

UVA Student Council 2019-2020 Term Report

A Note from the President

As the term comes to a close, I have been reflecting upon the goals that we set out for this administration and the progress we have made. I ran for President to work towards a more accessible future at the University, and while there is certainly much more work to do, I believe our administration has furthered that goal.

We started the term with the creation of the Financial Accessibility Committee, designed to tackle issues of first-generation and low-income students. The creation of the new committee signaled our commitment to supporting FGLI students not just during our term and for years to come. Although it faced some roadblocks, the committee was able to work with the University Libraries to conduct a survey on the cost of school materials, increase donations to the Next Steps Fund in CAPS, and make progress on the low-income student resource guide and the SNAP and Medicaid Sign-Up workshops. In addition, the FGLI Coalition was formed under the committee, bringing together FGLI leaders from across the University.

In the fall, we took up the issue of equitable admissions at the University. The Executive Board released a [statement](#) denouncing the University's use of a "watch-list" in the admissions process, and Provost Liz Magill came to our [forum](#) to answer questions from students. The Representative Body later passed a resolution "denouncing the University's practice of providing an additional review to applicants of 'institutional interest'". These efforts opened up a conversation about admissions at the University, including the question of whether or not the University should continue to consider legacy status in the admissions process. I wrote a [column](#) in the Cavalier Daily expressing my view that the University should not continue this practice.

We started the spring semester with the opening of the new location for the UVA Community Food Pantry in Newcomb Hall, as well as a food pantry at North Grounds in Saunders Hall. These pantries provided food and hygiene supplies for hundreds of students. Over Spring Break, our Student Life Committee provided Meal Kits to students and low-cost transportation to airports via our AirBus program. As they did for the election in November, our Legislative Affairs Committee registered hundreds of voters and helped to organize rides to the polls. The Committee also traveled to Richmond to lobby for student issues.

Like everything else right now, our term was ruptured by the COVID-19 crisis. In the beginning, we were able to keep our pantries open and provide more meal kits to students, but unfortunately we could not continue these services after the buildings were closed. Nonetheless, Student Council launched its [mutual aid network](#), pairing students

and donors with monetary and non-monetary resources to help. So far, it has raised over \$14,000. The Executive Board signed onto the [“Community Petition to the University of Virginia Administration Regarding COVID-19 Response”](#) created by student activists, and released a statement against the University's announcement that students living in Bond, Bice, and the Language Houses would have to pay to retrieve their personal belongings that will be moved to storage units.

While the current COVID-19 situation is not the way I wanted this administration to end, I am nonetheless filled with gratitude for the opportunity granted to me in this position, proud of the accomplishments from the past term, and hopeful that the organization will be even better under the leadership of President Ellen Yates. In the most uncertain of times, I could not be more certain that the organization and the University is left in good hands. Although we have made considerable strides in the right direction, a more accessible future still lies ahead of us. I am confident that we will get there.

Best,
Ellie Brasacchio
Student Council President, 2019-2020

Presidential Cabinet

Arts

Accomplishments

- **Promotion of the Fralin Museum:** Partnered with the Fralin Museum of Art to host a pumpkin decorating event during a Final Friday.
- **Student Arts Fund:** Had a record 41 applications for the Student Arts Fund which allows student artists, actors, musicians, dancers, etc. to get funding for independent projects. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our showcase gallery for recipients but are working on collecting examples of work that we can display through online mediums. Reimbursements are also starting to be processed.
- **Arts CIO Spotlight:** Did a weekly spotlight on StudCo social media to promote arts events that were going on around grounds for groups of different arts disciplines.
- **Promotion of Arts Dollars Program:** Made and distributed a graphic to help promote the Arts Dollars program at UVA. Through this program, students can get free tickets to events sponsored by UVA Arts Departments.

