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Student Government Association: End-Of-Year Report 2023-2024 Academic Year

(West Chester, PA – April 20, 2024): The 2023-2024 academic year is concluding soon, and it is time to take a look back on Student Government Association's (SGA) impact at West Chester University. With a brand new executive board and new advisor, SGA decided to put time and effort into building community and strengthening our student body, while also establishing a name for SGA and bringing a presence back onto campus.

The Student Government Association's Executive Board consists of seven officers: President Alexandra Clancy, Vice President Sierra Irving, Treasurer Jasmine Stewart, Secretary Aliza Greenfield, Parliamentarian Keilah Hanley, Public Relations Officer Annie Wineka, and Student Trustee Julie Ward. The executive board works in tandem with SGA advisors such as: Cara Jenkins, Director of Student Leadership and Involvement; Jayna Suter, Assistant Director of Sykes Student Union; and Laura Sheehan,

This semester, Student Government Association hosted 21 general senate meetings where students had the opportunity to interact with the senate and learn more about issues happening across campus. During this year, our senate submitted 95 number of senator reports. This helps our senators showcase the work they are doing in their senate seats, as well as communicate any pertinent information shared in their meetings. Senators also get involved by meeting with one of more of the following SGA committees: Finance Committee, Bylaw Review Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Outreach Committee.

Student Government Association successfully expanded their reach with the help of social media and their main platform, Instagram. The average number of accounts reached with each post was 140 people, with the most popular post reaching just under 500 accounts. For just the spring semester, there was a 111% increase in profile activity. There was a 107% increase in profile visits which refers to how many people click and view the posts on SGA's Instagram account. Additionally, there was a 160% increase in external link taps. This figure refers to the increase in accounts who clicked on the links in our stories or biography, which ranges from general senate meetings to treasurer trainings and Town Hall surveys.

Summer and Reconvening Senate

At the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, the Executive board hosted spring senator elections before breaking for the summer. The senate reconvened after the break for their first meeting on August 29th, 2023 to officially swear in any new senators and build upon the goals and expectations of Student Government.

During Welcome Week, Student Government Association showed face at the annual first-year class picture on the quad. President Clancy and Student Trustee Ward held a table to greet the new class of students and encourage them to explore opportunities to get involved in the community at West Chester.



Figure 1: President Alexandra Clancy and Student Trustee Ward at the annual freshman class picture

Town Hall

During the middle of the Fall 2022 semester, Student Government Association collaborated with Student Leadership and Involvement to present Town Hall. The Town Hall is a student run event to focused on generating solutions for student-submitted issues on campus.

Town Hall occurred on Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 at 7:15 pm in Sykes Theater. President Clancy moderated the event with the panelists, including:

- President Christopher Fiorentino
- Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Jeffrey Osgood
- Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tabettha Adkins

- Vice President for Finance and Administration Mr. Todd Murphy
- Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Tracey Robinson

Town Hall had over 203 students registered with additional faculty and staff in attendance to gain information. The format of Town Hall allows students to submit questions in advance surrounding multiple topics like Dining Services, Parking and Public Safety, Housing, Sustainability, and more. Traditionally, spare time at the end of pre-submitted questions allowed audience members to ask questions directly to the panel. With a high volume of pre-submitted questions, there was not time for live questioning at this Town Hall.

Student Issues Round Table

In lieu of the Spring 2023 semester Town Hall, Student Government Association and Student Leadership and Involvement collaborated once more to host the very first Student Issues Round Table. At this event, student leaders were given the chance to visit tables pertaining to different topics and start a conversation regarding their concerns. SGA wanted to create a comforting and inviting place for open conversation about concerns with this event. There were 21 tables hosting topics including Dining, Health and Wellness, Campus Recreation, RamConnect and Organization Re-Registration, Campus Resources, Career Development, and more. Student leaders voiced their thoughts and questions with facilitators at their table about the topics. Each student leader also received a sheet to write any additional questions or concerns they were unable to share.

These concerns were compiled together to bring to each respective area for further action. The 2024-2025 Executive Elect Board will also receive the same concern list to aid action in the next academic year.

Student Government Budgeting Process

The SGA Budgeting Process for the 2023-2024 School Year required all SGA recognized students to attend one of the SSI Treasurer Trainings, hosted in September and October, and to complete the Asynchronous Assignment from the November Council of Organizations. There were three deadlines and requirements for student organizations requesting a certain amount of funding from SGA. The deadlines and requirements were as followed:

- Requesting Over \$10,000 was due January 29th, requiring a video presentation and a supplemental document.
- Requesting More Than \$1,000 but Less Than \$10,000 was due February 23rd, requiring a supplemental document.
- Requesting Less Than \$1,000 and the Final Deadline of Budget Requests was due April 7th, requiring a supplemental document.

There were a total of 152 student organizations that turned in a budget request, 23 asking for over \$10,000. Due to the recent changes of the Financial Policies and Procedures, approved in March 2024

Auxiliary Requests and Sponsorships

On September 8th, the Finance Committee and SGA had 25 Student Organizations submit Budget Appeals. We gave 14 organizations a total of

New and Forming Organizations

Our Parliamentarian, Keilah Hanley, is the chair of the Bylaw Review Committee. This is focused on working with new and forming clubs or organizations before they reach the senate for final approval. Hanley works closely with the Office of Student Leadership & Involvement and Leadership Empowerment & Development in the process to aid and finalize clubs. Student Government Association officially recognized 21 new student organizations this year, with 10 new clubs in the Fall 2023 semester and 11 new clubs in the Spring 2024 semester.

