This snowy winter quarter, SGA worked tirelessly to make further progress on our 14 initiatives, which can be found on the last page of this newsletter. The progress made on these initiatives is a testament to our dedication to advocating for educational affordability and bettering our ability to be the voice of the student body, as well as instilling campus affinity and Blue Demon pride.

We are proud to announce that thanks to SGA’s proactive advocacy and involvement with the Tuition Pricing Committee (TPC), all course and class fees have been eliminated starting fall quarter 2014. SGA’s powerful voice at the beginning of the budgeting process made this accomplishment possible. As a result, transparency will be increased and students will be able to more accurately budget their expenses at the time of enrollment. Additionally, financial aid is increasing, and tuition is being moderated at the lowest rate in recent memory. Both of these results are reflective of SGA’s voice in the process.

This quarter, SGA helped with the marketing of the first-ever Blue Demon Week and was a part of the team that worked to cover DePaul in Blue Demon imagery for the week. Thanks to the efforts of the DePaul Activities Board (DAB), SGA, and numerous other offices, departments and student groups, the inaugural Blue Demon Week was a success. The goal of this undertaking was to create a new DePaul tradition that will last for decades to come.

SGA also participated in the successful search for the new vice president for Student Affairs, further increased our reach and accessibility to the student body, worked with the Policy Review Group (PRG) to have SGA added as a part of the university governance to the policy on establishing a university policy, revamped the student commencement speaker application process, and greatly improved the advocacy and lobbying efforts associated with the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant.

Casey Clemmons
President, Student Government Association
VICE PRESIDENT
Sarah Rens

SGA continued efforts to advocate for the restoration of funding to Illinois’ Monetary Award Program (MAP). This quarter, we designed postcards for students, faculty and staff to complete to send to their legislators asking them to Restore MAP to Revive Illinois. These postcards were distributed to 127 academic departments and offices across the university and signed by students at three MAP Advocacy Days hosted by SGA at the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses. To date, 1,959 postcards have been signed. SGA members will address all of these postcards to legislators based on the address listed by each signee and will then deliver them to legislators in Springfield on April 30.

SGA created the slogan “Restore MAP. Revive Illinois.” for this year’s MAP advocacy campaign. This slogan has been used on all of the marketing materials and social media. Additionally, through our role on the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Student Advisory Committee, SGA has educated other student governments about the importance of MAP and has been successful in expanding “Restore MAP. Revive Illinois.” to other campuses.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Sophia Lammers

This winter the Academic Affairs Committee began serving on the Academic Integrity Board. In this capacity, the committee began reviewing cases in which students violated the Academic Integrity Policy in some way. The Academic Affairs Committee also continued our involvement on the Student Records Advisory Board and looks forward to seeing changes made that will simplify the user experience on Campus Connect.

Work also was undertaken to assess the possibility of bringing an alternative textbook sales program to DePaul students to increase affordability.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Matthew von Nida

This winter, the Operations Committee completed a benchmarking report about room reservation systems at 22 reference institutions. The report was then presented to Facility Operations, and efforts are now underway to centralize DePaul’s current room reservation websites.

We also began working with the Office for Community and Government Relations on a project to include DePaul imagery at the new CTA Green Line stop opening by McCormick Place this fall. Displaying DePaul imagery at the stop will increase campus affinity in an area that will soon become another home to thousands of DePaul students and alumni.

Finally, the Vinnie Van was highly utilized again this quarter by students who needed rides home from the library during midterms and finals.

V|2018:2c

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Alicia Koch

This snowy winter quarter was focused on building campus affinity. The Student Affairs Committee played a role in coordinating SGA’s involvement in the Blue Demon Week Kick-off and sponsorship of men’s and women’s basketball game watches. We enjoyed reading all the great reasons people are proud to be Blue Demons on the posters at the Blue Demon Week Kick-off.

Conversations and relationships initiated with the interim vice president and the assistant vice presidents of Student Affairs have flourished this quarter. Many thanks for the work that they do, and the support they have given to SGA as we advocate for the student body.

V|2018:1a, 4b
SGA and the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B), as well as several other offices and departments, continue to partner and promote student organization use of SAF funds. Since the beginning of this academic year, we have seen dramatic increases in the amount of funding being requested and the number of groups that are applying. With these increases, we continue to see more and more events taking place on campus for the benefit of the entire campus community.

