

ANNUAL REPORT



U STUDENT
MIAMI GOVERNMENT

2020 - 2021

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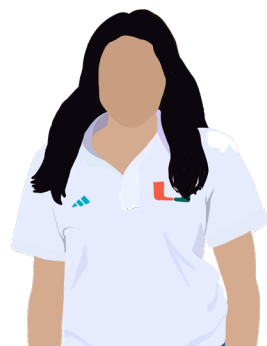
EXECUTIVE BOARD

ABIGAIL ADELEKE



PRESIDENT

SHIRLEY GELMAN



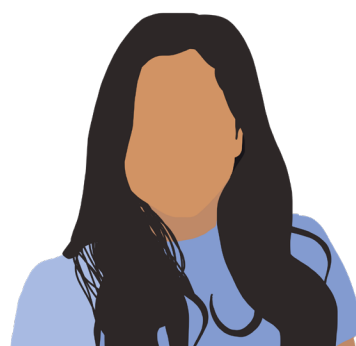
VICE-PRESIDENT

AMANDA RODRIGUEZ



TREASURER

KRUTI PATEL



ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

JASON PEREZ



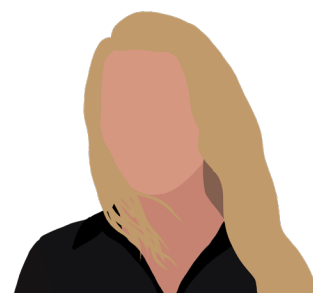
DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

JACOB LI



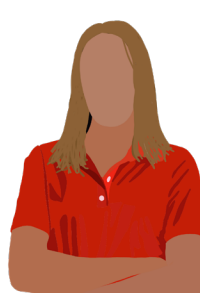
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

KINNON MCGRATH



CHIEF JUSTICE

ALEX VALEN



EXECUTIVE AT LARGE INTERNAL

LONDON COLES



DIRECTOR OF DEI

MATTINGLY BARTOLE



CAT 5 CHAIR

SOFIA MESA



ECO CHAIR

SPENCER SCHWARTZ



WHAT MATTERS TO U CHAIR

MICHELLE MARINO



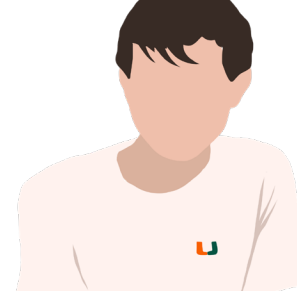
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

SABRINA GINSBURG



CHIEF OF STAFF

ALEX LABARBERA



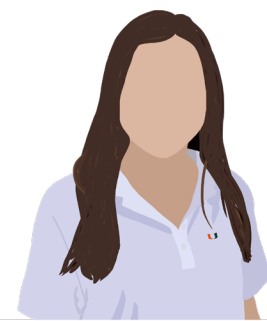
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

SHREY PATEL



SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

SOPHIA GOMEZ



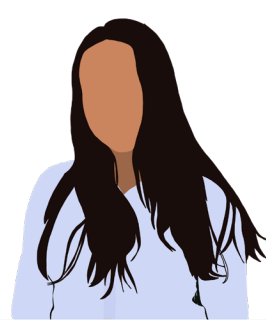
EXECUTIVE AT LARGE EXTERNAL

SAMANTHA JIMENEZ



DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

JAIME HARN



CHIEF JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Student Government,

I hope you all are well and that this letter finds you in good health. I would like to say that I am so proud of each and every one of you. This school year has truly been unprecedented but each and every one of you have met the challenges, the highs and lows, the ups and downs. Being your President has been one of the greatest accomplishments of my entire life. Seeing you all step into the suite to grab a snack, study or sit on a zoom call, made my days and weeks so much better. Can I let you in on a little secret? Assuming this role was very scary. Nobody could have ever predicted that we would face a racial and viral pandemic. A pandemic that would keep us isolated and change the course of our lives. But as I write this letter, I am so blessed and grateful to work with some of the best student leaders in the world. Individuals that will schedule last minute zoom meetings to pivot on an event and will be willing to answer my late night emails and texts. Student leaders that are willing to draft 10 page proposals and write bills that will impact our university forever. Whether you attended every committee meeting or the ones you could, you made our organization better. You set the standard of what it means to be a caring, thoughtful and dynamic leader. You made this year the best it could possibly be. Though we got a lot of nos and not right now, you didn't give up. You did what you could with the situation we had in front of us. You made this organization truly great. Now as I end my term as President and pass on the baton to President-Elect Landon Coles, I would like to leave you with one of my favorite quotes. It says, "All the water in the oceans cannot sink a ship unless it gets inside. Nor can all the trouble in the world harm us unless it gets within us." - Eugene Patterson. When we decide to fix our eyes on what we can control versus what we can't, we stand out. And that's exactly what you all did. I won't be "retiring" as they say (Landon specifically said this lol) so let's chat, connect, and continue to bounce ideas off each other. I will always love SG, my first real home at the "U." Love you, Go Canes and as always let me know if you need anything!

All the best and continued health,

Abigail Adeleke
SG President 2020-2021



HIGHLIGHTS



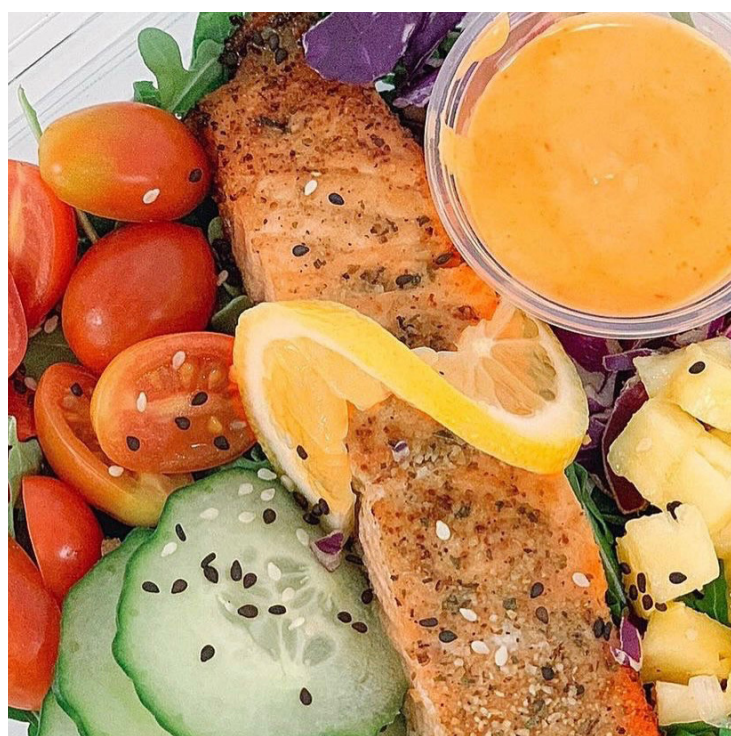
While we may have seen some campus eateries go, Daybreak, the new waffle themed spot, opened in Lakeside Village during the Spring semester! Featuring both savory and sweet waffles it is already a big hit on campus. Their menu includes unique waffles such as Pepperoni Pizza or even S'mores. For students who do not have time to spare there is an easy grab & go section with snacks and drinks as well!

This year Student Government partnered with Above the Bar to host "Fundraising the Bar," a campaign to increase pre-law resources on campus. The goal of the initiative was to raise \$1500 to buy Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) preparation materials and donate them to the Richter Library for all University of Miami students to use free of charge. The fundraiser ended with \$868 in donations along with many physical material donations.