- **Advocating for arts projects around grounds:** Met with many administrators including Jody Kielbasa (Vice Provost for the Arts), Marsh Pattie (Vice President for Student Affairs Office), and many others to help advocate for a new Student Activities Building and the Creativity Nexus as outlined in President Ryan's strategic plan.

Challenges

- Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel all events we were planning in person for spring 2020. We were going to continue our workshop series from last spring where local Charlottesville artists come in to do workshops with students! Some past examples have been local songwriters, photographers, etc.

Ongoing Initiatives

- We are working on a resource guide for how to stay involved in the arts without leaving your house!

Academic Affairs

Accomplishments

- Successfully ran the **Academic Resource Fair** with high turnout in resources and students (16 resources total, including CAPS, the library, Batten, Dean's Scholarships, and the Alumni Association)
- Successful round of applications for **Cavalier Education**, accepted 3 student courses for Spring 2020, and pending acceptance of 8 (the max) courses for Fall 2020.
 - A drastic boost interest, nearly 400% more applicants from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020
- Began two brand-new initiatives with high student and community interest. One is the **Warrior Scholar project**, which aims to make UVA a host institution for a nation-wide, prestigious 1-2 week summer program that reintegrates our veterans into 4 year academic institutions. The other is the **Syllabus Bank**, which aims to make syllabi accessible earlier to students, potentially during course registration. A survey of 140 students has overwhelmingly, nearly unanimously positive results in terms of student-interest and engagement in this initiative.
- Partnered with Student Financial Services and Fourth-Year trustees in planning the first **iClicker Drive**, a donation drive that collects iClickers from graduating students and redistributes them to low-income students. Although it is

impossible to have an in-person drive due to the pandemic, the committee is setting up a donation box in Newcomb.

Challenges

- Consider getting marketing materials for Cav-Ed for the Academic Resource Fair.
- Steps towards marketing and publicizing should be made sooner for future initiatives.
- Both WSP and Syllabus bank need strong administrative backing to move forward.

Community Relations

Accomplishments

- Hosted **Peer Housing Advocates Forum** at O-Hill Forum to talk to First Year students about the search for second year housing, the challenges of finding roommates and signing a lease, and the effect students have on the Charlottesville housing market. This has been an initiative which Student Council has been trying to institutionalize for nearly four years, so this was really exciting to see through
- Organized a **Charlottesville City Council Candidate Forum** on Grounds to allow students and community members the opportunity to hear from those running for election.
- Hosted a screening of “**A Legacy Unbroken: The Story of Black Charlottesville**”, a documentary made by local filmmakers and activists as an opportunity for members of the University community to learn more about local history

Challenges

- Turnout for many events was lower than we had hoped. In the future, we need a more purposeful approach to marketing
- COVID-19 forces us to call off our spring programming, which included a networking lunch to connect student organizations with local nonprofits

Ongoing Initiatives

- We are working to continue the groundwork we laid in the spring to host a networking lunch for student organizations and local nonprofits in the coming academic year.

Diversity Engagement

Accomplishments

- Successfully completed and released the **Diversity Grants Application** and rubric aimed to give monetary grants to multicultural CIO's for events and other programming with the aim of advocating on behalf of marginalized students and communities at the University, fostering discussions about identity, creating safe spaces for expression, increasing cultural awareness, and providing opportunities for minority students.
- Successfully planned and launched **Disability Awareness Week** in collaboration with students and members from **SDAC, Chronically Ill and Disabled Cavaliers, and Sustained Dialogue**. We planned three events: Disability Accessibility Ally Training, Disability Awareness Dialogue, and Advocacy Student Panel all with the aim at promoting disability awareness and education as well as how to be a good ally to the disability community. Each event had great turnout with **35-50 participants** at each event!
- Completed the first draft of the **Open Housing Report** aimed to increase publicity surrounding the open housing option by publicizing the option more clearly on UVA websites and on the Housing option itself. We included a survey, which **118 students** completed, pushed out to students about their knowledge of and opinion on the open housing survey. We worked with leaders of QSU and interns at the LGBTQ center to frame the survey and to push out the survey to students.