Fall quarter, the president, the vice president and I were members of the Tuition Pricing Committee (TPC). We relayed student concerns about the rising cost of tuition and worked with other members of the committee to find a way to eliminate all course and class fees.
Senator for First Year Students
Jake Boria

Began working with Information Services (IS) to instate a system that would notify residents when they receive mail. The initiative is in progress and will hopefully be available to students soon.

V|2018:2c

Senator for Second Year Students
Vanessa Cadavillo

Served as a member of the vice president for Student Affairs Search Committee and in this role attended meetings, interviews and events to vet candidates.

Worked with Public Safety to organize the Winter CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting. This quarter’s meeting focused on alcohol usage and Illinois’ new marijuana legislation as it affects DePaul students.

V|2018:2c, 5b

Senator for Third Year Students
Pierre Anderson

Worked with the Office of Student Legal Services to raise awareness about students’ rights as renters.

Presented information to on-campus residents about off-campus housing as well as legal rights and services.

V|2018:1a

Senator for Fourth/Fifth Year Students
Matt Martin

Met with the Future Alumni Association to discuss ways to enhance the graduation experience and ways to transition students into alumni roles.

Assisted with MAP advocacy.

Began working with the Legacy Gift Committee.

V|2018:4b
Senator for Sustainability
Megan Hoff

» Finalized a contract between Chartwells and Loyola’s biodiesel retrieval program that will allow biodiesel energy to be reduced from DePaul’s leftover grease.
» Worked with Chartwells to implement permanent plates, silverware and baskets instead of one-time use items in the Lincoln Park and Loop Campus Student Centers.
» Started coordinating Earth Week plans with more than 10 organizations and departments.

Senator for the College of Communication
Ryan Wenzel

» Met with advisors to address issues brought to my attention by fellow College of Communication students.
» Served on a Faculty Review Board.

Senators for the Driehaus College of Business
Cristina Vera and Khalil Pillali

» Continued efforts to build a Student Advisory Board for Driehaus that would be comprised of students who would meet quarterly with the assistant dean for Academic Advising to discuss current issues, concerns and ideas in order to improve the overall academic advising experience.
» Cristina continued to serve on the President’s Diversity Council that discusses DePaul’s diverse climate and advises the President regarding diversity issues.
» Cristina began serving as the commencement student speaker chair, a role through which she assists in the selection of student speakers for commencements.
Senators for the College of Computing and Digital Media

Kevin Newhouse and Nathan Kizior

» Helped plan and coordinate the first-ever CDM Involvement Fair.
» Organized opportunities for CDM students to learn about and test new technologies, such as the Raspberry Pi.
» Created career networking opportunities for CDM students with Crowe Horwath and Razor Fish.

| 2018:2b, 4b |

Senator for the College of Education

Audie Smith

» Attended student interview sessions as part of the vice president for Student Affairs search process.
» Attended SGA’s MAP Advocacy Days and helped students send postcards to their legislators advocating for MAP.

| 2018:5a, 5b |

Senator for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Shaza Loutfi and Dana Jabri

» Attended LAS Faculty Senate meetings.
» Met with LAS advisers and began planning a LAS advising advisory committee.

| 2018:1a |
Senator for the College of Science and Health
Webster Vital

» Attended the CSH winter quarter college meeting.
» Assisted in planning and presenting a pre-health concentration within the Psychology Department in collaboration with the CSH Student Association (CSHSA).
» Attended LAS/CSH Career Center Advisory Board meetings.
» Met with the CSH director of advising about possible advising improvements.
» Met with fellow students to discuss advising, job opportunities after graduation, research and internships.

Senator for the School of Music
Brandon Allen

» Helped organize the School of Music’s first “Let’s Chat: Academics” event, during which students were able to discuss their academic experiences with Associate Dean Judy Bundra and Chair of the Department of Musical Studies Kurt Westerberg.
» Worked to revive the Music Students’ Association.

Senator for the School for New Learning
James Burns

» Created agendas, budgets, marketing strategies, contacted different departments and coordinated dates in preparation for an SNL Town Hall event, which will be held this spring.