New student organizations fell in a wide range of different interests. Banned and Challenged Books Club, an organization recognized in the spring, reviews literature and promotes conversation regarding censored books in US schools. The club plans to discuss themes in this literature and think on why they have been banned or otherwise censored. Another club passed this year is Sober Underground. This club aims to create a space promoting fun activities and opportunities absent of substances like alcohol in an environment where substance use might be more prominent. Lastly, West Chester University Immigrants and Allies Association

Here is a list of all 21 new student organizations and clubs passed in the 2023-2024 academic year:

- Global Brigades
- West Chester University Immigrants and Allies
- Future Teachers United
- WCU Food Recovery Network
- Film and Media Society
- West Chester Club Gymnastics
- K-Pop Club
- Off Campus Renters Collective
- Ram Chefs
- Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Sober Underground
- Pickleball Club
- Banned and Challenged Books Club
- The Hidden Opponent
- Ram Network
- Canine Companions
- Barbell Club
- Ecology Club
- It's On Us
- Geology and Planning Club
- Ice Hockey Club

Nearing the end of the Spring 2024 semester, SGA executive board members attended the New and Forming Organizations banquet which recognized and celebrated all the student organizations passed this year.

Voter Drive

On October 30th starting at 6 pm, SGA's Outreach Committee hosted their Voter Drive in Sykes Food Court. Outreach Committee is chaired by West Chester Community Senator Claire Shutack and Legislative Affairs Senator Lukas Williamson. The Voter Drive aims to raise awareness around voting registration and is held every fall semester. At this event, senators handed out various voting registration forms for students looking to vote and incentivized students to sign up. They also emphasized the importance in voting, as well as answered any questions regarding how to sign up and where to vote. A student who was previously registered or signed up through the table received a goody bag. Outreach Committee managed to give out over 100 goody bags to students who registered to vote. They successfully raised awareness about the importance of voting, how to register or receive a mail in ballot, and where to vote.

Board of Student Government Presidents Conference

The Board of Student Government Presidents (BSGP) is a PASSHE wide committee comprised of all Student Government Presidents across the state which meets monthly on Zoom. Every year, the BSGP plans a conference for all PASSHE Student Governments to attend. This year, the BSGP Conference Chair was Abigail Hancox, SGA President at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The conference was held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's campus on February 23rd & 24th of 2024. One executive board member and three senators traveled to Indiana, Pennsylvania to attend the conference.

- Jacob Cooke, College of Business & Public Management Senator
- Lindsay Edens, College of Education & Social Work Senator
- Claire Shutack, West Chester Community Senator
- Annie Wineka, Public Relations Officer.



Figure 2: Senators (left to right) Lindsay Edens, Annie Wineka, Claire Shutack, and Jacob Cooke, smiling after the Board of Student Government Presidents Conference.

The conference featured four rounds of breakout sessions featuring professionals talking about their respective areas of expertise. Themes of sessions include crisis management, leadership building, engagement, recruitment, hate speech, and other discussions of the same nature. Our attendees brought back many ideas on how to strengthen our community and spread the word about the accomplishments of our fellow students.



Figure 3: Senators (left to right) Lindsay Edens, Annie Wineka, Claire Shutack, and Jacob Cooke showing off their “power pose,” a technique for confidence shown at the conference



Figure 4: Senators Annie Wineka and Jacob Cooke smiling with Edinboro Student Government Senator Sonia Yost with their prize baskets from trivia night.

Executive Board Elections

Student Government Association ran their annual Executive Board Elections in March of 2024. The ad hoc Elections Committee was chaired by our Parliamentarian Keilah Hanley and boasted several other senators. Elections Committee wanted to create and run a fair election for all those involved. Their duties comprised of approving all campaign material and aiding the candidates while they're running.

Nominations for executive board opened on February 13th and closed on February 27th. The candidates for the 2024-2025 executive board was as follows:

President

- McKenna Nugent
- Jasmine Stewart

Vice President

- Claire Shutack

Treasurer

- Rachel Treffeisen

Secretary

- Aliza Greenfield
- Lukas Williamson

Parliamentarian

- Calvin Sewell
- Caleb Winters

Public Relations

- Emma Holston

Executive Board Debates occurred on Tuesday, March 19th starting at 7:15 pm. Candidates received the opportunity to deliver opening and closing remarks. Afterward, each candidate got the chance to answer questions from Elections Committee and the audience.

Following the debates, voting opened from Wednesday, March 20th to Friday, March 24th. The D2L webpage gave biographies about each candidate for all undergraduate students to read. The undergraduate student body then made an informed voting decision for their candidates. Once the voting period ended, Elections Committee received all votes and announced the upcoming SGA Executive Board. Student Government Association is pleased to introduce the following 2024-2025 Executive Board Elect:

- President McKenna Nugent
- Vice President Claire Shutack
- Treasurer Rachel Treffeisen
- Secretary Aliza Greenfield
- Parliamentarian Caleb Winters
- Public Relations Officer Emma Holston

For more information about Student Government Association, please visit the official Student Government Association website at www.wcupa.edu/sga or email Public Relations Officer Annie Wineka at aw969595@wcupa.edu

About Student Government Association

Student Government Association is an inclusive student organization looking to project student concerns and bridge the gap between students and administrations. SGA is hard at work revising our bylaws and holding themselves accountable for abiding by them.

The goal of SGA is to provide a unified and responsible government that will promote the welfare and growth of students and for students. The SGA will work to ensure that all rights and privileges are shared by all. The SGA will make certain that the concerns of students will be heard and acted upon.