Challenges

- Some of the challenges included coming up with a sustainable and tangible project to improve minority recruitment by the University. We went through several potential projects that failed until we came up with a tangible and sustainable one towards the middle of the second semester. Unfortunately the coronavirus canceled all events and we were unable to proceed with the planning for our idea of partnering with the Black Student Alliance on potentially being able to bus students to Fall Fling (an event for prospective and admitted Black students) who otherwise would be unable to attend due to financial and transportation limitations.
- Due to the coronavirus crisis, all events were canceled which included the events that student organizations had put on that were being partially funded by the diversity grants application.

Ongoing Initiatives

- The Open Housing Report will remain an ongoing initiative as the next Chair of Diversity Engagement will have to go through major editing and get endorsements from student organizations in preparation for displaying the report to HRL members in order to get the open housing option changes implemented that we stated in the report.
- The Minority Recruitment project of partnering with BSA on Fall Fling transportation will be an ongoing initiative and should be implemented in the next administration for the upcoming Fall Fling and Spring Fling events. My hopes are that we will be able to extend this program to Fall Blast and Spring Blast when we have made sure that the program and co-sponsorship is successful.

Graduate Affairs

Accomplishments

- Secured partnerships with MIT and Harvard Graduate Councils to draft statutory language for **H-1B visa advocacy**
- Sponsored **graduate student tour of Central Grounds** with UGS in effort to increase graduate student engagement in and understanding of UVA history, traditions, and community
- Co-sponsored **graduate student reception** with Dean Laushway for Lighting of the Lawn
- Made critical connections with partner and family organizations across UVA schools to understanding school-specific needs and begin the process of creating university-wide **Graduate Partner Association**
- Launched the first **North Grounds Food Pantry**, housed at Darden, to expand food insecurity mitigation efforts to students in that area
- Secured strategic philanthropic partnership for **Pride at Darden** with **Side-by-Side Charlottesville**, an LGBTQ organization located downtown

Challenges

- Eliciting enough feedback and interaction with graduate students across the community. When it came time to staff the committee, a large number of members happened to be from my school. This is due in part to the fact that I was able to promote committee membership continually in person and in relevant channels, whereas other schools may not have had similar figures. I think it will

be important to have people in place at each school who can really drum up interest in joining the committee next year. This will be especially important when designing initiatives for the next year.

Ongoing Initiatives

- The creation of the Graduate Partners Association
- Continuing our work on H-1B visa advocacy, in particular, working with the UVA administration and Board of Visitors in securing key actions the University may take in helping international students overcome certain H-1B visa obstacles

Legislative Affairs

Accomplishments

- Over the course of the semester, the committee **registered over 1,000 students**. We did this through tabling during move-in weekend and national voter registration day in addition to voter registration in classrooms and dorms. The committee followed up these efforts by **holding office hours** to answer questions about election day, polling places, samples ballots, and more. The **city council candidate forum** was held in partnership with the community relations committee to give students more information on local politics. On election day, the **committee partnered and volunteered with Car2Vote** to offer students free rides to the polls from Ruppel Drive. Reports have indicated that **voter turnout increased by 400% in university precincts**.
- Over this past semester, we tracked bills in the general assembly, lobbied for those bills, hosted a town hall for student input, tabled for the presidential primary and circulated a survey on student legislative priorities.

Challenges

- The biggest challenge we had this year, especially the current semester was getting members to help out and participate in our different events. It unfortunately had to take the explicit address of mandatory participation, which at times wasn't even enough.