Senator for The Theatre School
JD Garrastegui

» Started a collaboration between Residence Hall Council (RHC) and The Theatre School Student Government Association (TTSSGA) to make residents more aware of Theatre School performances.
Senator for Community and Government Relations
Blake Stewart

» Attended two Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee meetings as DePaul’s representative.

» Helped with SGA’s efforts to advocate for MAP and encourage students to complete their FAFSA.

V|2018: 5a

Senator for Commuter Students
Karina Alvarez

» No report provided.

Senator for Intercultural Awareness
Andres Hernandez

» Set plans in motion for events focusing on Irish heritage in March and Earth Day in April.

V|2018: 4

Senator for Mission and Values
Veronica Guidi-Louviere

» Participated in the search for a new coordinator for Mission Services.

» Began planning SGA’s spring involvement in DemonTHON, Vincentian Service Day and Dinner with the Vincentians.

V|2018: 5b, 3

Senator for Transfer Students
Bobby Robaina

» Worked with the Office of Transfer Admission and the Adult Enrollment Center to further the Transfer Outreach Program (TOP) through which DePaul transfer students share their experiences with others who are considering a transfer to DePaul. Volunteers now join admissions counselors on college visits as well as call and write to congratulate admitted transfer students.

V|2018: 5a
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
Driehaus College of Business Student Advisory Committee
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

Student Activity Fee Board
Student Records Advisory Board
Supervisor of the Year Award Committee
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 23 university advisory boards, committees, councils and task forces to 37.

* Additional Seat Added
EVENTS SGA ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED

Blue Demon Week Kick-Off
Let’s Talk Nutrition Forum
MAP Advocacy Days (3)
Men’s Basketball Game-Watches
Vinnie Van Off-Campus Shuttles

EVENTS SGA ATTENDED

Blue Demon Week Events
SGA Sponsored Men’s Basketball Game vs. Marquette
Women’s Basketball Game vs. Butler
Arthur J. Schmitt Leadership Luncheon
Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Luncheon
Illinois Board of Higher Education– Student Advisory Committee Meetings
Alumni Board Luncheon
Men’s Basketball Game vs. Georgetown (and talked with Governor Quinn about MAP)
Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast
Winter Involvement Fair
DemonTHON’s Chipotle Fundraiser
Increased our reach and accessibility to the student body:

- Increased SGA’s following on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and fostered increased follower engagement resulting in a Klout score increase from 54 to 64 during winter quarter
  - Klout is a social media analytics influence calculator that represents social media influence with a score between 1 and 100
- Launched a new SGA website that is easier for students to navigate
- Added liaisons from additional student organizations and groups of students
- Emailed students our fall newsletter, making them aware of SGA and what we have been working on their behalf
- Established “SGA Hours” during which SGA members sit in Brownstones and floor 11 of the DePaul Center and solicit concerns from students

Addressed educational affordability by being a powerful voice in the budgeting process this year:

- Course/class fees were completely eliminated
- Tuition was increased at the most moderated rate in recent memory
- The budgeting process was made more transparent than ever before through informational sessions hosted by SGA for students about enrollment, tuition, financial aid, SRAC, the budget and the economic climate at which they could hear from and ask questions of the administration

Helped coordinate a new program between Chartwells and Loyola that will allow grease from DePaul to be turned into biodiesel locally at Loyola

Participated in LGBTQ Safe Zone training

Made our governing documents more inclusive by making all of the pronouns gender neutral

Worked with the Policy Review Group (PRG), to have SGA added as a part of the governance to the University Policy on “Establishing a University Policy.” This ensures that in the future SGA will be consulted on policies which affect students as members of the university community

Participated in the successful search for the new vice president for Student Affairs.
SGA had two members on the search committee and hosted student lunch interviews with each of the candidates

Revamped the student commencement speaker process and sent out a communication to all graduating students about applying

Encouraged MAP-eligible DePaul students to complete the FAFSA in time for the MAP eligibility deadline
  - Created a “Keep Calm and do the FAFSA” campaign
  - Had FAFSA reminders put on Campus Connect as well as D2L for the first time
» Began executing an advocacy campaign calling for the restoration of funding to the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  » Created the slogan “Restore MAP. Revive Illinois.” which is now being utilized by other schools across Illinois
  » Hosted three MAP Advocacy Days where students could sign postcards
  » Distributed postcards to 127 academic departments and offices
  » To date, 1,959 postcards have been signed by members of the DePaul community
  » Collaborated with the DePaulia in their three part (so far) series about MAP

