

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016



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**STUDENT**
GOVERNMENT
MIAMI

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Government

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



BRIANNA HATHAWAY
Student Government President

This year's Student Government (SG) board commenced the term with one goal in mind: to create your U, for U. This idea was rooted in our commitment to giving students a voice in order to develop a campus community where they truly feel at home.

To implement this culture of belonging, community, and family, we had to work with our entire student body in conjunction with campus administration, faculty and staff. By connecting the voices of the students with all stakeholders of the university, we were able to translate the ideas of our students into reality.

Within SG, Executive-at-Large Internal **Aalekhya Reddam** instilled these ideas of commitment through our annual SG wide retreat and a new SG success review survey. Equipped to spread our message, SG members connected with campus life to address student concerns. Executive-at-Large External **Beja Turner** and the U Outreach committee planned campus programming events such as our bi-annual SG Awareness Week, a night of comedy with Colin Jost from SNL, Spring Kickoff, and study breaks.

Director of Communications **Renee Perez** kept students informed on our goals and initiatives through her constant outreach to the student body through social media. Speaker of the Senate **Jeffrey Sznapstajler** and Speaker Pro Tempore **Ivann Anderson** empowered Senators to better engage their constituencies with events such as Find Your Senator and tabling at campus events for suggestions on how to improve the community.

Vice President **Ishtpreet Singh** and the Freshman Leadership Council (FLC) successfully completed many of their projects while developing the group's leadership skills. By conducting surveys and finding solutions, FLC implemented projects such as a Senior Bus Trip to commemorate graduating seniors. Treasurer **Robert Renfro** expanded upon the use of TIPAC to help not only SG members but also all students fund new pilot programs for initiatives. **Brianna Hathaway**, Student Government President, and **Liat Cohen**, Executive Secretary, worked with Toppel Career Center and our dry cleaning services to implement Sebastian's Closet to provide students with free rental of business attire.

Chief of Staff **Zoe Kafkes** led the Campus Liaison Council (CLC) in strengthening relationships with administration while executing more projects than ever before. They worked to get discounts at the bookstore for veteran students, amend the library 3 strike rule, and implement an on and off campus food delivery service.

Elections Commission Chair **Aqeel Khanani** and his team revamped the election process by amending the elections calendar to add an interim period for campaigning as well as televising the presidential debates. Supreme Court Chief Justice **Allie Hussey** went above and beyond her role to implement their first legal program, which was focused on how social media affects your employment opportunities.

Category 5 Chair **Nick Kaleel** fought to take our spirit programming board to new heights working alongside the Athletics Department to continue new and old traditions on campus. They not only broke the student attendance record at the women's basketball game with the Silent Night event but had an amazing turnout at the annual basketball campout. The Energy Conservation Organization (ECO) Chair **Nika Hosseini** witnessed an outstanding amount of green changes at the U while spreading conservation awareness to students. Her board completed 24 projects; including solar panels on the food court, when this was written and knowing them have completed many more since.

I am proud to say that SG has been able to work together to generate positive change. Our success in great part derived from the relentless support of UM administration, especially **Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Patricia Whitely** and **Board of Trustees Student Affairs Chair, Tracey Berkowitz**. Furthermore, our advisors **Dean Hall, Brandon Gross, and Heather Stevens** have been instrumental in our achievements.

As we complete our term, I look forward to hearing the accomplishments of the "True to You" ticket. I am confident that **Vikesh Patel, Ashley Pittaluga, and Morgan Owens** will continue the movement and enhance student life at the U!

FORWARD LETTER



AALEKHYA REDDAM
Executive-at-Large Internal

On behalf of Student Government, I would just like to thank you for reading our 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 to help better our UM community. Through this report,

we also hope to expand upon the annual reports that came before and continue the tradition providing written documentation that will aid those that come after us. It is our goal that future Student Government members utilize this report as a way to expand upon and learn from initiatives that have succeeded and failed in the past.

We hope you enjoy reading about the initiatives our Student Government members have worked on 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 SSC Suite 210A is always open to you.