Category 5 was a trailblazer sports entertainment during this time. Cat 5 utilized spray-painted socially distant sections to encourage an in-person watch party. This was one of the many ways our school spirit continued within the unconventional year!

The Corner Deli, and UM Dining, listened to students and expanded their meal options in the food court. New options such as fresh roasted salmon salads, spicy tuna rice bowls, and healthy chicken wraps made this old spot a fresh new place for students to grab food.



COVID-19



During the Covid-19 pandemic University of Miami took diligent and unprecedented efforts to continue to mirror our education as similar as possible to every year before. While we may have envisioned a different year, through our community efforts we have managed to make our school year impactful and memorable. Our year started with a mandatory online course to prepare our community for arriving back on campus.

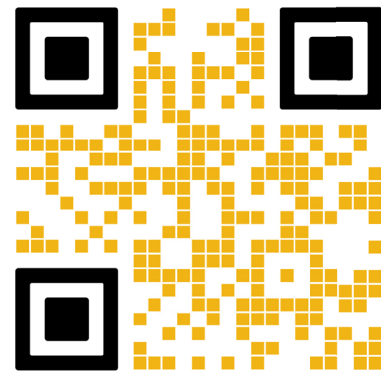
We were introduced to the new safety measures that would soon become our norm - daily symptom checks, weekly mandatory testing, Covid-19 compliance forms, mask requirements, and countless sanitizing stations to name a few. Between the University's strong efforts, and our 'Canes care for 'Canes mentality, we had a successful year. Through socially distanced and virtual events, our community remained strongly unified and motivated to follow rules, requirements, and uphold our promise to our community. Student Government also played a crucial role in COVID-19 mitigation and advocacy this year.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

SCAN CODES TO CHECK OUT MONTHLY UPDATES

JUNE
2020



LIVE Q & A
WITH PRESIDENT
ADELEKE & DR.
WHITELY

SEPTEMBER
MONTHLY
PROGRESS
REPORT



SEP
2020

OCT
2020



OCTOBER
MONTHLY
PROGRESS
REPORT

THE
UPDATE
PART 1



MARCH
2021

APRIL
2021



THE
UPDATE
PART 2



APRIL
2021

TAKEAWAY:

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, Student Government's priority was to be transparent as possible and communicate effectively with the student body. In order to keep everybody involved, the executive board promised to publish monthly progress reports, but as the year transitioned and Instagram Reels gained popularity- the reports became Reels.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch is comprised of Senate, which is made up of students from various areas of campus. There are over 50 senators representing students by Class, College or School, Commuter or Resident and much more. 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. 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.



Passed a bill to record class lectures at the University of Miami, and ban the use of Respondus Lockdown Monitor.



Funded seven events hosted by student organizations on-campus within the past year, totaling \$3,162.18 in co-sponsorship funding for events like United Nations Day, Veterans Week, Greek Week, and more.

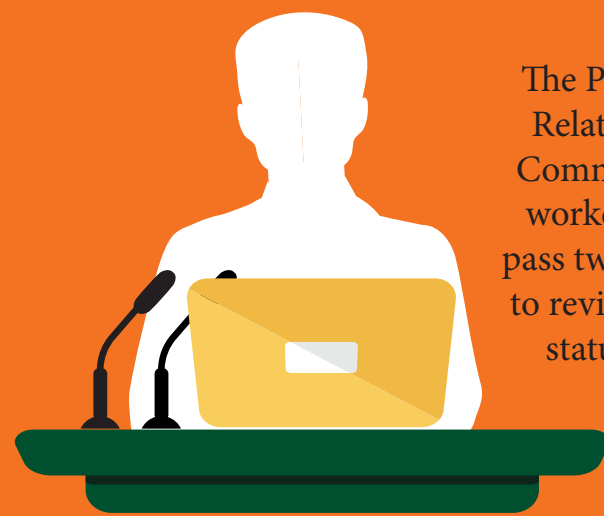


COVID-19 Wristband Bill: pushed for administration to enforce wristbands more uniformly around campus.

Worked with the Elections Commission on Election Codes to make them more straightforward, include requirements for better communication between EC and candidates, and boost accountability of supporter transgressions.



The Public Relations Committee worked to pass two bills to revise the statutes.



- 1: to revise the duties of senators in which they are now required to engage in at least two constituency engagement activities per semester.
- 2: to revise the duties of the committee to specify and allow flexibility for the types of events they must execute each semester.



Co-Sponsorship Voting Process amendment: avoid potential conflicts-of-interest by requiring all those within the Student Organization that is presenting to be recused from the room during voting procedure.

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. Its 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.

Initiatives:

In 2020-2021, one of the big initiatives was reviewing and rewriting the Constitution. The Constitution Revision Commission, chaired by Jaime Harn, and made up of one person from each branch of Student Government went through the Constitution and Statutes section by section to update wording, fix inconsistencies, and amend parts that were outdated. They also held two open meetings so that people from all branches of SG can come and give suggestions, and all changes were unanimously voted on. As a court, they wrote three advisory opinions this year: two were about adding unique population seats to the Senate— one for student employees and one for students with disabilities. The other advisory opinion was regarding the future role of the VP and if it should entail being Speaker of the Senate rather than head of FLC.



Virtual Events:

CRC held two open meetings this year— one in the fall and one in the spring. They had people from all branches, including the Senate, DEI, and FLC come out and give us suggestions. They explained the process of revising the Constitution and what changes we could make. After the meeting, they discussed and voted on the suggestions.

ELECTIONS COMMISSION



The purpose of the Student Government Elections Commission is to organize and coordinate all aspects of the 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.

The SGEC also authored four Senate bills that modified the Elections Codes. The Campaigning section of the Codes were significantly reworded to make it straightforward and easier to understand for all. On top of these projects, the commission hosted numerous virtual events over the year, including in person Senate and Executive position results. All Voting was done on Engage due to COVID-19, with winners for Spring Elections announced at the Lakeside Patio as well as streamed live on Instagram. In the Spring, there were approximately 1,430 votes cast!