» Worked with 23 other departments and student organizations to successfully execute the first Blue Demon Week. SGA helped in increasing the visibility of the week and is excited to have been part of starting a new DePaul tradition

» Helped in the naming of BlueStar, a new online academic advising system

» Wrote a benchmarking report about room reservations processes and presented it to Facility Operations

» Worked with Athletics to create student access to food and drinks at the Skyline Lounge at Allstate before basketball games

» Took part in conversations about finding a way to ensure that students are receiving some graded feedback earlier in the quarter

» Organized a “Let’s Chat: Academics” event for School of Music Students

» Created a Student Advisory Board in the Driehaus College of Business

» Expanded SGA’s role on the Academic Integrity Board (AIB) by involving all of the college senators

» Participated in the search for a new coordinator for Mission Services

» Assisted in planning and presenting a pre-health concentration within the Psychology Department in collaboration with the CSH Student Association (CSHSA)

» Organized the winter CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting focused on alcohol usage and Illinois’ new marijuana legislation as it affects DePaul students

» Helped revive the Music Students’ Association

» Initiated a relationship with the Career Center to find ways to make students more aware of the multitude of services they offer

» Helped in the enhancement of the Transfer Outreach Program (TOP)

» Started planning for Earth Week

» Helped in the initiation of the School of Music’s Student Marketing Team

» Worked with the Office of Student Legal Services to make sure that they are educating students about their renters’ rights
» Helped coordinate the Wednesday Noontime Concert Series in the Student Center
» Surved students about the Recreation Lounge in the Lincoln Park Student Center
» Worked with Chartwells to enhance the visibility of their monthly Dine with the Directors events which allow students to voice concerns and suggestions about the dining experience on campus
» Promoted the iDePaul App as a way for students to keep up with DePaul news, search the library and access the directory
» Hosted a health forum for students to learn more about nutrition
» Increased representation on university advisory boards, committees, councils and task forces from 13 to 37
» 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
» 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
» 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, an “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 The DePaulia than in previous years

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

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 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

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
SGA 2013-2014 INITIATIVES

EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY Support practices that strive to make education more affordable.

SGA AS AN ADVOCATE Seek to further the role of SGA as an informed liaison between students and the administration, by representing the student voice on all administrative committees and boards within the university.

CAMPUS AFFINITY Instill a greater sense of school pride throughout the student body, by means of promoting community, student involvement, and Blue Demon pride. Special attention will be paid to informing and advocating for students as changes proceed in DePaul Athletics.

INCOMING ADMINISTRATORS Ensure that administrators are keen to student interests and the DePaul student culture as well as represent student interests in the selection of the new vice president of student affairs.

SGA AS A LEADER IN THE STATE Leverage existing relationships with Illinois student governments to expand DePaul SGA’s existing statewide leadership on student issues from textbook affordability to additionally include the maintenance of MAP grants.

CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION Emphasize the need for consistent and centralized information throughout the university and increase student awareness of efforts that have already been made toward this end.

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY Continue to lead student governments across Illinois in lobbying the state government for laws aimed at making textbooks more affordable, while also working with faculty and the university bookstore to lower textbooks prices where possible.

STUDENT WELL-BEING Collaborate with administration, students, faculty and staff to promote initiatives aimed at enhancing student well-being.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT Connect with municipal, state and federal governments and organizations in order to solidify DePaul University as Chicago’s anchor institution and advance student interests within the public agenda.

SUSTAINABILITY Recognize that the concept of sustainability is multifaceted, spanning to include social, environmental, and economic realms and that it should be continually improved upon.

COURSE EVALUATIONS Further current pursuits to make quantitative data from course evaluations accessible to DePaul students. We believe that this institutional effort will work to increase the quality of education overall.

TENURE Ensure that students remain a part of the faculty tenure and promotion process by playing a role in the implementation of student review committees to be called for by the revised faculty handbook.

ADVISING Continue to ensure that strong advising systems are effective in addressing the academic needs of all DePaul students.

IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY Maintain DePaul University’s distinctive Catholic, Vincentian, and urban identity and continue to foster a diverse, inclusive, and just campus climate.