ANNUAL REPORT

U MIAMI STUDENT GOVERNMENT

2013-2014
This year’s Student Government administration had two guiding principles: be approachable and listen to the needs of every student. We began our terms with significant internal improvements. We changed the former advisory boards into a more concentrated and focused campus liaison council; we revamped the programming board to have specific roles for each member; and finally, we created a freshman leadership council which allows freshmen to have an introductory leadership role within student government and on campus. These internal improvements allowed us to better reach out to students and bring their needs to administration. Through our “Eat n Greet” programs put on by the programming board, partnerships between senators and our campus liaison council members, and a presence amongst first year students with our Freshman Leadership council members we have heard students’ needs and completed initiatives.

As part of our promise to keep students informed about what student government is doing, we revamped the way we communicate externally. Press Secretary Adam Orshan worked with the senate, led by Willy Herrera and Brianna Hathaway, to create and implement a communication plan which included Monday letters from myself, weekly wrap up graphics, a monthly column in the Hurricane, suggestion boxes, town hall events, and more. These additions have allowed us to give the campus community constant updates on everything student government is working on for them.

Recognizing the need for concentrated programs, Executive at Large-External Nicole Garcia and the programming board have worked diligently to co-program with a variety of campus organizations and departments to bring events such as “An Evening with Ray Lewis”, the Venetian pool trip, Spring Kickoff, and Study breaks. Internally, we realized improvements were needed in interbranch communication so Executive at Large-Internal Alessandria San Roman organized the first ever SG wide retreat as well as mixer events.

Vice-President Justin Borroto and the Freshman Leadership Council leadership helped to mentor and guide first year students as they completed projects and jump started their involvement around campus. Treasurer Robby Chiste added to the improved communication within SG branches by providing weekly budget updates to the senate. Executive Secretary Lorena Guardia brought in programming experience from past involvements as she and other members of the Executive board worked to plan the first ever senior week celebration.

Chief of Staff Mike Piacentino used his vast SG experience to lead the first ever Campus Liaison Council in completing significant projects such as the outdoor fitness court, smoothies in the dining hall, mobile printing, and others. The liaison council has allowed us to constantly be in communication with major campus departments. In addition, Mike worked with our external appointments to ensure students have a bigger voice in major campus changes.

Through their tireless efforts, the Supreme Court and Elections Commission completely revamped our elections codes and violations point system to match our new voting system. Through the leadership of Elections Commission chair Joseph Barletto, Vice-Chair Symon Rowlands, and Chief Justice Richey Fraga, we held two successful elections with increased candidate numbers and voter turnouts.

Andrew Wyatt worked strategically to lead Category 5 in making significant improvements in communication and partnerships between Student Government and the athletics department this year. In just their second year, ECO agency chaired by Kamal Daghistani, saw huge growth in its second year and has implemented environmentally friendly changes to campus while educating students on ways to conserve energy.

I am proud to say that student government truly worked as one unit this year. Communication between branches improved significantly and as a result we saw great progress in so many of our initiatives. Our successes of this year would not be possible without the support from University administration and our advisors. Dean Ricardo Hall, Danielle Howard, and Dr. Patricia Whitely have been instrumental in our administration’s success.

As this academic year comes to a close, it is time to transition from this year’s administration to the next. I am proud of the work student government has done this year and I look forward to seeing what the “Unite the U” ticket, Alessandria San Roman, William Herrera, and Dariel Fagundo, will accomplish in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Bhumi Patel
Student Government President
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On behalf of Student Government, I would just like to thank you for picking up Student Government’s Annual Report. Student Government is honored to provide students and administration an opportunity to see what SG has done this year!

Often students question, “What has Student Government done for me?” In the following pages, we hope to address that question and provide you with a detailed account of all the initiatives that Student Government has been a part of this year. While it has taken time to compile, this document is an absolutely necessary. It is a continuation of the first annual report produced in 2008. Transition is only effective if we know not only the successes and but also the attempts made by the people in office before us. We hope that future Student Governments will also continue this tradition and thus not have to lose time pursuing an initiative that was already addressed. Instead, they will be able to reference the project and pick up from the reason why it could not be done, whether that be funding, logistics or timing.

We hope you enjoy reading about the initiatives taken by your very own Student Government in order to enhance the University of Miami student experience. Please know that we look forward to working with you in years to come. Our office in SAC Suite 210 is always open to you.