**SUCCESS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE
DEPENDS ON LEARNING FROM THE FAILURES AND
SUCCESSSES OF THE PAST**

EXECUTIVE BOARD



PROJECT & BILLS COMPLETED



- Crosswalks by Merrick/San Amaro
- Metro Passes to the Medical Campus
- Sebastian's Closet
- Massage Chairs
- Nap Pods
- Improved Vegetarian Option
- Microwaves in the Food Court
- Reward System in Food outlets
- Senior Sendoff
- HBO Go
- Veterans' discounts
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms
- Improved Medical Amnesty Policy

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 Large-Internal and External and Director of Communications compose the Executive Branch.



PROJECTS & BILLS IN PROGRESS



- Ted Talks
- Gender Neutral Housing
- San Amaro Safety
- TIPAC Revamp
- Rent out Chargers in the library



SENATE

Every year, the University of Miami Senate strives to best represent the voices of students.

Through the leadership of Speaker, Jeffrey Sznajstajler, Speaker Pro Tempore, Ivann Anderson, and the Council of Chairs, Senate used different methods such as “Facebook”, free food, and tabling to reach out to the students. Furthermore, they helped sponsor several organizational events. Senate’s hope was 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.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Sarah Betancourt, Chair
Kristin Cilluffo, Vice Chair

- Creation of a more comprehensive absence policy
- Policies to make students and advisors both accountable
- Working on Academic Integrity Policy
- Making UMX more valuable



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Emmy Savidge, Chair
Revanth Boda, Vice Chair

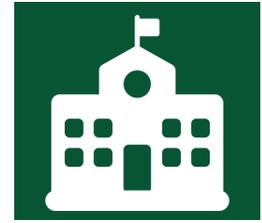
- Find Your Senator
- Senate head shots and bios
- Tabling all around campus to hear student's ideas
- Worked to foster better communication within Senate itself



POLICY AND FINANCE

Joshua Zuchniarz, Chair
Candice Johnson, Vice Chair

- Policy on making the area in front of the SSC safer
- Added transfer seats as a Unique Population constituency
- Clarified the duties of a Senator
- Passed co-sponsorship funding
- Election Commission Review Committee



UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Henson Destin , Chair
David Mejia, Vice Chair

- Recycling at PanHellenic Building
- HIV Cheek Swab
- Fixing UM App
- LED lighting initiative together with ECO
- Better food options in Chartwells



CATEGORY 5

Category 5 is the Spirit Programming Board focused on preserving and implementing spirit and traditions relating to our Division 1 sports teams at the University of Miami. It represents the student body by acting as the link between the

Athletic Department and the students. Category 5 focuses on enhancing in-game experiences for students to promote love of Alma Mater and cultivate supportive and notable student sections. Through student-to-student communication,

giveaways, away trips, watch parties, and events hosted in conjunction with Athletics, Category 5 aims to foster an infectious culture within the student body dedicated to supporting our Miami Hurricanes.





BASKETBALL

- Broke the student attendance for a women's basketball game twice this season including a Silent Night game
- Organized the first ever basketball student fanzone at the UF game
- Hosted an overnight campout the night before the Louisville game
- Managed the Storm Surge community and brought more student engagement to home basketball games
- Hosted the first ever watch party at the UC Pool



FOOTBALL

- Organized a trip to Disney and FSU for 100 Students
- Hosted a Pep Rally for the Nebraska game featuring Blake James, Dr Patricia Whitely, and DJ Williams
- Hosted watch parties for the Cincinnati, Duke, and UNC games
- Co-programmed with UHealth, ZTA, HRL, and HP for fanzones and watch parties
- Organized tunnel crew and student section smoke at every home game
- Continued the tradition of Freshman and Senior Walk



BASEBALL

- Helped host the first ever Bark in the Park
- Continued the annual traditions of Freshman/Senior Walk and milkshake giveaways
- Hosted the first ever High Sock Sunday at UM



OLYMPIC SPORTS

- Co-programmed with Homecoming to host the first ever Storm Warning event, which brought a packed student crowd to the Knight Sports Complex
- Hosted an event for a back-to-back volleyball and soccer game



SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the judicial branch of Student Government and is charged with upholding the provisions and powers of the Student Government Constitution and Statutes.

Over the past year, Supreme Court has continued to work alongside Student Government to improve visibility and to foster a better understanding of – and adherence to – the Constitution and Statutes. This included regular attendance at Senate meetings and at Senate Policy and Finance Committee meetings, thus enabling the judicial branch to be an accessible resource to all. In recognition of the living nature of our governing documents, the Court has worked closely with Student Government as a whole to create a Commission on Elections Codes Revision.