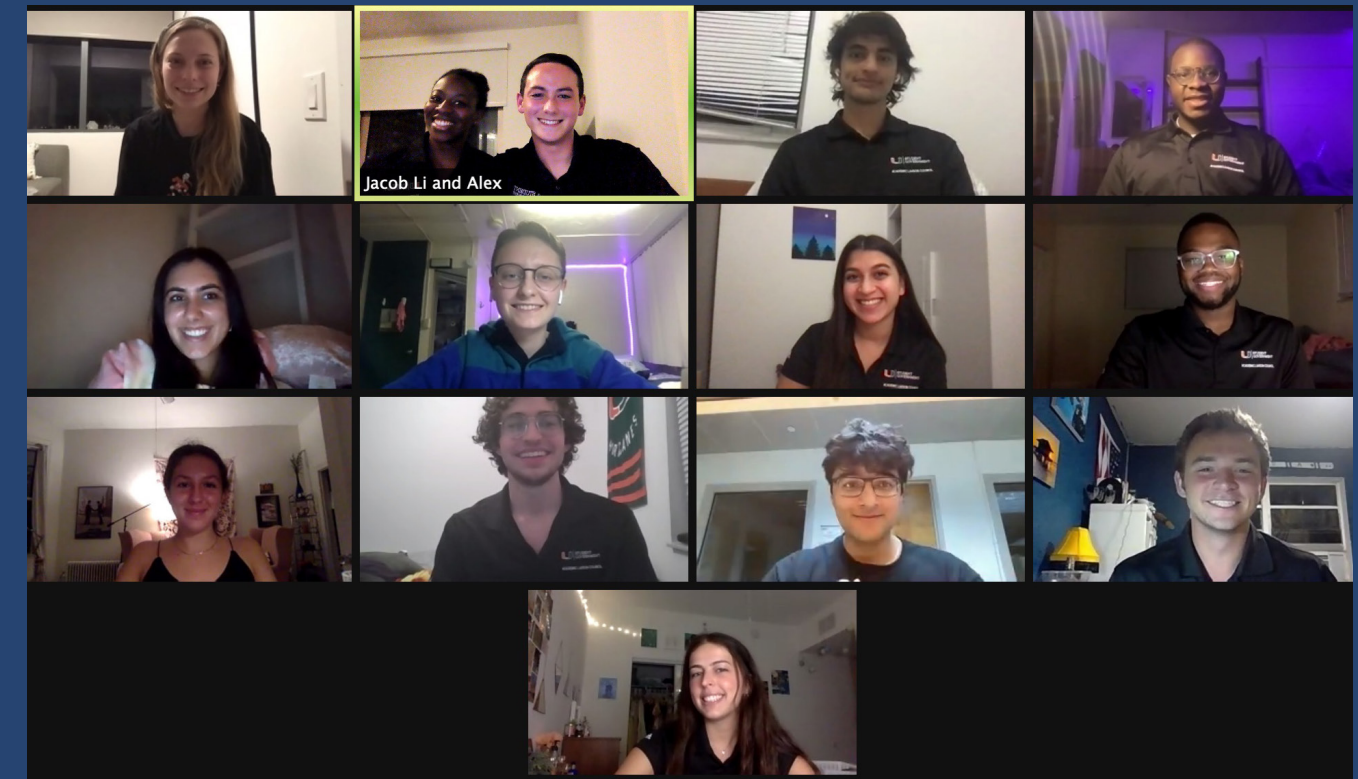


Check out the election results

VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE



ACADEMIC LIAISON COUNCIL



The Academic Liaison Council leads academic related initiatives at the university. They worked tremendously this year to enhance the student experience here at the University of Miami. They weaved themselves through different areas of the academic system - from library resources, to academic advising.

The group planned the Academic Advising Bootcamp in the vision of president Adeleke, which aimed to train advisors to develop basic competency in the areas of various schools and colleges within the University. This should help to accomplish a smooth transition between schools and within their own school of major. The ALC came up with this initiative as a solution in response to a survey in which it was asked for provision of a centralized advising office. Hopefully it will come to fruition soon but it is a great start!

ALC also worked on a career fair aimed to help international students in their job search. They make up 11% of the student population and although they make a large percentage of the student population, they have different requirements for applying and finding jobs after graduation. ALC realizes the importance of giving international students a fair chance at obtaining a job and works to close the gap between the working world and that of a recent graduate from the university.

Pre- Med and Pre Law resources were expanded with the help of ALC this year as the group worked towards making test prep material for both tracks available for check out at our library. They are also forming a Pre- Law Mentorship program with the University of Miami School of Law.

Speaking of mentorships, ALC and the Frost School of Music has launched a Frost mentorship program for incoming Frost students and new students are assigned mentors who can help to navigate their journey throughout their undergraduate career.

They have also partnered with the School of Education to launch a mentorship program for new students.

The ALC was tasked with creating the application for a new Student Council under the School of Nursing and Health Studies as well as selecting members to head the first ever council.

Lastly, ALC worked towards a gift fund for the School of Communications. They were able to secure funding and create an initiative to fund students' academic needs within the school. Students in need of equipment for film/ editing etc. can apply to the gift fund beginning Fall 2021 and if eligible, can be chosen to receive funds to enhance their academic endeavors.

