A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I present the Student Government Association’s 2013-2014 fall quarter newsletter. Before the academic term even began, we worked tirelessly over the summer months to get a head start on all 14 of our initiatives and establish relationships with the individuals we would be working with throughout the year. As a result of this use of the summer months, and the immense dedication of SGA’s members, I am pleased to announce that we have already accomplished a great deal.

This quarter, we established a new SGA graphic identity, increased the transparency of the university’s tuition and budget processes, coordinated student forums on health and wellness as well as Ventra, rebranded SGA’s off-campus shuttle system, engaged with elected officials on topics of higher education, improved Campus Connect navigation, communicated the reduction of student loan interest rates, gathered robust student data on course evaluations, hosted seven college and school town halls, established relationships with the DePaul media syndicates, started a new tradition of meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the beginning of each academic year, and a great deal more.

In addition to these greater SGA initiatives, all of our executive vice presidents and senators are constantly working on initiatives that benefit their respective constituencies. It also is with great pleasure that I announce SGA has increased its representation on university advisory boards, committees, councils and task forces from 13 to 35, which solidifies our role as a participatory and advisory facet of the university governance and enhances the student voice and opinion in university conversations.

I am exceptionally proud of the work already achieved by SGA and I am eager to see what else will be achieved, and what additional progress can be made before the end of the academic year.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find a more exhaustive look at our many accomplishments, and the work we have done throughout the quarter, all of which relates to the initiatives we initially set forth. In an effort to link our own efforts to Vision 2018, we also have included references to sections in the V|2018 document.

Casey Clemmons
President, Student Government Association
EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT

Sarah Rens In past years, SGA has placed an emphasis on advocating for the funding of Illinois’ Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. Due to the state’s financial condition, this program will be in jeopardy of being cut yet again this year so SGA plans to advocate for its funding again this winter. In efforts to enhance this advocacy, the university’s MAP touch point group began meeting earlier than ever before. Additionally, this year SGA has a leadership position on the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Student Advisory Committee. Through this position, SGA is working with the other colleges and universities represented on the committee to plan a statewide advocacy campaign.

Efforts to make course evaluations accessible to students also are continuing, with a focus on the College of Science and Health and the Driehaus College of Business. This quarter, presentations were made to multiple departments in the Driehaus College of Business. Also 511 students in the College of Science and Health and 956 students in the Driehaus College of Business responded to a survey SGA distributed about course evaluations. SGA will be using this survey data to augment future presentations to these colleges about the initiative.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Matthew von Nida This quarter, SGA renamed the off-campus shuttle service the “Vinnie Van.” Through this program, in collaboration with Public Safety, nearly 400 students were provided with safe rides home during midterms and finals. SGA also helped host the quarterly Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) workshop at which representatives from Public Safety and the Office of Public Relations and Communication gave students tips about staying safe and taught students about the emergency communication processes in place at DePaul. Additionally, in the interest of centralizing information, the Operations Committee began looking into changes that could provide for a more efficient and user-friendly room reservation system. Finally, SGA worked with Information Services to successfully convert all student printers to double-sided printing after the success of a duplex printing pilot last year and printers are now producing half as much waste as before.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Alicia Koch In the past, SGA’s executive vice president for Student Affairs position has been unstructured and vague. In an attempt to address this, efforts were made to learn more about the Division of Student Affairs and to solicit ideas from their leadership as to how the position could be improved. Conversations were also begun with the Division of Student Affairs leadership about gaps that may exist in the student experience as well as important transformational experiences that already exist for DePaul students.

This quarter, the Student Affairs Committee played a role in coordinating SGA’s involvement in the Friends of the Poor Walk 5K Run/Walk, the Veteran’s Day flag display in the quad and the Hug a Veteran event. The Student Affairs Committee also helped plan and facilitate SGA’s quarterly Mix n’ Mingle, Let’s Talk: Ventra and Dinner with the Vincentians.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Sophia Lammers This fall, the Academic Affairs committee began serving as a Campus Connect Advisory Board on a monthly basis. In this capacity, the committee began reviewing changes being rolled out, and proposed changes that could further enhance Campus Connect. Also student concerns about DePaul’s study abroad experiences were solicited, brought to the attention of the Study Abroad Office, and are in the process of being addressed. Finally, meetings were held with the advising leadership of each college. This created new, beneficial relationships with members of the advising staff and provided SGA with appropriate channels through which to address college-specific advising concerns. SGA will also be sitting on the DePaul Academic Advising Network’s Vision 2018 Board throughout the duration of the academic year and will have the opportunity to influence the future direction of advising.
TREASURER

Brandon Davis  The Treasurer of SGA serves as the Chair of the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B). This quarter, SAF-B took a keen interest in utilizing available funding to promote campus affinity as well as identity and diversity. SGA also placed additional focus on promoting the fund and making the process easier for students to understand in order to ensure the fund is depleted by student organizations by the end of the year. To do this, SGA worked with the Office of Student Involvement to disseminate information regarding SAF funding through conversations with student leaders, as well as social media and emails.