Sincerely,

Alessandria San Roman
Executive-at-Large Internal
Executive Board

The Executive Branch of Student Government works with administrators to create and put into effect new initiatives and ideas on campus. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Executive Secretary, Executive-at-Larges Internal and External, and the Press Secretary serve on the Executive Branch.

PROJECTS

LIBRARY SUPPLY VENDING MACHINE - Completed
SMOKE FREE CAMPUS - Completed
INTERNSHIPS ABROAD - In collaboration with the Toppel Career Center, Student Government has been working to offer students the opportunity to take on internships in other countries. Currently, students will be provided with a “how to” packet. In future years, this project will be expanded.
SENIOR WEEK - This is a week long celebration to commemorate graduating seniors. It consists of a campus crawl, senior day at the Rat, and other events.
9-11 MEMORIAL - Proposal has been written to pay tribute to those fallen ‘Canes who has served our country.
PLUS ONE - The pilot program will officially begin in Fall 2014. Students with a rigorous undergraduate curriculum will have the opportunity to take interesting classes for free.

Programming Committee

The goal of the Student Government Programming Committee is to support students, collaborate with organizations, and reach out to the student body through campus wide programs. The Student Government Programming Committee is led by the Executive-at-large External, Nicole Garcia. It is composed of the Marketing Coordinator, Shelly Morse, the Freshman Leadership Council Programming Coordinator, Daniela Lorenzo, the Outreach and Sponsorship Coordinator, Ryan Donahue, and the Logistics Coordinator, Leixi Wang.

AN EVENING WITH RAY LEWIS (October 2, 2013) Co-programmed with Hurricane Productions.
SELF DEFENSE PROGRAM WITH UMPD (October 11, 2013) Co-programmed with Canes Night Live and UMPD.
EAT N’ GREET (November 13, 2013) Co-programmed with Chartwells Dining and Commuter Assistants
SG STUDY BREAK (December 12, 2013) Co-programmed with the Wellness Center and hosted Yoga on the Green, the Counseling Center that hosted a booth with giveaways and information, and the KIND Bars group with had giveaways. The event also included a station to write down your stressors and throw them in the fire, write good luck cards for friends, and free snacks.
CANES AFTER DARK SPRING KICKOFF (January 17, 2014) The program included festival food, hot chocolate, food trucks, festival games, a Photo Booth, a t-shirt tie dye station, a henna artist, a caricature artist, a psychic, a money machine, Dunk a Dean, a Pet Costume Contest, a Pie Eating Contest, and booths from student organizations. Co-programmed with Canes Night Live.
MAKE A BAG OF TREATS FOR YOUR VALENTINE (February 14, 2014)
EAT ‘N GREET (March 19, 2014) Co-programmed with Chartwells Dining and CLC.
STATE OF THE U (March 20, 2014) State of the U Event on the SAC patio stage for President Bhumi Patel to give updates to the Student Body and Administrators, as well as updates from other student organizations.
VENETIAN POOL TRIP (March 22, 2014) RELAY FOR LIFE (April 5, 2014) Through a “Mermaidman and Barnacle Boy” themed booth, Student Government raised money for the American Cancer Society.
The first ever Freshman Leadership Council (FLC) was created in order to foster the growth, leadership and development of its Freshman members as they will be exposed to project completion, programming, and campus administration. The Freshman Leadership Council will also coordinate an inter-Student Government Mentorship Program open to all freshmen members of Student Government. This year, freshmen were chosen from a very competitive pool of applicants and represent a diverse variety of campus life.

**FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STRUCTURE**

- Justin Borroto - Vice President
- Amy Halpern and Matt McCabe - Project Coordinators
- Nathan Tatum - Leadership Development Coordinator
- Daniela Lorenzo - FLC Programming Coordinator

**Freshmen Members:**
- Brad Jones, Adrianna Ortega - Improved Meal Plan Options
- Riley Clifton, Jacqueline Lano, Ashley Pfitaluga - UBazaar
- Shivani Hanchate, Justin Miranda, Aalekhya Reddam - Entrepreneurs’ Row
- Horvey Palacios, Jacqueline Safstrom - Time Capsule
- Grace Brown, Devin Fitzgerald, Vikesh Patel (Exploring Miami Discounts)
- Martina Sandoval, Faizah Shareef, Beja Turner - Alumni/Student Mentoring
- Quinlan Kasal, Sarah Potter - Shuttle to Dadeland
- Mallory Claire, Tejas Jain - ‘Canes Help Network

**PROJECTS**

**IMPROVED MEAL PLAN OPTIONS**
Worked with Dining and Auxiliary Services in order to allow freshmen to change their meal plan after having been at the University for a semester.