Financial Accessibility

Accomplishments

- The Financial Accessibility Committee is a new Student Council committee, created at the beginning of the term. Throughout this year, we've built partnerships with University administrators, University departments and offices, and student groups to conduct research, create resources, and lay the groundwork for future efforts and cooperation.
- **CAPS Next Steps Fund (NSF)**: Kick-started the NSF through a direct donation of \$1000. We are working to make this fund self sustainable through fundraisers, outside grants, and committee donations. We have also opened ongoing dialogue with University administration to secure the Fund's institutionalization.
- Met with an administrator from **SFS** to discuss an **Advisory Board** for this office, receiving a positive response and an open door for future collaboration.
- **SNAP/Medicaid Workshops**: Trained members to assist students with "Cover Virginia" application process, developed advertising, publicity, and logistics for community workshops, and scheduled meetings with administration for feedback. Team is ready to hold workshops in the fall after we receive this final feedback.
- **Lowering the Cost of UVA Course Materials**: Partnered with UVA Library to distribute in-person and online surveys to gather data on the impacts of course material costs on students, collecting 669 total responses. We found that ⅓ of students report that course material costs have a negative affect on their academic success, 54% report that costs have a negative effect on their personal well-being, and students often go to enormous lengths to manage costs.
- **Publishing the "Guide to Being Not-Rich at UVA"**: We continued drafting, editing, and expanding the guidebook with strategies and tips to help FGLI students navigate life at UVA. We began a partnership with the CIO FLIP to ensure a full range of perspectives are represented.
- The Committee participated in the **founding of the FGLI Student Coalition**, which brings together a wide range of FGLI-focused organizations across Grounds to improve coordination, outreach, dialogue, and visibility for first-generation and low-income students.

Challenges

- Disruption from the COVID-19 crisis prevented us from continuing with our planned releases of the Guide to Being Not-Rich at UVA and the results of our library textbook surveys. We were also scheduled to have meetings with high-level administrators after Spring Break to plan SNAP/Medicaid workshops. We're currently working on alternate ways to get our work "out there" as soon as possible and continue our discussions with University officials.

Ongoing Initiatives

- **CAPS Next Steps Fund:** In talks with UVA Alumni Club to secure donation, lobbying University officials to integrate NSF into CAPS institutional operating budget
- **SFS Advisory Board:** Ready to resume talks with University officials in the summer/fall.
- **SNAP/Medicaid Workshops:** Ready to hold workshops in the fall as soon as we hold our planned meetings with University officials for feedback.
- **Lowering the Cost of Course Materials:** Currently working with the library to continue research and outreach to improve representation of minority students, international students, FGLI students, and upper class/graduate students in our data. Developing avenues to publicize our findings and strategies to advocate for more accessible materials to administrators and faculty members.
- **Publishing the "Guide to Being Not-Rich at UVA":** We're continuing outreach to multicultural and FGLI-focused student groups to get feedback and will seek electronic and print distribution of the Guide as soon as we return to Grounds.

Safety & Wellness

Accomplishments

- **Positivity Week:** Week-long series of events from December 2nd-6th focused on building confidence and positivity among students leading up to finals, including: Coffee and Chats (partnership with HELPLine), therapy dogs, snack giveaway, art therapy, and self care chat.
- Successfully publicized the **Security & General Safety Committee's Night Tour**, ultimately receiving over 100 suggestions of locations on Grounds for review.

- Compiled and publicized list of **mental health resources** available to students, located on the Hoos Mental Health page of the Student Council website.
- **Student Police Advisory Board:** Students from across the University were able to provide input to Chief of Police Tim Longo about policing and general safety concerns among the student body. The Board will continue to meet going into the next school year.
- **Mental Health Collaborative:** This Collaborative is a partnership between Student Council and the Peer Health Educators to bring together stakeholders including mental health professionals at CAPS and other clinics, leaders of mental health-focused student groups such as NAMI, and others to coordinate efforts to improve mental health at UVA.

