

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



Address:

1330 Miller Drive, Suite 210A
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Phone:

305-284-3083



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"This year I have had the honor of working on the Executive Board of Student Government with a group of incredible leaders. Our mission this year was to ensure that every student was advocated for and that we were guaranteeing a positive change in our University. In this annual report, you will be able to read about some of the projects our organization has worked on and areas of campus we have been able to improve.

Having never been on Student Government in the past, I have had an incredible and eye-opening experience with a new sector of this campus. Student Government members are students that want to leave the University better than they entered it. I hope you can finish reading this annual report with a clear understanding of our efforts and successes."

- Caroline Smolkin, Executive at Large - Internal

Presidents' Letters

Hello Fellow 'Canes,

This year brought significant change to Student Government, both internally and externally. From the start, accountability, transparency, and accessibility were core values for our Executive Board. To accomplish this, the Board of Communications created monthly video progress reports to share the progress of our platform initiatives with the student body.

The Campus Liaison Council worked tirelessly to improve the student experience, with key accomplishments being the installation of permanent lighting towers in Red Parking lot, a comprehensive, University-wide, contract with Lyft, and allowing students to use their preferred name on CaneLink.

This year also saw the creation of Student Government's fourth agency, the Student Engagement Planning Agency, as a result of the successful pilot of the What Matters to U event series. Spearheaded by Keegan Gibson, What Matters to U brought more than 1200 students to learn about and discuss climate change and sea-level rise with Mr. Bill Nye, and race and film with Dr. Ken Jeong.

I'd like to give a special shout out to the keeper of the monies, Rafa Cariello. Without his careful management of our budget, none of these programs would have been possible. Finally, I'd like to thank our advisors, Heather Stevens, Brandon Gross, and Dean Ryan Holmes, and VP for Student Affairs, Dr. Patricia A. Whitely, for all their support.

I leave this organization incredibly proud of all the work by members of Student Government this year, and excited to watch the success of Emily Gossett, Millie Chokshi, Jason Kaplan, and the entire 2019 - 2020 Student Government Executive Board!

Evan de Joya, Student Government President 2018 - 2019



Hello Fellow 'Canes,

I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to be the incoming leader of our organization. I have always thought of Student Government as the heartbeat of our campus, the pulse of our student body. I am excited to make our community more inclusive and create a stronger sense of belonging amongst our members.

My goal is to make this the most inclusive and representative Student Government to date. This year we were excited to select our executive board through an application and interview process. This allowed us to broaden our leadership within our organization and include new faces that will help us take our first step closer to those goals. We hope that by establishing listening tours and roundtables that bring together student leaders, we can better connect to the students we represent. Through these and other initiatives, we want to make this campus a better place for everybody.

The best leaders lead by their choices and are defined by more than their titles. This is what I want all of us to embody as we move forward. I not only want to grow as a leader myself, but help you all grow as leaders as well. I know everybody in SG and beyond has the capacity to be the future of this campus. I hope that the legacy we leave for the future Student Governments is one of inclusivity, accomplishment, and compassion. I look forward to seeing how we grow individually and as an organization in the upcoming year, and I am proud to serve you all as your 2019-2020 Student Government President.

Emily Gossett, Student Government President 2019 - 2020

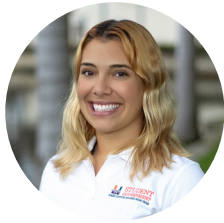


Executive Board

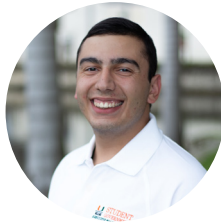
The Executive Board of Student Government works with the administration to create and implement new initiatives and ideas on campus. Additionally, the board works to be the voice of the student body to help foster the best college experience.