**UBAZAAR**
Will complete last year’s initiative to expand Farmer’s Market to include vendors of jewelry, clothing, and boutique items from the local Miami community. UBazaar will occur three times a semester on the first Wednesday of every month. The first ever UBazaar had six local businesses that attended.

**ENTREPRENEURS’ ROW**
The first ever Entrepreneurs’ Row took place on February 25th, 2014 featuring businesses created by students and recent alumni. We were able to successfully showcase the innovation that our student body is capable of, and will continue based on feedback and improvements from first event.

**TIME CAPSULE**
Performed overview of time capsules that exist on campus and evaluated if there was a need for another to commemorate opening of the Student Activities Center.

**EXPLORING MIAMI DISCOUNTS**
Compiled a list of the current discounts and resources that exist in the Coral Gables area for UM students. In the process of reaching out to more local businesses to expand offers to UM students in the area.

**ALUMNI/STUDENT MENTORING**
Toppel Career Center approved launch of pilot program to pair up students with alumni mentors in their field.

**SHUTTLE TO DADELAND**
Shuttle to Dadeland will begin on March 22nd and will continue weekly for the rest of the semester. Test numbers will be used to establish schedule for future semesters.

**CANES HELP NETWORK**
Enough resources already exist for forum-like sites where students can interact and get their questions answered. IT capabilities not worth forcing the project, so moved resources and efforts to other projects.
Every year, the University of Miami Senate strives to best represent the voices of students. Through the leadership of Speaker, William Herrera, Speaker Pro Tempore, Brianna Hathaway, and the Council of Chairs, Senate used different methods such as Facebook, “meet and greets,” suggestion boxes, and sent emails to constituents. Furthermore, they helped sponsor several organizational events. Senate’s hope is to explore initiatives that best encompassed student needs so that senators could do their jobs as student representatives. Even though the year is coming to a close, their jobs will not. Senate will continue to pursue and complete those initiatives that they have started and start new ones as they are addressed. As representatives of the student body, Senate truly believes that they can help create the UM that students desire and deserve.

PROJECTS AND BILLS
Academic Affairs Committee (AA)
A BILL TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI: (Status: Passed)
A RESOLUTION TO CENTRALIZE THE PRE-LAW TRACK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI: (Passed)
UShadow: Working with Toppel Career Center to see how to update the existing UShadow Program
Design a Course: Applications were received for student led courses
Public Relations Committee (PR)
Suggestion Boxes Around Campus: (Senators continue to speak to respective administrators for approval. In Progress)
Online Suggestion Box Revamp competition: Incentivizing students to submit online suggestions (Status: In Progress)
Advertising Past SG Initiatives: (Status: In Progress and working with CLC)
UNICCO Appreciation: (Status: In Progress)
The purpose of the Student Government Elections Commission is to organize and coordinate all aspects of SG Elections in the fall and spring. The duties of Elections Commission are to review and approve all SG applications and campaign materials, to plan and organize elections events including Meet the Candidates and presidential debates, to enforce elections codes, and to present all violations to Trial Court for hearings. In addition, the Elections Commission determines the polling times and locations, oversees polling sites, tabulates all votes, and announces elections results.

SUMMARY OF ELECTIONS

Fall Elections: Everything ran smoothly in the Fall Student Government Elections, electing several new senators to their respective offices.

Spring Elections: This year’s Spring Student Government Elections were monumental. During Spring elections, a new online system was adopted. OrgSync proved to be a successful tool for online voting. 1,975 students turned out to vote during elections. There were also no trials or violations made by either tickets for the first time in years. In terms of advertising, we held three meet the candidate events, one executive ticket debate and tabled Monday through Thursday during voting week.