Challenges

- The COVID-19 epidemic interrupted plans for several additional initiatives, including the Fourth Year Healthcare Transition Seminars, which were planned in conjunction with the Fourth Year Trustees and Student Health; a second Positivity Week; another free STI testing event, planned in conjunction with the Peer Health Educators; and further meetings of the Mental Health Collaborative.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Going into the 2020-2021 academic year, we plan to hold **Fourth Year Healthcare Transition Seminars**, which will allow fourth years to hear from a panel of healthcare professionals and a health insurance expert.

Service

Accomplishments

- **Custodial Appreciation Luncheon:**
 - Danielle Cormier is in charge of the project
 - Fall lunch to be held on Dec 6th
 - Was able to lower spending on food for event, saved ~ \$100
 - Had a good turnout of custodians
 - Most amount of authentic thank you cards from residents and RAs
 - Spring lunch to be held on April 24th
 - Canceled due to COVID-19
- **Service Scholar Program:**
 - Vivian Garcia and Jessica Wen are in charge of the project

- Sending out certificates and information on how to receive cords at the end of April
- **Global Service Case Competition:**
 - to be held March 28th (canceled due to COVID-19)
 - Was able to get 4 judges confirmed for the event and they are willing to judge for next year again
 - Advertised early for this event allowed us to get sufficient number of teams to participate

Challenges

- Switching chairs in the middle of the term did make transfer of information a little harder for some projects, but contacting committee members and StudCo president helped
- With the effects of COVID-19 our two biggest projects of the semester were canceled, however, we have started planning on how to make them better for the next term and what we can change about the organization of each event so that the next chair can run them easier.
 - Setting up project heads to lead each initiative will help the Chair oversee everything and not have to be in charge of it all

Ongoing Initiatives

- **Service scholar** is an all-year project where students can submit volunteer hours for every year and we approve them based on their legitimacy. Then according to the number of hours they accomplished they receive a certificate or cord at the end of their four years.
 - Currently checking hours until April 12th and then will see who gets what.

Student Life

Accomplishments

- **AirBus:** With this being the second year that this initiative has taken place, we were able to learn a lot from last year's run AirBus shuttle service! to improve the program and its offerings! Based on the feedback we've gotten, we announced the dates earlier in the semester, sent out a mass email to the student body (both undergrad. and grad.) notifying them about the service, and lowered the cost to make our rates more competitive with other services. Because of this, we saw an increase in student participation and it became more cost effective! Our hope for the future is that this service becomes a round-trip experience.

- **Student Dining Advisory Board:** As the goal of this committee is to be the vehicle for student feedback to shape our dining experiences at UVA, this new board has not been afraid to ask the hard questions and work with dining to do a holistic overview of our current offerings. As a result of this open-channel that we have created with UVA Dining, we are able to expedite the process of turning feedback into actionable change. This year, members of SDAB were able to interact/engage in/with different aspects of UVA Dining and work with them to create action items that we can't wait to see come to fruition! Topics of conversation ranged from Green Dining, revamping the Meal Plan Model for the 2020-2021 School Year, creating an allergen safe menu for all retail locations, and so much more.
- **Meal Kits:** The main goal of the initiative was to remove any barriers that a student may face with regards to accessing a healthy, substantial source of food during these short breaks. With Dining Halls having shorter hours of operation, UTS bus modifying their run time, and access to free food scarce, these amplified obstacles played a major role as to why the Student Life Committee took on this project. For us, these are the factors that might exacerbate food insecurity during this time period. These Meal Kits served as a temporary solution to this problem. For Spring Break, we were able to distribute over 50 Meal Kits. Meal Kits were available to be picked up from the Community Food Pantry located in the SAC the week before Spring Break.
- **Transfer Resources Committee:** The Representative Body voted on a bill to create this ad-hoc committee, to be housed under the Student Life Committee, charged with creating an online handbook with various sources to help incoming, and current, transfer students succeed during their time here at UVA! We are excited to collaborate with the Transfer Advisory Board on this amazing initiative. As of March 5th, 2020, the Transfer Guidebook has been completed. The Guidebook will be released and put on the Student Council website by the end of the school year!

