



2016-2017 Strategic Plan

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2016-2017 Executive and Congressional Agenda

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I. Introduction

When discussing what Student Government is, I like to explain our roles on campus as “the voice of students”. SGA represents these voices, but also must have a plan for how to navigate the year. As elected officials, students have entrusted their Student Government to both listen as well as act.

This Strategic Plan is the plan of action. By no means is this plan comprehensive, but it is our guiding document through the year. On my last day in office, I believe that I can look back and will safely say that I, and the SGA under my leadership, represented students in accordance with this plan. I look forward to the contributions of every member of SGA in helping achieve these plans and I have faith that the entire Belmont community will help forward these initiatives.

We laid amazing groundwork during the 2015-2016 year and the years before that, but I foresee the 2016-2017 academic year being the best SGA that Belmont has experienced.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

Chris Dickerson

President

II. General Objectives

- I. SGA will help lead collaboration efforts across campus, with other student groups, departments, and administration.
 - A. We will have an active role in discussions of diversity and inclusion on Belmont's campus by reaching out to organizations that represent minority identities and working alongside the HOPE Council and Welcome Home Team to represent these voices. SGA will host and sponsor programming that highlights diversity initiatives while also being proactive in discussions of how to make Belmont a more inclusive environment.
 - B. An active role will be taken engaging students in the upcoming national election. With SAPB and University partners, we will encourage political awareness and participation through voter registration drives and programming efforts that encourage student involvement in their city, state, and nation.
 - C. Bruin Den Day, a former SGA initiative, will be revived as a partnership with all other chartered organizations, and interested University departments, to serve our community and continue towards the University's goal of becoming "Nashville's University".
- II. SGA will further develop both the organization and the leaders within it in order to improve upon the student experience and prepare future SGAs for that task.

- A. The Executive Cabinet and Committee Chairs will be intentional about delegating tasks to members of Congress. Roles and tasks assigned to specific members of SGA will provide accountability of outcomes, opportunities for leadership, and the ability of the leadership team to focus energy on even larger tasks.
 - B. Extensive research will be done and a thorough plan will be composed to address the need for a restructuring of SGA. The SGA Constitution will be amended to reflect this report and build a more representative Student Government Association that is comprised of members who are more accountable to the students that they serve- all students-.
 - C. Plans will be developed to ensure seamless transitions for the organization in years to come. Transition documents will be drafted by those in leadership roles, explanations will be written for SGA precedent, and guides for Belmont policies will be prepared that give rise to a more prepared SGA each year.
- III. SGA will strengthen existing lines of communication and open new channels to make the organization, and its actions, more accessible.
- A. We will effectively communicate through heightened use of our website as a tool to both gain input from students and relay information to the student body. Every piece of legislation will be posted on the SGA website with a member of Congress as its contact, a summary with its purpose, and

a timeline of steps taken towards resolution of what the legislation highlights.

- B. SGA will make accessible to the student body, via social media and our website, a comprehensive calendar of all organization activity. Additionally, every meeting, including those beyond regularly scheduled full-body meetings, will be added to the calendar to keep members of SGA accountable to one another and the student body, as well as to bring attention to established relationships between SGA and faculty, staff, and administration that the student body would like to see utilized.
- C. In addition to knowing when meetings and events will occur, short, detailed summaries will be made available on the calendar and the website of activity that has occurred. Anyone who accesses this information will know both the efforts that SGA has taken on concerns as well as the outcome of these meetings.

III. Campus Outreach and Events

- IV. SGA events will be aimed at building community between students, between the student body and those that represent them, and between the student body and the Nashville area.
 - A. SGA will host and collaborate on programming with the purpose of bringing the student body together and providing an opportunity for students to become more integrated into the Belmont community.
 - B. Opportunities will be provided by SGA, for both its members and the students that it serves, to engage in the greater Nashville community through acts of service. This includes Bruin Den Day, as well as periodic community service events that tie Belmont students to the greater Nashville community.
 - C. Strategic marketing will be utilized to raise awareness for campus and organization events, as well as ways for students to connect with SGA. We will heighten use of the SGA website, be intentional through our social media outlets, and utilize new and existing connections to engage with the student body.
- V. SGA will create more opportunities for the student body to raise their questions, comments, and concerns regarding the student experience.

- A. In addition to utilization through in-person engagements at our Coffee and Conversations events, small, surveys on specific topics will be given to the student body in a digital format.
 - B. Executive Cabinet members will continue to hold office hours, and will invite Congress members to participate, where students can discuss their student experience in a more personal setting. The schedule of when the SGA office is open will be made available for students to know when a member of SGA is available for an in-person meeting.
 - C. Through research of other institutions, discussions with the other members of SGA leadership at Nashville universities, and investigation of our own practices, a plan will be made to restructure and revamp the outreach that we have traditionally done.
- VI. SGA will be intentional about targeting student concerns and asking for information from members of the Belmont community.
- A. We expect our own members to send updates to the SGA email account about on-campus organizations that they are involved with and to relay any information that should be a SGA concern.
 - B. Members will intentional about scheduling meetings with organization officers to understand the experiences of various organizations and establish connections between student organizations and SGA.