COMMISSIONERS

J. Alexander Barletto (Chair)
Symon Rowlands (Vice Chair)
Fu Yuan Xie
Thi Nguyen
Thomas Klevanosky
Amir Nasser
Nicholas Haenel
Sarina Doyan
Nicole Katz
Category 5 is the Spirit Programming Board focused on preserving and implementing traditions related to sports and spirit at the University of Miami. It represents the student body and is the link between the Athletic Department and the students. Category 5 focuses on improving the in-game experiences for students to promote love of Alma Mater and cultivate supportive, notable and fun student sections. Through student-to-student communication, watch parties, giveaways, away trips, and events hosted in conjunction with Athletics, Category 5 aims to foster an infectious culture within the student body dedicated to supporting our ‘Canes. GO ‘CANES!

PROJECTS

UF vs. UM Pep Rally: Category 5 had one of the most successful pep rallies on campus this year for this landmark game.

T-Shirt Exchange Program - Took place at the “Breaking up on Valentine’s Day” event sponsored by the Alumni Association. Students exchanged other college shirts for an “I love UM” shirt.

Category 5 also brought back the Freshman Walk, hosted a Virginia Tech tailgate, passed out pom poms for homecoming, had its first ever campout for the Syracuse vs. UM basketball game, wrote encouraging letters to players, and hosted a Duke vs. UM basketball watch party. Furthermore, Category 5 sponsored away trips to USF and FSU, and created themed nights at basketball games. Tunnel Crew’s tradition continued and added fire extinguishers in the student section. Finally, the All Canes Radio at the Rat initiative will be seen to fruition once acoustics at the Rat have been fixed.

Energy Conservation Organization

The Energy and Conservation Organization (ECO) is the newest agency of Student Government. Our mission is to create a cultural change on campus of environmental stewardship as well as reduce the campus carbon footprint. Our goal is to develop the University of Miami to be completely sustainable. This can be accomplished by enhancing the campus green initiatives in food, transportation, energy, waste, recycling, etc. while building campus-wide efforts for sustainable behavioral practices.

PROJECTS

Laundry Room Signs: Complete and sent to Housing for placement

Solar Pavilion: Design created by the University and sent to LUMOS. Location will be at the vending machine shelter by the Whitten Learning Center

Fraternity Recycling: Contracting a deal with DTZ to have ECO fund first year of recycling for all fraternity houses. ECO will then work with fraternities to educate them on proper recycling and possibly provide incentive

Sustainability Certificate: Working with Dr. Maranto to create good marketing strategy to begin having students apply

ECO Newsletter: Creating an annual report along with a binder that shows all ECO proposals created and which have been successful

Earth Week: ECO is hosting it again at the end of April

Green Guide: Will be distributed to all incoming freshman in the Fall. This will show students everything around campus and the city that is sustainably related.

ECO Sponsorship: used by FEC (our first org) being used by three other orgs over this semester as well

Kill-a-Watt: Competition has been moving along successfully and will end this Friday. A post-competition survey will be released and the grand prize (Chipotle) will be awarded to the winning building

Lake Osceola Signs: Text has been approved, being designed now to get final approval before fabrication and permitting

Green School Alliance: the name of the website that has been made, the mockup will be formed for the web pages to create the site, then schools will begin being introduced to the sites function and purpose

E-Recycling: Working with company, E-cycle, to have a large phone recycling drive in April

Recycling in the Rat: proposal was submitted to Gilbert for review, looking to work with DTZ to see if recycling process can be managed on their end

Plastic Bag Signs: created and approved. Placed in C-store, looking to be put in the bookstore and dining halls now

Solar water heaters: Working with Facilities to find optimal building to have first one installed

LEDs in Buildings: Looking to add them in either the stacks of the Richter Library or in the Wellness Center
The 2013-2014 academic year was a year of transition for the SG Executive Board committees. Building off of changes made during the 2012-2013 year, the Campus Liaison Council replaced the former Advisory Board. The CLC proved to be a more effective and streamlined process for communicating regularly with campus administrators. The goal of the CLC is to serve as a committee of the Executive Board that fosters open communication and productive relationships between Student Government and campus departments. Because the CLC was new and had a slightly different focus than previous committees, the CLC used the 2013-2014 to establish connections with campus departments and develop meaningful relationships that will assist SG in project completion moving forward.

The Auxiliary Services liaisons (Vanessa Michaud and Kiah Husband) worked with the UM Bookstore to collect research on the interest in the “GreekStreet” at the bookstore. Based on the survey results, it was discovered that an overwhelming majority of students in fraternities and sororities would shop at an on-campus location dedicated to Greek accessories and apparel. These liaisons also collaborated with the ECO Agency and Chartwells to place signs in the C-Store encouraging customers to use less plastic bags.