This organization will periodically convene representatives from various aspects of Student Government to shape the Elections Codes in a way that reflects campus realities while also providing adequate deterrents to misconduct and appropriate sanctions if necessary. Additionally, the Court has undertaken a variety of new initiatives, including campus-wide legal programming and outreach to other universities' judicial branches. The Court's first Law Series event introduced students to the law as it relates to social media and the job search. It also contributed to Student Government's success at The Toppel Awards. It is our hope

that Court continues to build off of this groundwork to continue connecting Student Government and the University of Miami community through meaningful interactions. Meanwhile, outreach to other universities allowed the Court to reach beyond this campus to foster a knowledge exchange among similar institutions.

Over the coming year, the Court aspires to further develop its initiatives and promote visibility within Student Government and the campus community. Through deliberative action and an eye toward proper procedure, the Court will continue to maintain order and serve as a valuable resource to all.



SUPREME JUSTICES

Alexandra Hussey,
Chief Justice

Perry Elbadrawi,
Associate Chief Justice

Devin Fitzgerald,
Assistant Chief Justice

Nisha Sharma,
Clerk of the Court,

Andreana Cunningham
Alani Fraga
Meghana Jami
Matthew Stankard
Raymond Truong
David Young



ELECTIONS COMMISSION

The purpose of the Student Government Elections Commission is to organize and coordinate all aspects of the spring and fall Student Government elections. The duties of Elections Commission are to review and approve all SG applications and campaign materials, to enforce elections codes, to plan and organize elections events including Meet the Candidates and Executive Ticket debates, 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.

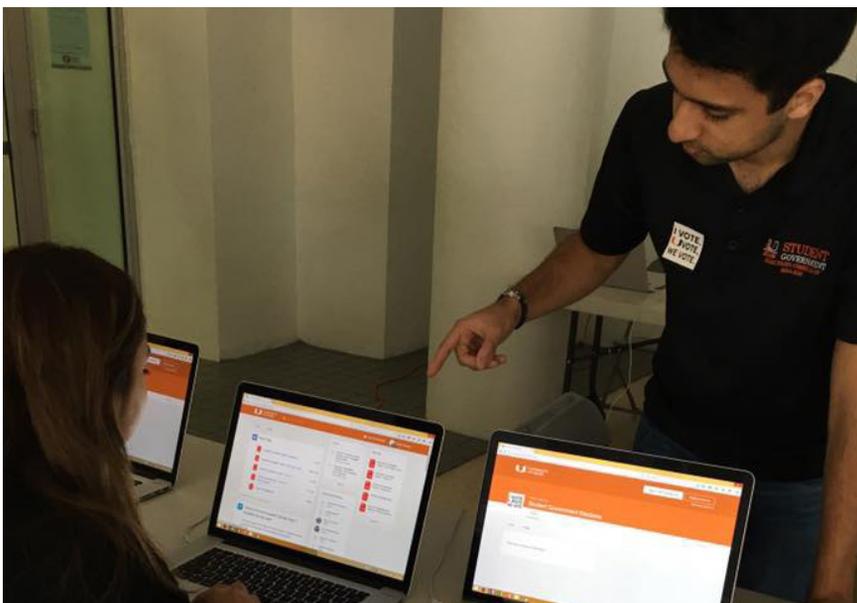
SUMMARY OF ELECTIONS

Fall Elections Fall elections ran smoothly and efficiently. This led to the successful election of several new senators to their respective offices.

Spring Elections This year, the Spring Student Government Elections were very successful. In total, 1,877 students voted in this spring's elections. In addition to tabling

at the Breezeway, the Elections Commission also tabled outside of the Freshmen Dining Halls in order to increase freshmen involvement in the voting process. In terms of increasing candidate exposure, the Elections Commission held Meet the Candidate events, which took place on the Hecht Maldonado Apartment and the RAT. Both tickets running for the

Executive Office took part in a debate on the Patio, which had a tremendous student turnout. Moreover, the president's of each ticket took part in a live, televised debate hosted by UMTV. Also, representatives from each ticket were guests on WVUM's Counterpoint to further discuss issues.