C. Information will be shared with all other members of SGA so that information gathered from students leaders is efficiently addressed, acted up, and brought to the attention of the appropriate faculty, staff, and/or administrators.

IV. Finance

VII. Educate, encourage and promote grant petitioning to all clubs and organizations across campus.

A. To achieve education throughout the whole process, grant petition information sessions will be available during the beginning of the semester to answer any questions they might have about the petitioning process.

B. To attract petitioning, SGA will periodically post flyers across campus, social media across various platforms, and on SGA's websites, as well as at presented events.

C. The current one-page flyer will be updated to reflect the new year and a more precise outline of grant petition process

VIII. SGA will enhance the process of grant petitioning from start to finish, make petitioning more accessible while also measuring effectiveness of money granted to organizations.

A. By integrating SGA more into the events that are funded, via encouragement to attend said events, integration of the SGA logo, etc., we will bring awareness to the grant petition process and encourage new partnerships across campus.

B. In addition to updating the grant petition guidelines and the one page flyer of the process, the SGA website will be updated to reflect Frequently Asked Questions that organizations often have about the process.

- C. An 85% positive feedback will be obtained by collecting surveys from committee members and student organizations to determine both internally the proficiency of meetings and externally the efficiency of the process.
- IX. Build on previous groundwork to increase the granting of funds and improve the process after the award is granted.
- A. To increase awarding, minimum of 75 unique student organizations will be awarded funding by the conclusion of the 2016-17 academic year. We will measure monetarily and by number of petitions.
 - B. Meetings and petitioning rounds will be handled efficiently, and effective conversations will occur to make the process easier for students and more desirable to pursue. This includes more structured periods of time reviewing each petition.
 - C. Organizations that receive grants will receive follow up emails from various committee members to ensure event was properly funded and attended.

V. Policy Review

- X. SGA will foster efficiency and communication within the organization itself and with the student body.
 - A. Mini Workshops will also be created at the beginning of each semester to ensure that everyone is comfortable with the Robert's Rules of Order, creating a professional environment whereby Congress members can voice their opinions in an organized and efficient manner. The Director of Policy Review will also give tips and information related to the Rules at the beginning of every Congress Meeting.
 - B. The existing lines of communication with students and student organizations through the Campus Outreach and Events Committee and Finance Committee, will be expanded to further enable the student body to approach SGA with their comments and concerns.
 - C. Topics that are addressed to the Policy Review Committee will be brought to the attention of the other committees and Policy Review Committee members will empower others in SGA to also pursue these topics. This will both give others in SGA a greater skill set and give rise to solutions that may not be policy related.
- XI. SGA will be make sure that student concerns are thoroughly investigated through a streamlined process.

- A. When a topic is being pursued, a plan of action will be created to ensure that every project that begins has a clear path to a conclusion.
 - B. A virtual suggestion box will be created and added to SGA website where students can anonymously submit their comments, questions, and concerns on any topic. These will automatically go to the SGA email address and be sent to the appropriate member of Congress.
 - C. Legislative templates have been created so that any member of SGA can easily and professionally address a point of interest.
- XII. SGA will ensure that the legislative process and the legislation that we are writing is worthwhile and purposed.
- A. Prior to legislation coming to the floor of Congress, we will ensure that any necessary meeting occur and information is gathered. This will make legislation more detailed and informed prior to its presentation.
 - B. We will communicate the results of legislation to students, ensuring that they understand the outcome. All passed legislation will be documented and summarized on the SGA website.

VI. Conclusion

This strategic plan is simply a roadmap for an upcoming year of diligence, commitment, and constant drive in an organization that serves as a voice for students on campus. For the 2016-2017 term, Student Government members will strive to be confident leaders on campus in order to accomplish clear, positive change.

We hope to lead our student body and create efficient progress on campus-wide issues through meaningful legislation, collaborative funding, and other personal concerns on campus. Our objective as an organization is to maintain a faithful and encouraging environment at Belmont University. Despite what arduous concerns our students may deliver, our organization is prepared to take the steps needed through each of our individual committees to help guide our organization to realistic, beneficial goals.

We appreciate you taking the time to address our strategic plan for the upcoming school year as it is a great honor to serve our Belmont community. The Student Government Association is looking forward to working with not only the student body, but with all administration for this upcoming year. If you have any questions or concerns, our contact information is listed below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Macy Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Macy Thompson

Vice President

VII. Contact Information

Chris Dickerson

President

(870) 210-0158

chris.dickerson@pop.belmont.edu

Macy Thompson

Vice President

(912) 507-4100

macy.thompson@pop.belmont.edu

Colin Haslett

Treasurer

(615)354-7483

colin.haslett@pop.belmont.edu

Zoey Bloom

Director of Campus Outreach and Events

(224-565-1637)

zoey.bloom@pop.belmont.edu

Daisha Cane

Secretary

(615)732-9115

daisha.cane@pop.belmont.edu

Sydney Finchum

Director of Policy Review

(865) 368-7818

sydney.finchum@pop.belmont.edu