The Campus Facilities and Security liaisons (Chris Hill and Virali Shah) worked with the Office of Facilities Management to address the lack of bicycle racks in the University Village and at Mahoney and Pearson Residential Colleges. They also toured the campus with university administrators to address lighting and other safety concerns each semester. In the Spring semester, they began working with UMPD on an updated Blue Light system that will incorporate smartphones and campus security cameras.

The Dining Services liaisons (Allison Paige and Connie Schubert) worked with Chartwells throughout the year to continually improve on new dining initiatives including the take-out program and vegetarian options. The liaisons worked with UM students and Chartwells to add nutrition labels and time stamps to take-out containers so students and Chartwells staff can ensure that only the freshest food is available for our students. The liaisons also facilitated regularly scheduled open forums with vegetarian and vegan students to address any concerns these students had about meal offerings in the dining halls.

The Health and Wellness liaisons (Stephanie Vazquez and Timothy Rowlands) regularly met with representatives from the Herbert Wellness Center and Student Health Center throughout the year. One of our liaisons sat on the Department of Wellness and Recreation Advisory Board and worked with Wellness Center officials to continue plans on the proposed skateboard lockers in the Wellness Center and on opening the new outdoor fitness court located near the IM fields. The liaisons facilitated a dialogue between the Student Health Center and the Wellness Center to ensure that both locations are aware of the many health and wellness services offered at each location.

The Information Technology liaisons (Joe Choi and Niurka Monteserin) focused much of their efforts on collaborating with Managed Print Services, the division that operates UPrint. The liaisons worked to add a printer in the Student Organization Suite and 24/7 study lounge in the Student Activities Center. They also met regularly with the rest of the IT department to address Wi-Fi, printing and other technology issues throughout the year. At the end of the spring semester, a survey was conducted to evaluate current technology options available to students and solicit student feedback on services they’d like to see in the future.

The Library liaisons (Ana Moas and Mariah Moore) spent much of the year working to publicize the services currently offered by UM’s Richter Library. A new Dean was hired at the end of the Fall semester so the liaisons coordinated a meeting to outline key initiatives and objectives for the coming semester. Such ideas included adding book drops near the residential areas on campus and adding more online learning services to the current list of options offered by the library. These initiatives will be further developed in Fall 2014.

The Parking and Transportation liaisons (Jesus Melendez and Sarah Quigley) worked closely with the Department of Parking and Transportation to continually address student concerns about parking and the shuttle system on campus. The UV shuttle express route was revamped and better signage was added to inform students on the shuttle’s schedule and route. Additionally, a new parking pass purchasing timeline was proposed and approved so students will have a shorter wait time when purchasing passes in the summer. They also worked with the Freshman Leadership Council to add a shuttle to Dadeland to the off-campus routes currently operating at UM. Early in the Fall semester, the liaisons took on a large-scale project that intends to offer free MetroRail passes to undergraduate students that must access the Miller School of Medicine campus for classes, research or clinicals. This initiative should be fully implemented in Fall 2014.
The Student Government members are elected officials that represent the student body, and it is our goal to only spend money on events and initiatives that fall under our mission statement.

FALL 2013 EXPENDITURE

Executive Branch: Virtually all expenditures from the Executive Branch originated from bringing Ray Lewis to campus to speak to students, creating and producing giveaways for Canefest, and sponsoring Orientation shirts.

Legislative Branch: Along with funding new long-sleeved T-Shirts for senators, Senate made co-sponsorships to many organizations on campus, such as Planet Kreyol, Homecoming, Phi Mu Alpha, and SpectrUM.

Judicial Branch: No significant expenditures were made for the Judicial Branch in this semester.

Elections Commission: Funds were used for organizational expenditures to conduct elections and relevant meetings properly.

SPRING 2014 EXPENDITURE

Executive Branch: The Executive Branch sponsored Spring Kickoff at the new SAC, various events around campus such as Eat N’ Greet and the Venetian Pool trip for students.

Legislative Branch: Senate made co-sponsorships to many organizations on campus, such as UBS, Fun Day, FEC, AASA, and AGLO.

Judicial Branch: No significant expenditures were made for the Judicial Branch in this semester.

Elections Commission: EC funds were used for organizational expenditures to conduct elections and relevant meetings properly.
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