COMMISSIONERS

Aqeel Khanani, Chair
Kush Panara, Vice Chair
Stephen O'Connell
Jullian Cockerell
Claudia Nunes
Imran Jivraj
Areeb Anzar
Vishal Lakshmanan
Karthik Narayanan
Ariana Cartagena
Rohit Reddy

UOUTREACH COMMITTEE

The goal of the Student Government UOutreach Committee is to support students, collaborate with organizations and reach out the student body through campus-wide programs.

The Executive-At-Large External, Beja Turner, leads the UOutreach committee. It is composed of the Marketing Coordinator, the Outreach Coordinator, the Logistics Coordinator, the Programming Coordinator and the Graphic Design Coordinator.

FALL

SG Awareness Week

- Highlighted branches, agencies and initiatives of SG

Fall Speaker

- Colin Jost, head writer of Saturday Night Live
- Had over 300 students in attendance

Ibis Ride Kickoff

- Held in conjunction with Pier21 as a safe method of traveling to and from Coconut Grove

Fall Study Break

- Held as a way for stress relief for students

SPRING

Spring Kickoff

- Annual celebration at the start of spring semester

MLK Day of Remembranc

- Held in conjunction with United Black Students to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SG Awareness Mini Week

- Highlighted branches and agencies of SG through various campus events

SG State of the U

- Informed students of the university campus climate
- Also addressed the programs and initiatives currently being worked on and in progress.



FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

This year's Freshman Leadership Council (FLC) was an incredible group. Members worked with various Student Government branches and agencies, student organizations, and campus administration to further their projects, build connections, and learn about Student Government and the University of Miami as a whole. Three project coordinators oversaw 20 freshmen, and our Leadership Development Coordinator helped develop a sense of family that will keep the group forever connected. While not all projects were completed, the year was still an overwhelming success; the freshmen learned from unparalleled opportunities, gained invaluable experience, and grew as students and leaders. They most definitely have bright futures ahead of them.



FLC EXECUTIVE TEAM

Vice President: Ishtpreet Singh

Project Coordinators: Adrianna Ortega, Ashley Pittaluga, Coleman Reardon

Leadership Development Coordinator: Adam Levine

Freshman Members

Julia Anderson, Alicia Bechtel, Nia Byrd, Catherine De Freitas, Evan De Joya, Rachel Jennings, Alisha Kabir, Alex Klar, David

Lanster, Harrison Kudwitt, Evelyn Mangold, Natlie Marrero, Molly McHugh, Hailey Mody, Adeeb Pawane, Josette Sanchez, Gyles Ward, Patricia Valeria Vela, Marissa Vonesh

Projects

Fresh produce pickup, ATM service expansion, hammock rental program, rideshare/carpool program, Food Court reward system, on-demand car pickup service, mobile nail/hair salon, Panhellenic food option, positivity note initiative, Senior Bus Trip

CAMPUS LIAISON COUNCIL

The 2015-2016 Campus Liaison Council (CLC) further exemplified the effectiveness of streamlining communication between campus departments and Student Government now in its third year.

In conjunction with the ideals of the “For U” ticket, this year’s board fulfilled its main goal – collaborating more closely with other branches within Student Government in order to create a more unified organizational culture. By working closely with the Senate Branch and the Freshman Leadership Council (FLC), the CLC was able to provide a level of connectedness within our organization and with campus administration that truly made for an outstanding year.





DINING AND AUXILIARY SERVICES LIAISONS

Rylee Bowles and Alexis Musick

- Successfully implemented the "Food to U" program through the introduction of Favor, a food delivery service on campus
- Working with Auxiliary Services, our liaisons established a veteran discount in the Campus Store. With Freshman Leadership Council a Food Court Rewards program was also implemented.
- In continuous discussions with Dining Services and help from the Board of Trustees, a larger variety of fresh fruit and vegetable options were introduced in the dining halls this fall.



CAMPUS SECURITY AND FACILITIES LIAISONS

Mia Lam and Vikesh Patel

- Toured the campus with university administrators to address lighting and safety concerns; these tours resulted in the installations of more light fixtures
- Brought facilities concerns to the attention of administration such as the increased flooding issues on campus with new construction and handicap accessibility.
- Worked with their various departments to establish better lines of communication with students and to promote different initiatives such as the UGuardian app and the development of a Safety Series by UMPD and OEM.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LIAISONS

Tejas Jain and Carl Torsillieri

- Our liaisons also met regularly with the rest of the IT department to address Wi-Fi, printing and other technology issues throughout the year; including a new University of Miami app to be released soon.
- Working with the Library liaisons, they got rolling monitors installed in the first floor of the library to help students collaborate better on projects.
- Next fall, a survey will be released to the student body to further evaluate current technology options available to students and to acquire student feedback on services that need to be improved upon.