Evan de Joya
President



Catherine De Freitas
Vice President



Rafael Cariello
Treasurer



Emily Gossett
Chief of Staff



Milind Khurana
Speaker of the Senate



Sumra Wahid
Speaker Pro Tempore



Caroline Smolkin
Executive at Large -
Internal



Kyla Portnoy
Executive at Large -
External



Jason Kaplan
Director of
Communications



Keegan Gibson
Director of Academic
Affairs



Gyles Ward
Director of University
Affairs



Shaurya Lai
Chief Justice



Valeria Velasco
Category 5 Chair



Sianna Vacca
ECO Chair



Anuj Shah
Elections Commissioner

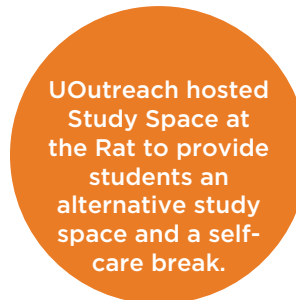
Highlights



Cat 5 hosted a Q&A at the Rat with head football coach Manny Diaz to discuss TNM.



The Board of Communications began publishing monthly progress reports to promote work within SG.



UOutreach hosted Study Space at the Rat to provide students an alternative study space and a self-care break.



The Student Engagement Planning Agency held the first What Matters To U event featuring Bill Nye.



FLC worked to install fans at the Rat in response to demand for a more comfortable outdoor experience.



ALC collaborated with academic partners to publish course evaluations.

Legislative Branch

Through the leadership of the Speaker, Speaker Pro Tempore and the Council of Chairs, Senate used different methods such as social media, free food and tabling to reach out to students. They co-sponsored several organization-wide events. Senate's hope was to explore the initiatives that best encompassed student needs, so that senators could more effectively do their jobs as student representatives. Even though the year is coming to a close, their jobs are not. Senate will continue to pursue and complete initiatives that they have started and start new initiatives as addressed in meetings. As representatives of the student body, Senate believes that they can help create the UM that students desire and deserve.



"Senators take on the responsibility of hearing out what it is the students want and coming up with ways to make school a better environment for them. Something I've learned from my time in Senate and as Speaker Pro Tempore is that there isn't really a body of students who cares more for their fellow 'Canes than those who become Senators. It isn't always an easy job, and it takes some time to get projects done, but the changes Senate can make impact the entire school, whether we realize it or not."

- Sumra Wahid, Speaker Pro Tempore



The University Affairs Committee worked closely with the administration to begin conversations with Pharmabox in efforts to bring a medication vending machine to campus. The project has been approved for a trial run beginning next semester.

The Feminine Hygiene Project was started in the University Affairs committee of Senate. Following a trial period of six weeks, the Senate was able to present to President Frenk and have it approved by the administration. There are now currently 20+ free feminine hygiene dispensers in bathrooms, including gender-neutral, across campus.



The University Affairs Committee worked with Facilities to repair existing and add additional charging stations to the University Center and Shalala Student Center so that students have more places to charge their phones and computers while studying.

Committee Chairs:

University Affairs - Sri Ravipati

Academic Affairs - Ashlyn Coleman

Public Relations - Abigail Adeleke

Policy and Finance - Katie Kean

Judicial Branch

The Supreme Court is the judicial branch of the University of Miami Student Government. It consists of one Chief Justice, eight Associate Justices and a Clerk of the Court. It addresses cases and appeals pertaining to the Student Government and upholds the provisions and powers of the Student Government Constitution and Statutes. Our main focus is ensuring ethical and unbiased conduct between all.

The Court also has the power of judicial review, which is the ability to invalidate a statute that violates a provision of the constitution. In addition, the Court updates the constitution after a bill or amendment has passed by the Senate. With the guidance of the Student Government advisors, the Court works on maintaining and upholding the Constitution and Statutes so that they remain updated and relevant.

For the upcoming academic year, the Supreme Court is working with the Elections Commission to revise and update the SG statutes. They are excited to see the final outcome of this project.



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 the Elections Commission are to review and approve all SG applications and campaign materials, to enforce elections codes, and to plan and organize election events, including Meet the Candidates and executive ticket debates. In addition, the Elections Commission determines the polling times and locations, oversees polling sites, tabulates all votes and announces elections results.



3587

Votes in Spring
Elections

2019

Highest Voter
Turnout in UM
History

How did the Elections Commission achieve the highest voter turnout of UM History this year?