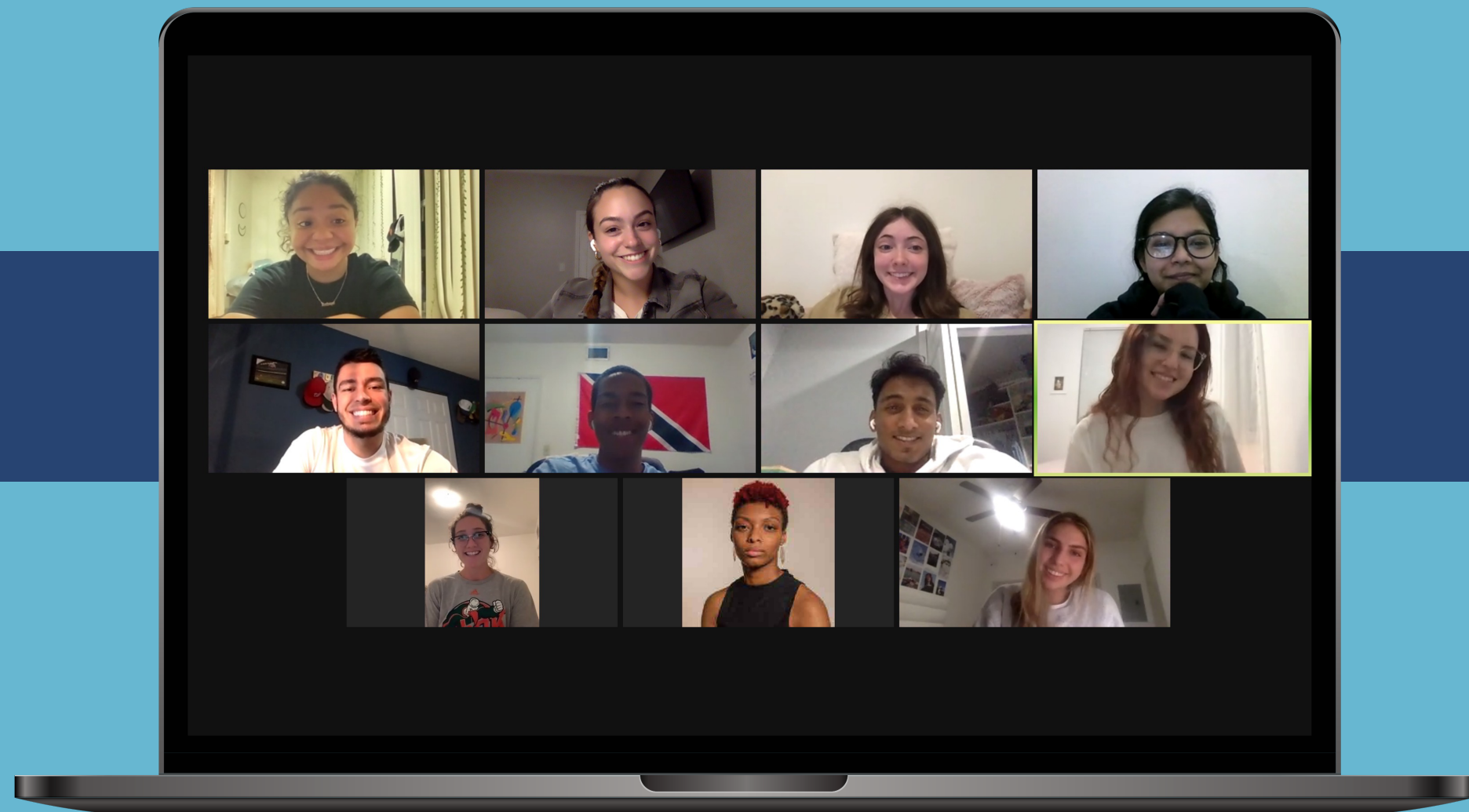


CAMPUS LIAISON COUNCIL

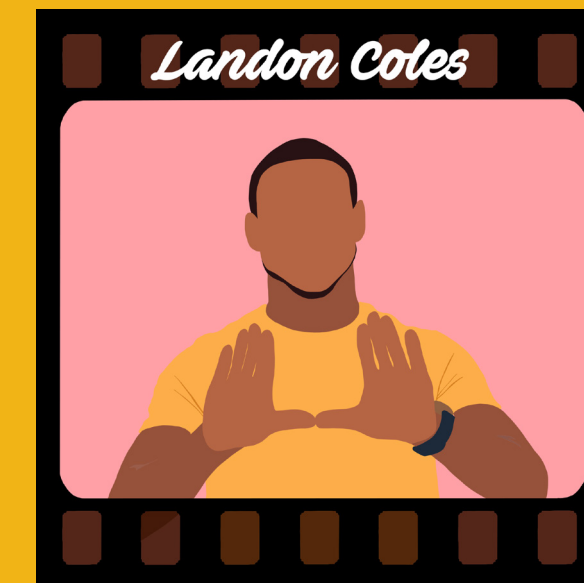
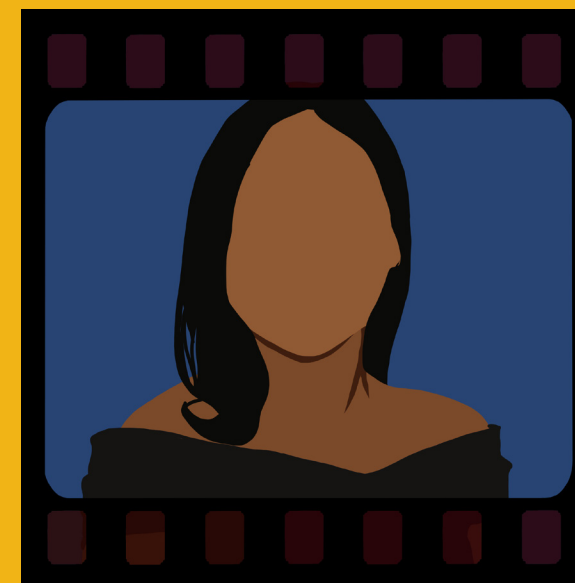
The Campus Liaison Council leads campus related initiatives at the university. They worked on quite a few initiatives in order to enhance student life at the U ! The group worked with administration in order to lift the parking lot restrictions with the exception of the red and purple in order to better accommodate students. Speaking of transportation, the parking and transportation liaisons worked with Spin and administration in order to increase the usage of electric scooters on

campus. An informal agreement has been established to work with Student Government to increase safety and knowledge of the use of electric scooters. They also worked with administration and the Butler Center to organize shuttle service for students during early voting and voting week. The council also worked to increase the library reservation system from 4 hours to 8 hours to better accommodate the commuter students and their working time. They also helped extend the library curfew from 8 pm on Sundays to 10:30 pm.

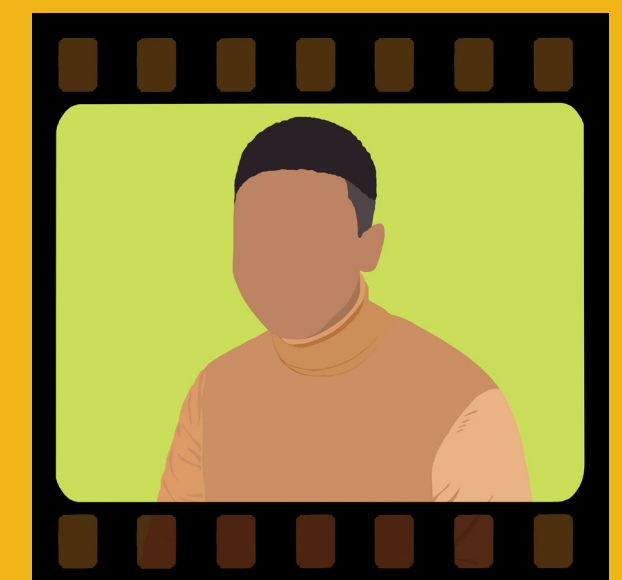
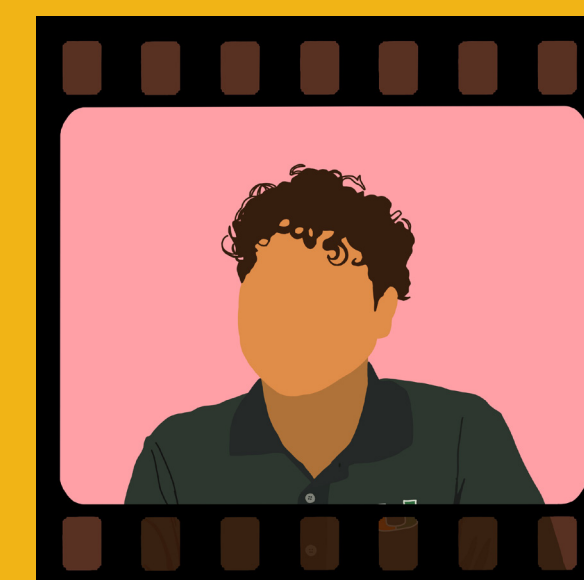
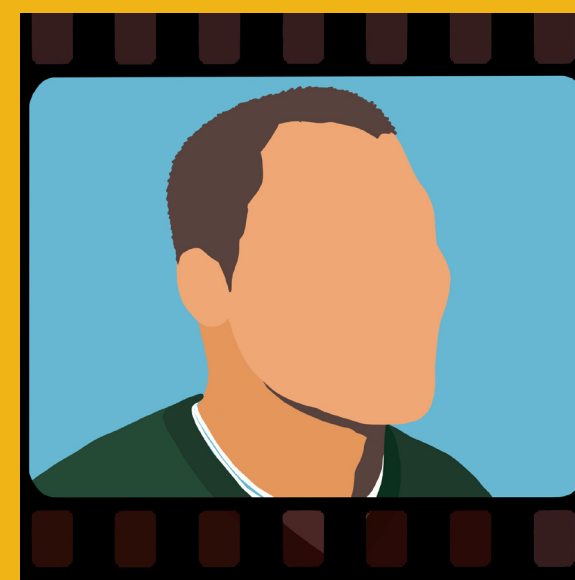
THE CAMPUS LIAISON COUNCIL LED MANY MORE INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION, MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, AND CLEANING SUPPLIES ON CAMPUS..



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council engages and advocates for underrepresented and marginalized populations at the university. This year, DEI created SG Diversity Reels in order to foster awareness of various topics concerning diversity, equity and inclusion via Instagram Lives conducted by DEI council members. The council also created a Student Government Listening Tours Layout Document which outlines the proper procedures to conduct a successful listening tour. The Office of Disability Services secures more funding, staff and resources after they were cut due the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to DEI. In addition to this, the group laid the groundwork to create a comprehensive resource to be given to all incoming freshmen with disabilities that specifies disability resources, accessible classrooms and housing information on campus. Two surveys were created by DEI- An SG demographic survey and n SG culture of belonging survey. The goal of these surveys was to get an accurate depiction of the demographic makeup of the organization, as well as to get a sense of how comfortable the members feel within the organization. DEI also implemented a diversity calendar that honored different communities each month. Finally, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council curated and designed a presentation which highlights diversity and inclusion for Student Government's fall retreat.



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!



FLC PROJECTS

The Freshman Leadership Council was assigned projects to work on throughout the year. Their Wellness Wednesday team was tasked to bring awareness and excitement to Wellness Wednesdays, in which they created a TikTok to hype it up! The Shalala Student Center second floor open house project is working on adding to the Student Government Freshman Leadership Council website a place for all student organizations that are on the second floor so people can learn more about the student organizations! FLC also worked with the new UPS store management to help them with PR and marketing as well as logistical troubleshooting. The SG Programming project had two events in which they planned an internal FLC holiday party and did the SG Palentines Day graphic to help spread some love to the SG family for Valentines Day! The SG apparel team worked really hard to create a T-shirt that is of no extra charge to SG members!. The SG Gives Back team is still working on finding a cause for SG to support this year!