LIBRARY LIAISON

Lauren Spiegel and Earl Generato

- Publicized services and programs offered by UM's Richter Library including the elimination of the 3 strike rule. The new rule allows 5 strikes and after that students can pay to gain entrance instead of being turned away.
- In addition to meeting regularly with the Library's Dean, the liaisons also collaborated closely with the department's redesign team to provide input on how to enhance the library facility for our students with the Learning Commons.
- Worked to provide students with immediate change as well, such as computer disinfectant wipes (to be installed soon).



PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION LIAISON

Quinlan Kasal and Lauren Rodriguez

- Together our liaisons examined the Ibis Ride schedule and budget to find funding for three Wynwood Shuttles once a month and save the department money on these routes.
- Our liaisons also worked to keep pedestrians safer by getting reflectors installed in multiple crosswalks in high traffic areas on campus such as Stanford Circle.
- Additionally several long term projects continued their progress such as the bike share program, shuttle efficiency and the implementation of parking scholarships.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS LIAISON

Brandon Desousa and Jasia Dickerson

- Working with University Affairs in the Senate, our liaisons got the Student Health Center to provide an HIV oral swab alternative to the standard blood draw test.
- One of our liaisons sat on the Department of Wellness and Recreation Advisory Board and worked with Wellness Center officials to improve the overall student experience at this facility.
- The liaisons facilitated a dialogue between the Student Health Center, the Wellness Center, and our Student Government to ensure that all entities were aware of the projects and initiatives that each were working on.

ENERGY CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



The Energy and Conservation Organization better known as the ECO Agency is an agency of Student Government and through students, creates and implements environmental initiatives on campus to create positive change for the present and the future. ECO is the youngest agency of Student Government and has grown exponentially each year. This year, ECO has established new partnerships with dining, athletics, and housing to promote sustainability and

conservation in every facet of student life on campus. Further, ECO has completed more initiatives this year than any other year since its inception. ECO's mantra this year was: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The ECO Agency continues to be the leading force of environmentalism and sustainability on campus to better the University of Miami as a whole and our environment.



ECO's vision is to build an environmentally friendly campus, promote green habits, educate and further awareness of environmentally-friendly practices, and to have fun, live big, and be green.



Recycling Sports Video

A video was created across UMiami's sports teams to promote the importance of recycling on campus. To date, the video has over 25,000 views and has reached over 100,000 people.



Green Out

At the men's basketball, women's basketball and men's baseball games, ECO gave out green shirts and rally towels to promote going green on campus. The current chair and vice chair, Nika Hosseini and Lindsey Slavin threw the first pitch at a baseball game as well.



Food Day

ECO participated in food day with Green U to promote organic, local and healthy food.



Shower Timers

The timers will be installed over the summer in the freshman residence halls to reduce water consumption while spreading awareness.



Solar Panels on the Food Court

The 20kW solar array is installed and is now live on top of the food court. It will offset a portion of the food court's energy consumption.



LED Lighting Resolution Bill

A bill was passed unanimously in Senate that recommended UM's administration make LED-or-better lighting mandatory for all campus buildings, renovations and new construction.



LED Lighting

The expansion of LED lighting was spearheaded by ECO and has led to the retrofitting of the Wellness Center implementing the fixtures.



Weigh the Waste

In partnership with Dining, Weight the Waste addressed the over-consumption of food in our dining halls and strove to spread awareness regarding the issue.



Green Fair

In partnership with Green U, this event brought various aspects of sustainability and organizations to campus to spread awareness regarding what one can do in their own lives to go green.



Creation of Green Committee

A new sub-committee under ECO was created to address the growing number of students who were interested in environmentalism and wanted to assist in making this university a better place.



#InsideECO videos

These videos showed a glimpse of what it is like to be on ECO's board and what initiatives were being completed. It is a way to connect with the student body and to show our progress.



BUT WAIT...



**THERE'S
MORE**

ECO AGENCY PROJECTS

01

Dining Hall Awareness

Tips regarding going vegan for a day were placed in the dining halls to spread awareness on the environmental impacts on modifying one's diet.