- Tabling every day of elections
- Anuj's promise to shave his head garnered over 600 votes

How will the Elections Commission improve voting next year?

- Rewrite the elections codes to make them more understandable and user-friendly
- Host a live webinar teaching people how to run for elected positions within Student Government with anonymous viewership



"I wish more people knew that the Elections Commission was actually a part of Student Government, and that we do more than just run the elections. We are an extremely diverse group of people and are one of the only branches of SG that actively tries to increase student involvement. I also wish that people knew that it was not a huge task to come out and vote as it takes less than a minute."

-Anuj Shah, Elections Commissioner

Academic Liasion Council

The Academic Liaison Council (ALC) is comprised of 12 students from all of the undergraduate schools and colleges and other departments at the University of Miami. The liaisons serve as the points of contact between different academic areas and Student Government. They work to facilitate and coordinate an overall understanding of all the current academic projects and initiatives within all aspects of Student Government.

Projects ALC worked on this year include:

- Publishing course evaluation data
- Standardizing course evaluation forms across the university
- Creating professional development resources for pre-medical students
- Establishing a pre-law program
- Hosting Q&As with the Office of Financial Assistance
- Hosting 3D printing workshops with UMaker
- Improving orientation programming in the School of Education and Human Development
- Increasing advising opportunities in School of Nursing and Health Studies



Campus Liasion Council

The Campus Liaison Council (CLC) is comprised of 12 students who work with administrators and decision-makers across campus. They work on projects and initiatives to better the student and campus experience and develop relationships that enable Student Government to be an asset to the University of Miami community.

Some of CLC's most notable achievements include:

- Working with the Lennar Center to provide date rape kits
- Working with the Information Technology department to allow students to use their preferred name on Canelink
- Increase the printing queue from a 12 to a 24-hour period

In the coming year, CLC will continue its work to:

- Provide two new dining options students would like to see in the Lakeside Village
- Establish a relationship with Lyft to provide discounted rides to students



Freshman Leadership Council

Led by the Vice President and four Project Coordinators, members of the Freshman Leadership Council (FLC) gain hands-on experience in completing projects and initiatives to enhance student life on campus. The FLC members are paired up to work on a project throughout the year. They also learn a lot about leadership through various activities as well as from guest speakers from across campus. FLC is a great first step in getting involved on campus!



"I wanted this job because FLC was my first real community that welcomed and embraced me on campus. I wanted to be able to provide a similar experience for other freshmen. By being a point of contact and help for someone, my hope was to make a relatively large and diverse community feel like home."

-James Rauh, Project Coordinator

UBazaar

Ashley Howell, Ajiri Uzere and Haashim Khurram

"This project has taught us time management skills, professionalism, and team work. There were so many tasks associated with this project and my group did a great job of dividing them and having them all completed. We were able to successfully get the vendors for our spring UBazaar which is also another huge accomplishment."

Student Discount Cards

Olivia Zukowski and Nick Kalinowski

"This project was so exciting to complete! It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the greater Miami community and find discounts from vendors and stores that members of our student body would find useful. Having a tangible card that was eco-friendly to give out also definitely elevated the experience!"

Fans at the Rat

Robert DiCaprio and Aneesh Shinkre

"This project has been an amazing experience because we've been able to directly work with the manager of the Rat. Our project once completed will benefit all students that go to the Rat. Hopefully our project will leave a long-lasting effect on campus."



"I applied to be an FLC project coordinator because I wanted to be a part of the incoming freshman's leadership development experience. Understanding that becoming a leader on campus has been a process led by various mentors in my life, I wanted to be that person for someone else as well."

-Albany Muria, Project Coordinator

Board of Communications

Comprised of ten members, the Board of Communications coordinates all external communications for Student Government. The goal of the board is to inform students of ongoing SG and administrative initiatives that impact the campus community. This board works to directly connect the student body to administration through strategic use of communication channels.



1766

Instagram Followers



2018

First Hot Seat Video
Posted



4909

Facebook Likes

Hot Seat was a new video series that paired members of Student Government with university administrators in a candid Q&A.