VIRTUAL EVENTS

FLC had three main virtual events this year! The first was the SG Outreach's team project where they were tasked to collaborate with the United Black Students Freshman Leadership Academy to connect the two groups and learn more about each other's identities. Their second event was an internal FLC Shark Tank competition, where each member of the council was placed in a group where they pitched new project ideas to the Student Government Executive Board. Lastly, they had an FLC alumni meeting where previous FLC members were invited to come to their meeting, share about their experience, and give advice to current FLC members.

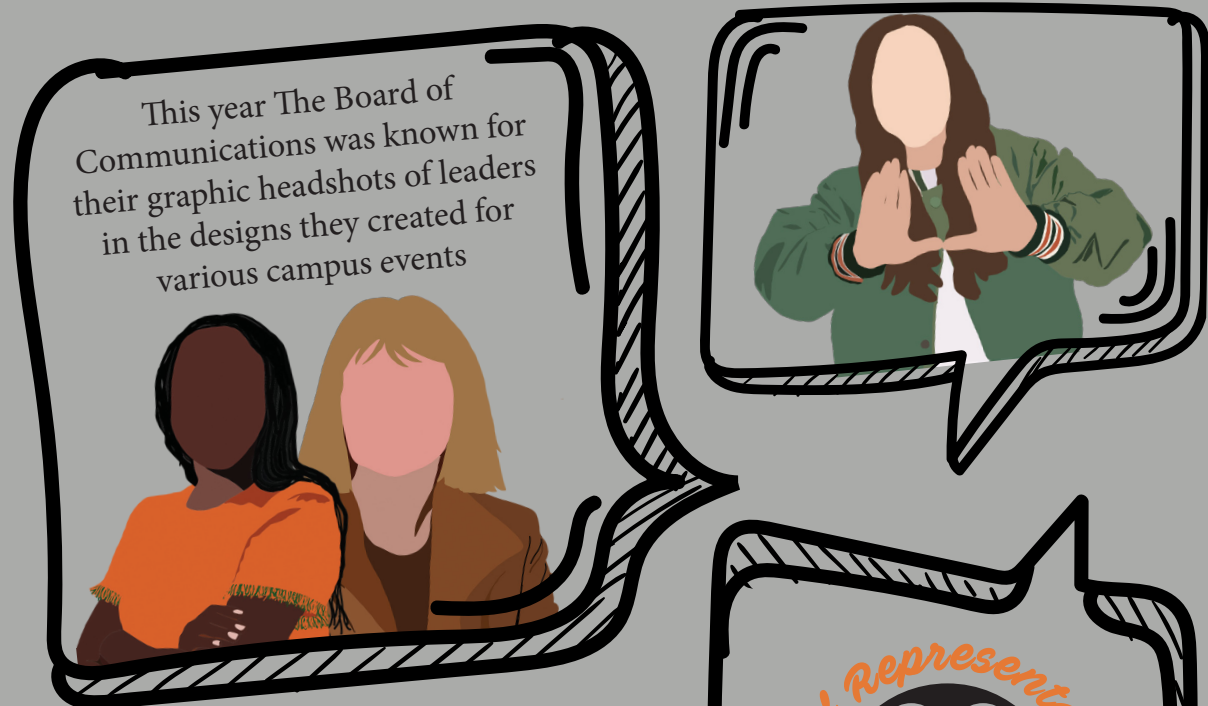
OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee's primary focus is to create innovative and engaging programming to spread the word about Student Government to fellow 'Canes. This year they hosted 3 virtual events and 3 in-person events. In addition to tabling events outside of the Shalala Student Center, the committee transitioned the study space at the Rat to Semester-Send Off. They also collaborated with other organizations, branches and agencies in Student Government for SG Did that Week and put on a virtual UM trivia night!



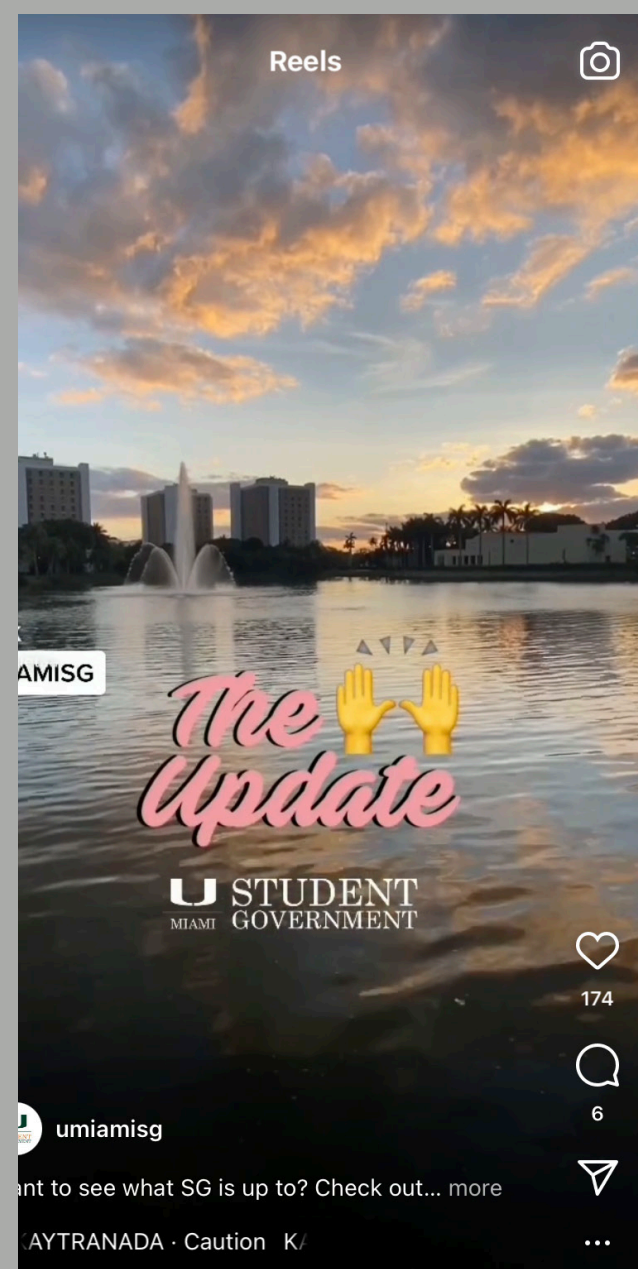
BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Comprised of thirteen members, the all female 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. This year, the Board of Communications set out to create and implement a brand guide strategy for designing graphics, creating merchandise and the new video series, “The Update” and overall engaging more on social media platforms with students.



This year The Board of Communications was known for their graphic headshots of leaders in the designs they created for various campus events

New and modern merchandise was also designed in the form of sweatshirts and sweatpants to appeal to the current clothing trends among students.



This board also transformed the traditional Monthly Progress Reports into a more modern version known as “The Update” while creatively utilizing Instagram Reels.

CAT5 CATEGORY



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 interactions.