02 Plastic Bag Recycling

Providing the opportunity to students to recycle plastic bags.

03

Reusable Water Bottles

In partnership with Green U, ECO distributed reusable water bottles to every freshman on campus.

04 Earth Week

The biggest event of the year, earth week brings out hundreds of students each day to spread awareness on environmental issues such as food, energy, and consumption.

05

Eco Tree

A tree is to be planted during earth week in commemoration of all those on campus who strive to grow and one day, change the world.

06

Creating of Food Network Recovery Organization

In partnership with Dining, ECO has created an organization that will assist in recovering food and donating it to local food banks and shelters.

07

Revamp of Green Sponsorship Program

The sponsorship program has increased exponentially and as a result has led to many more sustainable events by other organizations on campus.

09

PanHellenic Recycling

Improved recycling around the PanHellenic building was carried out.

08 Light Switch Stickers

Awareness stickers will be placed in the residence halls to remind students to turn off their lights in an effort to conserve energy.

10

Green Rat Trivia

A spin on typical trivia, the questions will be environmental in nature in an effort to educate students on pertinent environmental matters.

12

Tunnel of Oppression

The environmental room was a hit at the event and educated many students and staff on environmental problems across the globe.

13

Reuse Store

ReUse is when members of the campus community can donate or take any goods that they would like. At the end of the day, all remaining goods are donated to Goodwill.

11

Sustainable Dining Utensils

Working with dining to provide more sustainable dining utensils in the food court.

EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS

1

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ashley Pittaluga served as the student representative on the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs committee.

2

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gavin Grieb served as the representative on the Student Affairs Committee. This committee meets once a semester to determine major changes that would affect the general student body.

3

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVES

Henson Destine and Kristin Cilluffo served as the representatives. The faculty senate representatives aimed to strengthen the relationship between the faculty members as well as student leaders and organizations.

4

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Vikesh Patel served as the representative on this committee.

5

DEPARTMENT OF WELLNESS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Brandon Desousa served as the representative on this advisory board.

6

STUDENT BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Reneé Perez served as the representative on the Student Board of Publications.

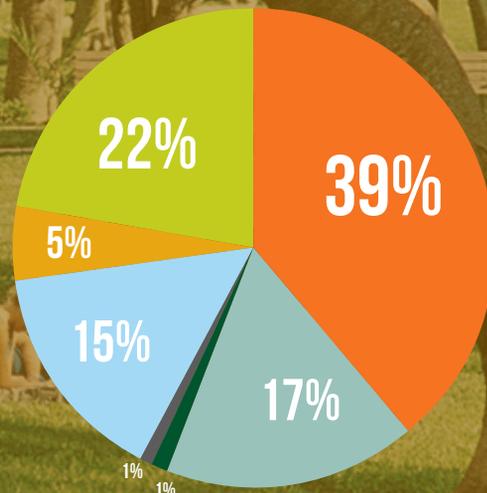


FINANCIAL REPORT

The Student Government members are elected officials who represent the student body, and it is our goal to only spend money on events and initiatives that fall under our mission statement.

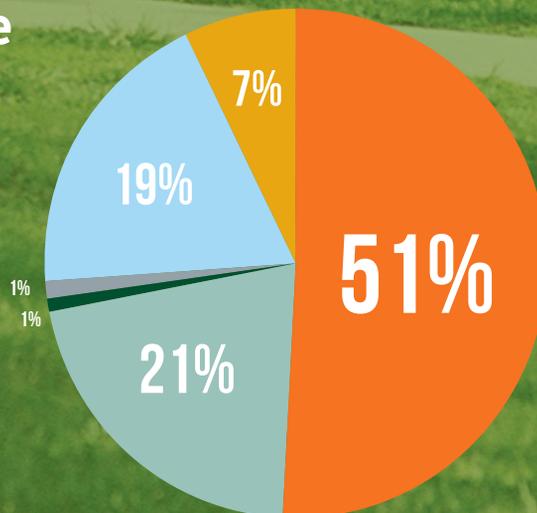
Fall Expenditure

- Emergency/Reserve Funds
- SAFAC Allocation
- Executive
- Legislative
- Judicial
- Elections Commission
- TIPAC



Spring Expenditure

- Emergency/Reserve Funds
- Executive
- Legislative
- Judicial
- Elections Commission
- TIPAC





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