The Board of Communications promoted transparency by publishing monthly progress reports in which members of SG shared updates on their works in progress.

Members of the Board of Communication also worked to bring you this annual report!

UOutreach

The goal of UOutreach is to support students, collaborate with organizations, and reach out to the student body through campus-wide programs. Each semester UOutreach leads Student Government Awareness Week, a week of events centered around interacting with students and working with other agencies and organizations such as ECO, Category 5, and COISO. Other UOutreach events include Stickers for Suggestions, Donut Forget To Vote, and Study Space at the Rat.



“Being on Outreach is a humbling, thrilling, and rewarding experience. As a team, we work to disseminate information to the student body and excite individuals about SG. Not only do we understand the inner workings of SG through working together on initiatives, but we engage countless students, showing them how impactful their voices can be. I am so thankful for my outreach team, and their continuous dedication to our UM community.”

- **Spencer Schwartz, Committee Member**

ECO Agency

The Energy and Conservation Organization agency creates and implements environmental initiatives that promote sustainable living and a greener future. They are a leading force in educating and furthering awareness of environmentally-friendly practices and green habits. ECO's subcommittees are the Green Committee and ECO Rep program, which aid them in furthering environmental causes on campus.



Garnier and Terracycle teamed up with us to promote plastic reduction and recycling/reusing/reducing. They donated money, tents, tools, wheelbarrows and flower beds made out of recycled beauty products. Employees and Miami influencers helped us in the garden for a day of service and promoted the space to their respected platforms.



Board member Deven Reyes completed his initiative to bring two grow-walls to The U. They can be seen in the Whitten University Center and the 2nd floor of the Shalala Student Center.

Starbucks on campus now donates their used coffee grounds, which we are able to compost in the arboretum.



National Geographic came to UM for the inaugural on-campus program. ECO hosted "The Last Straw" table where we distributed metal, reusable straws to students, scientists and storytellers.

Category 5

Category 5 is the spirit programming board focused on preserving and implementing spirit and traditions relating to our Division 1 athletics 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 memorable student

Student Fan Zone is an alternative tailgate program that allows students to partake in tailgate food and activities in a free and safe environment every home football game.



Category 5 held a total of 45 events this year! These events ranged from giveaways, to pep rallies, to Q&As with former and current members of the Miami athletics team. This was the first year Category 5 had a student section for baseball and soccer.



This year we broke the Women's Basketball attendance record with over 400 students at our game against Notre Dame!



Category 5 held a luncheon to engage with Board of Trustees member Jonathan Vilma. He spoke to his time as a football player at the University of Miami and how it has shaped his career in athletics.



Category 5 Chair Valeria Velasco held a Q&A session to get to know new head football coach Manny Diaz and ask about [#TheNewMiami](#).



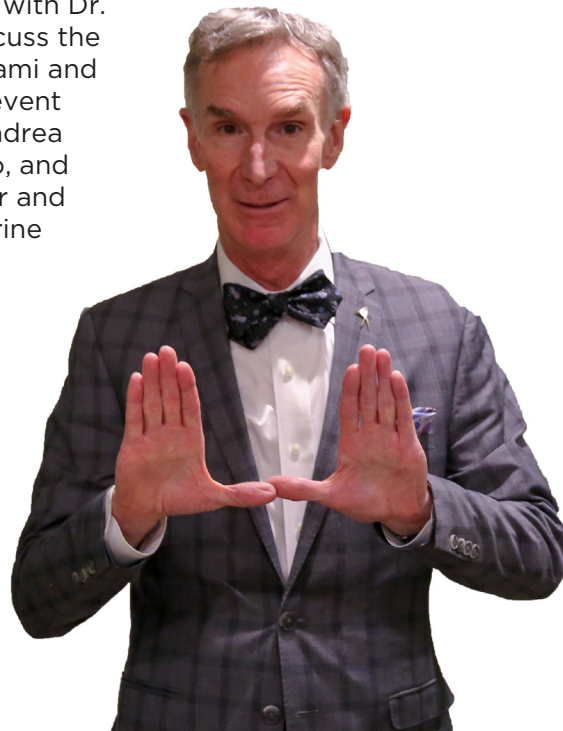
Student Engagement Planning Agency

The Student Engagement Planning Agency (SEPA) plans large-scale events to engage students including, but not limited to, What Matters To U (WMTU). SEPA looks forward to serving as Student Government's 4th Agency in the coming year and providing more WMTU events and meaningful programming.