CATEGORY 5 EVENTS

Category 5 held a total of 11 in-person events this year! These events involved giveaways, food, socially distanced fan engagement, and included the band and spirit squads to provide a safe gameday experience as close to a gameday at Hard Rock Stadium as possible. They created the Hurricane Gameday in-person on-campus experience for students to enjoy ‘Canes football games. Category 5 was thrilled to collaborate with the Frost Band of the Hour again for the Celebrate the U pep rally. They also partnered with the Homecoming Executive Committee for several giveaways to enhance the love of our Alma Mater among the student body. The Olympic Sports Days was also revamped to maximize safety, engagement, spirit, and support for our Olympic Sports athletes. Cookies with Cat 5 was Category 5’s first event of its kind, and featured an in-person giveaway with a virtual challenge for students to decorate their cookies and submit them for the chance to win an additional giveaway. Their 305 Day celebration involved numerous giveaways, trivia questions, student engagement, and building up the spirit of our campus community.



VIRTUAL EVENTS

Category 5 held 5 virtual events this year! Their first ever virtual event was a t-shirt design contest that challenged students to submit their artwork for the chance to have their design worn by students all over campus. Category 5 collaborated with What Matters to U for their virtual talk with Lauryn Williams. They also participated in Great Start’s virtual programming to engage with commuter students and teach new ‘Canes about the traditions and spirit of the U. Category 5 also created a sticker design contest for creative ‘Canes to submit their artwork to be used as a sticker giveaway.





ECO AGENCY

The Energy and Conservation Organization (ECO) agency creates and implements environmental initiatives on campus to create positive change for the present and the future. 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.

ECO PROJECTS

ECO have worked on a grand total of 12 initiatives throughout the year. They have helped those facing food insecurity on campus with a free, open-access food pantry opened in the University Center 2nd floor stocked with food items for those facing food insecurity on campus. They have also created and adopted a plant program named "Plant Parenthood" for students to interact with the University grow walls and take home their own plants to use for at home gardens and cooking! ECO also passed the Plastic Free Canes' Bill and the Plastic Free Canes' Resolution, calling for university administrators to establish a time-bound commitment for the elimination of non-essential single use plastics passed in the Student Senate and to create a living document to collect community feedback and increase transparency of plastic-waste related projects. ECO have initiated PPE recycling bins around campus, reusable cutlery and bottles during student orientations. In effort to promote sustainable purchasing and consumption, ECO have created an eco-friendly purchasing list and IGTV series' promoting sustainable cooking. ECO helped upcycle yard signs during election season, and created tote bags for the Ratskeller to go with every purchase of avocado toast!

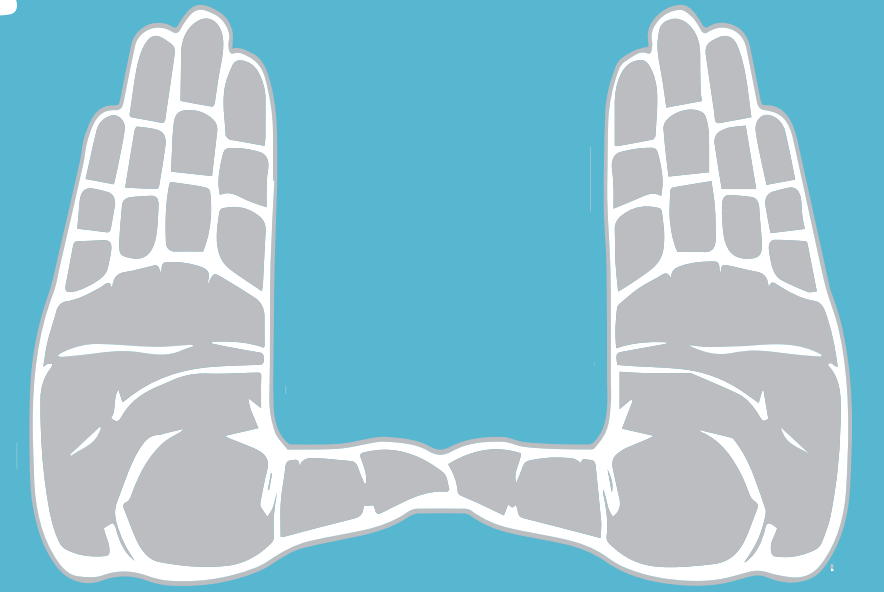


EVENTS

ECO is one of the most active groups on campus and did not let the pandemic hold them back from pursuing environmental justice through numerous virtual and in person events! ECO held a Zoom alumni meeting, a movie screening and group discussion about food waste, food justice, plant-based eating, and food sustainability at-large. They held a panel about the importance of food sustainability and how their student organizations are addressing it on-campus and in the local community and an educational panel covering topics such as how COVID impacts individuals. ECO created a Voter Mobilization Workshop Series and Food Future Hackathon which was an online competition open to high school and college students across the state of Florida to come up with innovative solutions to a food-waste-related problem. In person, ECO celebrated American Recycles Day with a DIY hand sanitizer station and tabling promotion for CYCLE. Channeling their arty side they held a crafts for climate change event where they had a virtual tile making party and they hosted climate change presentations on campus educating the student body about climate change and the important things to know about the problem and solutions and they went all out for Earth week with various in person events, panels, asynchronous projects, art installations, and more!



WHAT MATTERS TO



WHAT MATTERS TO U (WMTU) WAS DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE AND ENGAGE IN TOPICS NOT NECESSARILY DISCUSSED IN THE CLASSROOM. THROUGH BRINGING LEADERS, CHANGE-MAKERS AND DISRUPTORS TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS, WMTU HOPES TO INSPIRE CONVERSATION AND ACTION AMONG STUDENTS HERE AT THE U.



The first WMTU event featured Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin. Ms. Fulton spoke with passion and intent about her son's killing, and shared lessons learned from her recent political race. She inspired members of the university community to take action, be vocal, and remain informed.

The next WMTU event hosted Lauryn Williams, UM alumna and Olympic athlete. Ms. Williams discussed her love for UM, her career as the first American woman in history to medal in both summer and winter Olympic games, and her company "Worth-Winning" which aids athletes in financial planning. Ms. Williams was dynamic, compassionate, and truly incredible.

