
   Spencer George
   Emily Werkmann

College of Arts & Sciences
   Michael Kaplan, AA Chair
   Joe Kaplan
   Samantha Belabin
   Leela Munda
School of Business
   Kenneth Esman, UA Vice Chair
   Brian Wismar, (Fall 2010)
School of Education
   Natalie Fontela, PR Chair (Fall 2010)
College of Engineering
   Daniella Orihuela (Fall 2010)
Frost School of Music
   Ariel Hernandez
School of Communication
   Jeff Brody
   Robert Wagensel
School of Architecture
   Daniella Gianatempo
   Sophia Amberson
Rosenstiel School
   Michaela Hennessy
Hecht Residential College
   Shelby Hoffman
Stanford Residential College
   Doug Aguillia
Mahoney Residential College
   Parker Barnett, PF Vice Chair
Pearson Residential College
   Christopher Lewis
Eaton Residential College
   Gannon Vanscoy
University Village
   Henry Thomas
Fraternity Row
   Adam Ergener
   Claudia Cruz, PR Vice Chair (Fall 2010)
   Anthony Lopez (Fall 2010)
   Alexander Herrera (Spring 2011)
Commuter
   Jon Trock (Fall 2010)
   Erica Barrios, AA Vice Chair
   Jennifer Safstrom, PF Chair
   Gannon Vanscoy
   Henry Thomas
   Adam Ergener
   Claudia Cruz, PR Vice Chair (Fall 2010)
   Anthony Lopez (Fall 2010)
   Alexander Herrera (Spring 2011)
FEC
   Jordan Thomas
   Marisa Nichols
   Nick Dusseau
IFC
   Kathleen Molinaro
Panhellenic Council
   Wayne Fluss (Fall 2010)
SRIFC
   Kushal Desai
COISO
   Hong-Uyen Hua

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   Kulveer Dabb
Sophomore Class
   Jack Corbett
   Nick Taubes
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   Spencer George
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   Joe Kaplan
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   Kushal Desai
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   Hong-Uyen Hua

Supreme Court
   Vincent Foster
   Angela Rasile
   Ryan Eid
   Brenda Phang
   David Moyer
   Sean Norris
   Shane Owens
   Clinton Rodriguez
   Mariah Szpunar
   Richa Taneja
   Jake Gordon
   Jason Bedoya
   Piero Olcese

Category 5
Executive Board
   Chair
   Brandon Mitchell
   Vice Chair
   Doug Aguillia
   Football Chairs
   Dan Carroll
   Amanda Winner
   Basketball Chairs
   Kim Blum
   Baseball Chairs
   Adam Orshan
   Robert Chiste
   Javier Hernandez
   Jon Labriola
   Jessica Taylor
   Caitlin Giles
   Special Events
   Rachel Hymam
   Public Relations
   Kristian Abill
   Secretary
   Hailey Bush
   Kenny Esman

Elections Commission Chair
   Fernanda Sanchez (Spring 2010-Fall 2010)
   Joel Lugones (Spring 2011)
   Elections Commission Vice Chair
   Lindsey Kushner (Spring 2010)
   Joel Lugones (Summer 2010-Fall 2010)
   Elections Commissioners
   Nikita Gurudas (Spring 2011)
   Janet Acosta
   Giovany Delgado
   Elian Dombev
   Jonathan Frey
   Michael Kane
   Hannah Klare
   Julian Marshall
   Aaron Martin
   Lauren Rackley
   Kimberly Thompson
   Shoshana Yahya

Fernanda Sanchez (Spring 2010-Fall 2010)
   Joel Lugones (Spring 2011)
   Lindsey Kushner (Spring 2010)
   Joel Lugones (Summer 2010-Fall 2010)
   Elections Commission Chair
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   Elian Dombev
   Jonathan Frey
   Michael Kane
   Hannah Klare
   Julian Marshall
   Aaron Martin
   Lauren Rackley
   Kimberly Thompson
   Shoshana Yahya
TAKING U FORWARD

BRANDON MITCHELL
ASHLEY TAGGART
JAKE KRUPA

TREASURER

FOR THE STUDENTS • FOR THE FUTURE • FOR THE U

VOTE Feb. 21-23

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