WMTU is a new and innovative discussion series where Student Government brings thought-leaders, change-makers, and innovators to engage with and explore topics that matter to U.

WMTU held its inaugural event with Dr. Bill Nye on February 7th to discuss the effects of climate change in Miami and across the United States. This event was moderated by students Andrea Candelaria and Jack Camoratto, and Professor Sam Purkis, Professor and Chair of the Department of Marine Geosciences.



The second event with Ken Jeong will take place on April 11th. This event will be a discussion of race and film in light of the recent success of his projects such as Crazy Rich Asians. This event will be moderated by Jack Camoratto and Mr. Winston Warrior, a renowned lecturer in the School of Communication.



External Appointments

Faculty Senate (FS) Representative
Appointee: Evan de Joya

Faculty Senate Representative
Appointee: Keegan Gibson

FS University Curriculum Committee Student Representative
Appointee: Keegan Gibson

FS Student Affairs Committee Student Representative
Appointee: Evan de Joya

Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee Student Representative
Appointee: Millie Chokshi

Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Student Representative
Appointee: Keegan Gibson

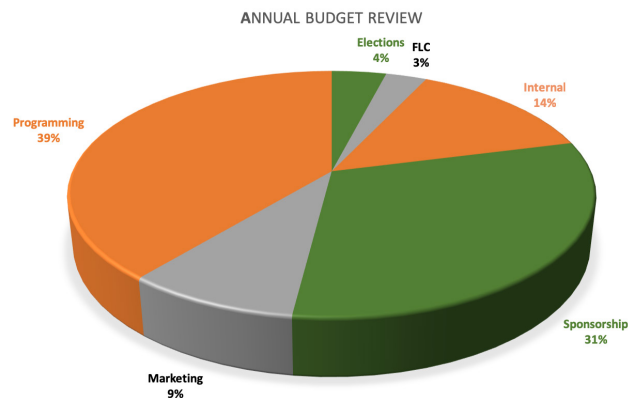
WVUM Advisory Board
Appointee: Catherine De Freitas

Board of Student Publications
Appointee: Jason Kaplan

President's Coalition on Sexual Assault Prevention and Education
Appointee: Caroline Smolkin

Department of Wellness and Recreation Advisory Board
Appointee: Jessica Bayuk

Finances



Thank You Brandon

Student Government is very lucky to have had Brandon Gross as an advisor. From his time as UM's 2008-09 SG President to serving as the Director of Events and Senior Associate Director of the Student Center Complex, Brandon has always worked to make our campus a better place for the student body. We know he will accomplish great things in this next phase of his life. Thank you for all you've done for us!

"Brandon Gross is much more than just a great advisor, he's a role model, inspiration and a friend. Working with and learning from Brandon was such a privilege, as his love for improving the University and more importantly for providing endless support for his fellow 'Canes, was always present. I wouldn't be the person that I am today or made it nearly as far in life without Brandon by my side, and for that I am eternally grateful."

-Brianna Hathaway, SG President 2015-2016

"Brandon had a way of making us think critically, asking questions to ensure our projects were warranted and solved a problem. Above all, I will always appreciate him for supporting our decisions and going to bat for us. SG will truly miss out on your guidance, best of luck to you on your next adventure, King of the SCC."

- Vikesh Patel, SG President 2016-2017

"Working with Brandon, you know you're always going to get three things: supported, sarcasm, and challenged. It won't always be in that order, but we're all better for it. No one has the heart for the 'Canes like Brandon and I'm lucky to have worked with him."

- Adrian Nuñez, SG President 2017-2018





We would like to recognize our advisors for their support and mentorship in our endeavors this school year. Thank you!



Dean Ryan Holmes



Heather Stevens