ADVISORS

FINANCES



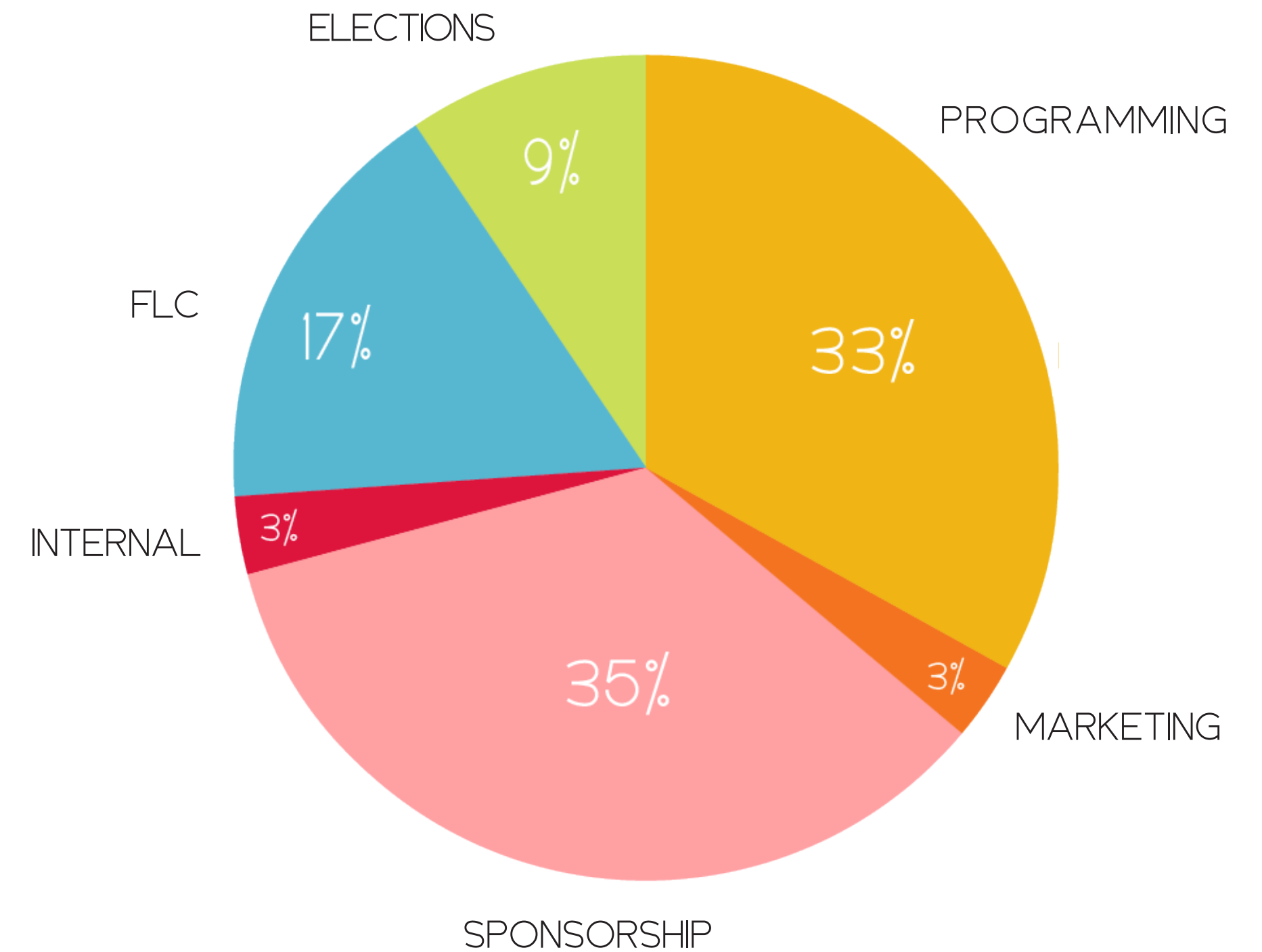
HEATHER
STEVENS



JOSHUA
BRANDFON



RENEE
CALLAN



ADJUSTED AT A 3.21 TIMES RATE TO FILL 100 SPENDING SPREAD

Thank you to our amazing advisors for your guidance and support over the last year. You make the U a better place and Student Government would not be the same without you!

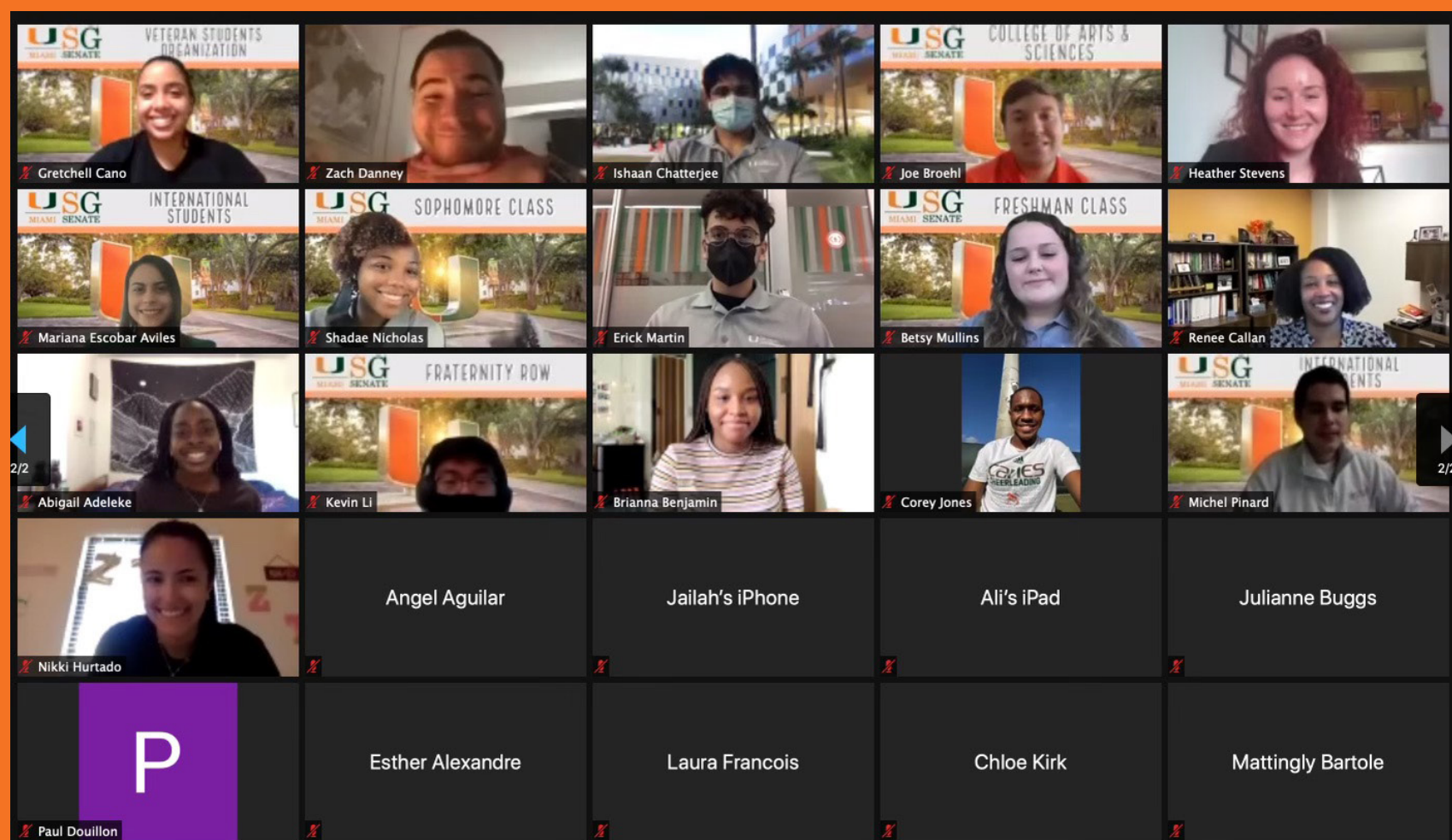
In 2020-2021, SG funding was in a unique position, given the fact that most of our capital projects were halted due to University spending limits. As a result, most of our spending was focused on co-sponsorships through senate and giveaways for student body engagement. Most of the giveaways were through partnerships, working with dining and individual departments for smaller items.

Our FLC budget was spent mostly on the SG t-shirts for the entire organization. Internal spending was used for the SG-Wide retreat, an outdoor tie-dye event, and then reorganized to plan for an outdoor, socially distanced Inauguration. EC used most of their budget on election voting incentive giveaways. A majority of our budget was reorganized preemptively for Polos orders, seeing as we were not going to be using our full budget this academic year.