SAF-B funding requests from student organizations have increased by 62 percent during the 2013-14 fiscal year and the amount of funding being allocated to student organizations also has increased by 62 percent. SGA attributes this exciting increase in part due to the aforementioned increased marketing efforts and to the usage of the OrgSync online budgeting system.

V|2018:4b

SGA STAFF

Katelyn Ursu, Public Relations Coordinator
Emily Duddleston, Parliamentarian
Eddy McDaniel, Graphics Coordinator
Ric Popp, Graphics Coordinator

Senator for Intercultural Awareness
Andres Hernandez

» Began working with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity and University Ministry on an identity event to occur during winter quarter (V|2018:4)
» Initiated plans for an intercultural Valentines Day activity (V|2018:4)

Senator for the School of Music
Brandon Allen

» Began a collaboration between the School of Music and the College of Computing and Digital Media that allows for talent sharing between the two colleges (V|2018:1c)
» Worked with other School of Music students to create an ensemble marketing taskforce
» Helped organize the student portion of the provost’s visit to the School of Music (V|2018:5b)
» Organized a town hall with Dean Casey that was highly attended by School of Music students (V|2018:4)

Senators for the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM)
Kevin Newhouse and Nathan Kizior

» Hosted a highly attended town hall at which CDM students conversed with Dean Miller (V|2018:1)
» Planned the CDM “Hour of Code” at which CDM students taught middle and high school students about the basics of programming (V|2018:2)
» Organized a meet and greet with Crowe Horwatt for students to network and seek out jobs and internships (V|2018: 2b, 5b, 1a, 5a)

Senator for Second Year Students
Vanessa Cadavillo

» Sat on the vice president for Student Affairs Search Committee
» Worked with other senators to locate all of the bulletin boards on campus and then worked with Facility Operations to get more boards installed where needed

1. Building Community—Senators Webster Vital, Megan Hoff and Pierre Anderson enjoying conversations at SGAs Dinner with the Vincentians event.
2. Vincentian Identity—Dana Jabri and Matthew von Nida attended SGAs Dinner with the Vincentians, allowing students and DePaul’s Vincentians to discuss the university’s current and future goals.
3. Campus Pride—The Theatre School at DePaul University is the newest, state-of-the-art addition to the Lincoln Park Campus featuring a thrust theatre, drawbridge and a grand-yellow staircase.
Senator for the College of Science and Health (CSH)
Webster Vital

» Held a successful town hall with Dean Koocher that was attended by many CSH students and resulted in a productive conversation about the vision and goals for the college (V|2018:1)
» Began conversations with the College of Science and Health Student Association (CSHSA) about issues of interest to students including the possibility of a biochemistry major and a CSH student lounge (V|2018:1)
» Helped organize the student portion of the provost’s visit to the College of Science and Health (V|2018:5b)
» Began conversations with advisors within CSH about improving academic advising (V|2018:1a)

Senator for Fourth- and Fifth-Year Students
Matt Martin

» Assisted in compiling a benchmarking report about room reservation systems
» Saw last year’s idea of a “Neighborhood Ambassadors Program” come to fruition (V|2018:2b)
» Established a SGA position on the Legacy Gift Committee

Senator for Third-Year Students
Pierre Anderson

» Worked with Student Legal Services on expanding awareness of their services (V|2018:1a)

Senator for First-Year Students
Jake Boria

» Initiated conversations about creating an email alert system for the mailroom
» Began looking into adding additional vegetarian and vegan options in the Student Center and the DePaul Center

Senator for The Theatre School
JD Garrastegui

» Worked with The Theatre School Student Government Association (TTSSGA) to enhance their connection with SGA
» Helped organize the student portion of the provost’s visit to The Theatre School (V|2018:5d)
» Began working with Residence Hall Council (RHC) to promote Theatre School performances (V|2018:1d)
» Began conversations with advisors within The Theatre School about improving academic advising (V|2018:1a)