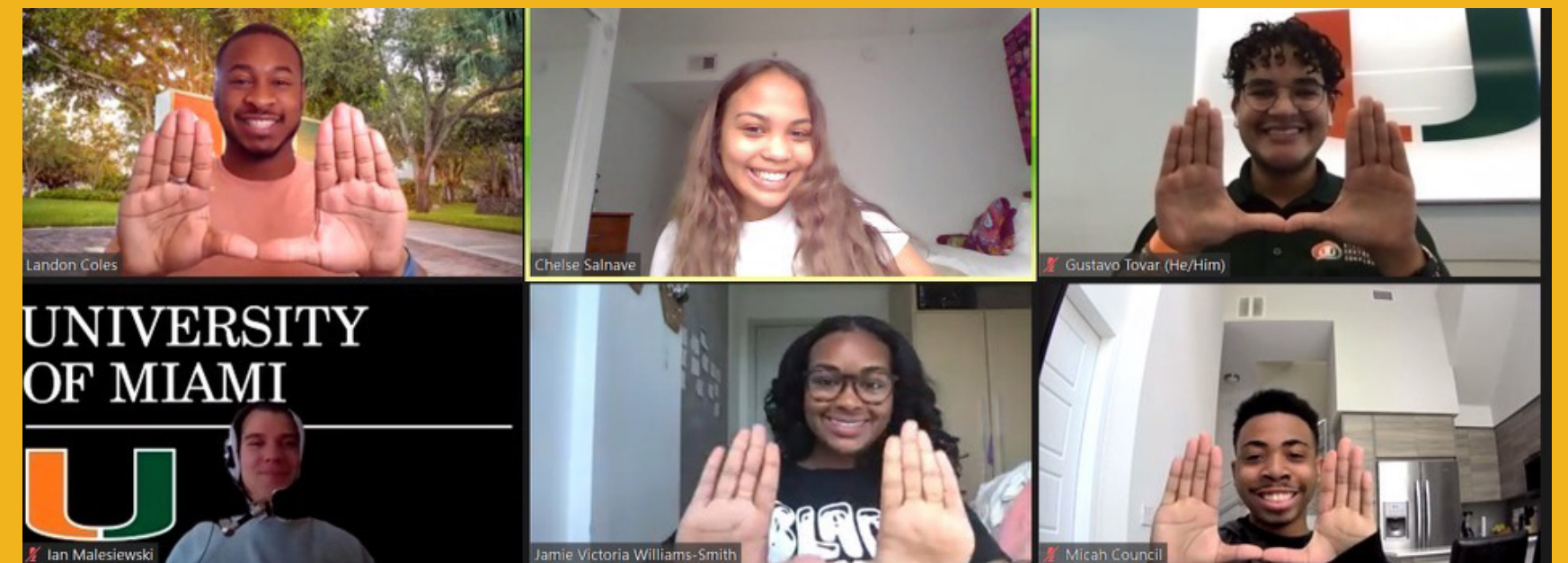
SG MEMBERS

*Branches or agencies not included already have their member
Zoom screenshot on respective pages within the report

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL



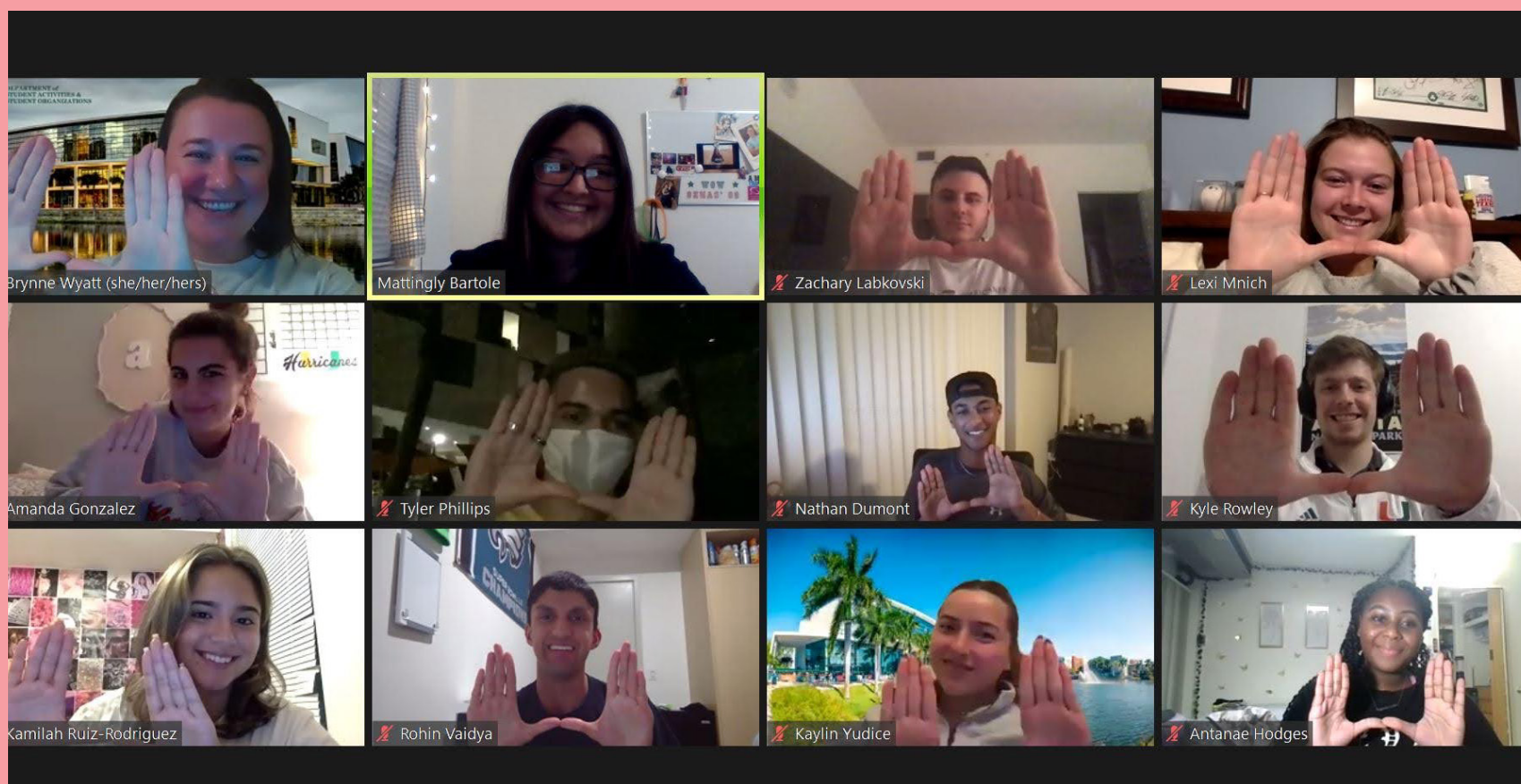
BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS



FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



CATEGORY 5



ECO AGENCY



WHAT MATTERS TO U



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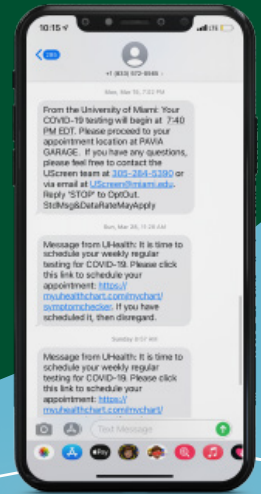
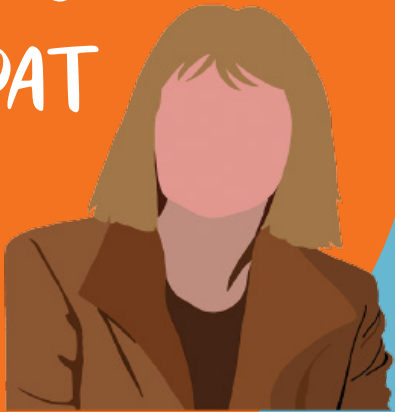


CREATION OF
DEI COMMITTEE

CAMPUS CLIMATE
SURVEY

STUDENT
HEALTH TEXTS
TO STUDENTS
ABOUT TESTING

PANCAKES
WITH PAT



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