Senator for Commuter Students
Karina Alvarez

» Attended meetings about a potential centralized commuter space
» Attended meetings about the newly established “Neighborhood Ambassadors Program” (V|2018:2b)

Senators for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS)
Dana Jabri and Shaza Loutifi

» Held a successful town hall with Dean Suchar that was attended by many LAS students (V|2018:1a)
» Helped organize the student portion of the provost’s visit to LAS (V|2018:5b)
» Met with students about the initiatives put forward by the LAS Vision 2018 taskforces
» Worked with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity on making resources available for DREAM students at DePaul (V|2018:4)
» Met with advisors within LAS about improving academic advising for students in the college (V|2018:1a)
» Sat on the LAS/CSH Career Center Advisory Board (V|2018:a)

Senator for the School for New Learning (SNL)
James Burns

» Attended the Adult Student Wine and Cheese event (V|2018:4b)
» Attended the Provost’s visit to the School for New Learning (V|2018:5b)

Senator for the Driehaus College of Business
Cristina Vera

» Held a successful town hall at which Driehaus students were able to converse with Dean Whittington (V|2018:1a)
» Started a Student Advisory Board comprised of Driehaus students to meet with advising staff quarterly (V|2018:1a)
» Worked with Driehaus Career Center staff to promote “Coffee with Keala” a monthly event for students to practice professional skills (V|2018:1a)
» Sat on the President’s Diversity Council Retention Subcommittee (V|2018:1b)

Senator for Transfer Students
Bobby Robaina

» Began working with the Transfer Student Union (TSU)

Senator for Sustainability
Megan Hoff

» Worked with Chartwells to allocate their suitability fund toward permanent dishware (V|2018:2c)
» Began a biodiesel collaboration with Loyola University (V|2018:2b)
» Began working with the Earth Week planning team (V|2018:2c)
REPRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS AND TASK FORCES

Advising Managers Board
Alumni Board
Athletic Board
Athletics Student Leadership Meetings
Board of Trustees
Bookstore Innovation Group
Blue Demon Day Committee
Campus Violence Prevention Taskforce
Career Center Advisory Board
College of Science and Health Student Association
Computer Science Society
Commencement Coordinator Group
DePaul Academic Advising Network
DePaul Sustainability Network
DREAM Taskforce
Earth Week Planning Committee
Facility Operations
Fair Business Practices Committee
Homecoming Partners Committee
Joint Council
Illinois Board of Higher Education—Student Advisory Committee
Information Services Advisory Board
Legacy Gift Committee
Library Advisory Committee
MAP Touch Point Group
Policy Review Group
President’s Diversity Council
Public Relations and Communication Sub-Committee
Retention Sub-Committee
Social Media Working Group
Strategic Facilities Committee
Strategic Resource Allocation Committee

* Additional Seat Added

Student Activity Fee Board
Student Records Advisory Board
Tuition Pricing Committee
Undergraduate Subcommittee
Graduate Subcommittee
Fees Subcommittee
University Judicial Board
Vice President for Student Affairs Search Committee

This year SGA has expanded its representation from 13 university advisory boards, committees, councils, and task forces to 35.

1. Building Affinity—DemonTHON and SGA helped market the FOX Sports 1 Big East Tip-Off event that was put on by Athletics. Blair Janis, DIBS and Casey Clemmons are pictured.

2. Creating Connections—SGA provides a space to create connections with students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni, all while bettering the student experience.
**EVENTS SGA ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED**

- Enrollment, Tuition, Financial Aid, Budget, and Economic Climate Presentations with Administrators
- Pizza with Dean Koocher, College of Science and Health
- Pizza with Interim Dean Teboul, College of Communication
- Pizza with Dean Miller, College of Computing and Digital Media
- Pizza with Dean Whittington, Driehaus College of Business
- Pizza with Dean Zionts, College of Education
- Pizza with Dean Suchar, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- Pizza with Dean Casey, School of Music
- Friends of the Poor 5K Run/Walk
- Fall Quarter Mix ’N Mingle
- Fall Quarter Elections
- Dinner with the Vincentians
- Men’s Soccer Game vs. Providence with DemonTHON
- Vinnie Van Off-Campus Shuttles for Midterms and Finals
- Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) Meeting
- Let’s Talk: Ventra
- Lunch with James Jenness, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- SGA Cabinet Retreat
- SGA General Body Retreat
- FOX Sports 1 Big East Tip-Off Party
- Let’s Talk: Health Promotion and Wellness
- Veteran’s Day Quad Flag Display
- “Hug a Veteran” Event

**EVENTS SGA ATTENDED**

- Joint Council Retreat– Presentation of SGA Initiatives
- Doorstep Demons On-Campus Move-In
- Blue Demon Community Meeting
- Discover Chicago Kick-Off
- Lincoln Park and Loop Involvement Fairs
- The Theatre School Open House
- Transfer Student Welcome BBQ
- John T. Richardson Library Information Commons Grand Opening
- Feast of St. Vincent de Paul Prayer Breakfast
- The Theatre School Production of “Our Town”
- College and School Student Lunches with the Provost
- Chartwells “Dine with the Directors”
- Annual Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon
- Adult Student Wine and Cheese Social
- College of Education Building Dedication
- Fr. Holtzscheider Speech on Educational Affordability at the City Club of Chicago
- Human Dignity Week Kick-Off
- Senator Durbin’s Immigration Rally
- New Faculty Orientation

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Communicated the student loan interest rate reduction to students, with the help of Enrollment Management and Marketing
- Worked with Information Services and Student Records to fix the “View My Grades” section of Campus Connect
- Created a new SGA graphic identity with the help of Enrollment Management and Marketing
- Increased SGA social media followings
  - Facebook – 12% Increase
  - Twitter – 113% Increase
  - Instagram – 4948% Increase
- Worked with Academic Affairs to publish the SGA “Textbook Best Practices” list to the Teaching Commons website
- Enhanced SGA’s online voting system and the communication of elections to the student body
- Worked with Student Records to create a new student-focused advisory board
- Implemented bookstore signage informing students of their rights when purchasing textbooks
- Addressed student concerns about Ventra through a “Let’s Talk: Ventra” event
- Increased transparency around enrollment, tuition, financial aid and budgets at DePaul through administrative presentations
- Worked with Chartwells to determine the allocation of their annual sustainability fund toward permanent dishware
- Provided a forum for students to voice concerns and questions about health and wellness on campus
- Ensured that students were given the opportunity to meet with the provost in each college
- Rebranded the SGA off-campus shuttles to the “Vinnie Van”
- Surveyed students in the College of Science and Health and the Driehaus College of Business regarding online teaching evaluations with 511 and 956 responses, respectively
- Hosted an Illinois Board of Higher Education - Student Advisory Committee meeting
- Worked with campus partners to acknowledge the growing veteran population at DePaul
- Successfully hosted town halls for students to meet with their dean in seven colleges
- Wrote to U.S. senators and representatives concerning both student loan interest rates and the government shutdown
- Advocated for students within the Policy Review Group regarding controlled substance and alcohol testing for university drivers
- Created, for the first time, a “SGA Guidebook,” which outlines essential information for SGA members
» Made necessary updates to the SGA constitution
» Increased outreach to other major campus organizations and constituencies by adding additional liaisons to SGA
» Our progress was more frequently featured on Good Day DePaul, Radio DePaul and in The DePaulia than in previous quarters
» Established a relationship with Special Collections and Archives to ensure SGA is properly documented
» Partnered with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness on a social media campaign
» Worked to add additional bulletin boards across the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses
» Enhanced our communication with students by improving our utilization of social media
» Increased representation on university advisory boards, committees, councils and task forces from 13 to 35
» Provided SGA members with the opportunity to learn from and interact with the senior leadership of the university
» Established relationships with The DePaulia, Radio DePaul, and Good Day DePaul
» Established “out of office” office hours for SGA members to increase transparency
» Established a new tradition of SGA meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the beginning of each academic year
» Saw the SGA-proposed “Neighborhood Ambassadors Program” come to fruition
» Worked with the Office of Student Involvement to create and distribute posters raising awareness about both the anniversary of 9/11 and the tragedy in the Philippines
» Met with more than 300 members of the university’s faculty, staff and administration
» Promoted textbook affordability in the College of Computing and Digital Media by giving a presentation on open textbooks to faculty
» Saw the SGA-proposed double-side printing proposal expand from a limited pilot program to an university wide sustainability effort
» Worked with Enrollment Management and Marketing to promote affinity by creating a graphic identity for Blue Demon Week, formally known as homecoming
» Sponsored and promoted the highly attended Fox Sports 1 Big East Tip-Off event
» Worked with the DREAM Taskforce to produce the DREAM Resource Guide for undocumented students