Challenges

- **Communication:** Getting stakeholders involved in our many initiatives can be difficult. As some of us do not have a direct connection to the different groups that might be impacted by our projects, it is hard to determine their actual needs versus our vision of their needs when these lines of communications aren't open.
- **Time:** In general, our initiatives needs time to play itself out. Because the yearly changes in Administration does not guarantee that our projects will continue, we often feel the need to expedite our process, or having to make compromises over the quality of the end product.

- **Feedback:** It is often hard to keep up with the stream of feedback -- mostly negative -- that falls in our area of jurisdiction -- Housing, Dining, Parking and Transportation, and Printing. While these feedbacks are crucial, an excessive amount of it -- especially without any recognition of the progress that has been made -- often bogs down our committee along with the stakeholders that we engage with to address these areas of concerns. In order to be the most effective, it often feels like we need through these feedback and assign it a priority level to get it addressed which is not something that we want to do.
- **Continuity:** As this is the second year in a row where the Student Life Committee is in operations, it is important to establish a baseline or “expected initiative” to come out of this committee. One of the biggest areas of concerns, expressed by myself and the former Chair is the fact that because this Committee goes through waves where it becomes defunct under different Administrations, it is often hard to figure out where to start with the charges of the committee; therefore, having a baseline of initiatives that normally gets done (like AirBus) provides a good starting point for the incoming Chair.

Ongoing Initiatives

- **FoodCam:** Our attempt at reducing food waste on-Grounds while also getting the food to those who might need it. The goal is to create our version of MIT’s Food Cam and place it in a central location for everyone to have access to it. Once this project is up and running, our goal is to work with Dining, and other groups, to get them to utilize this service for their excess food at the end of their catering events and more. At this time, the Food Cam is up and running. As of March 28th, the Food Cam is streaming to a local address. Next steps for this project includes buying more parts for this project to ensure the camera’s longevity, connecting it to Student Council’s website, and finding a central location on Grounds for it to be placed at.
- **SafeRide Survey:** The aim of this initiative is to gather data and evaluate the effectiveness of the current SafeRide service offered at the University, particularly through student feedback, in order to make recommendation the Transportation and Parking Committee related to possible considerations related to the current SafeRide program, along with whether or not to collaborate with Lyft in offering students a safe and reputable mode of transportation. The survey has been sent completed and has been disseminated. As the data collected so far is very low, the next phases of this project will revolve around marketing and getting the information out to as many students as possible.

Sustainability

Accomplishments

- **UVA EcoNetwork:** Launched a Student-voiced, online platform to find information on anything and everything sustainability at UVA. The page, on the StudCo Sustainability tab of the Student Council website, enables people to connect with sustainability organizers, hear about related classes, and learn about the challenges faced while making sustainable change within our community.
- **Earth Day, Every Day Campaign:** Supporting the UVA Office for Sustainability in an effort to bring Earth Week online this April, we have committed to engaging with their daily challenges and promoting Earth Week virtually.
- **LEAP Energy Audits:** Partnering with Charlottesville's Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), we advertised and connected LEAP with student legacy houses off-grounds interested in getting energy audits. The goal was to make home improvements to reduce energy costs for students, as well as benefit the environment by reducing consumption.
- **Zero Waste Mission:** Successfully supplied compostable materials for several mid- to large-scale events including the Student Activities Fair, Pancakes 4 Parkinson's, and 4th year 5k. Our partnership with BlackBear Composting and UVA Facilities Management make these efforts possible!
- **Green Building Literacy Initiative:** Designed, marketed, and organized UVA's first LEED Green Associate training program in partnership with UVA's Office for Sustainability, Equity and Environment Fund, and Sustainable Design Consulting.
- **Green Tech Settings:** Partnered with UVA IT to ensure computer lab sleep settings in select libraries and schools are set to optimize energy consumption overnight when computers are not in use.

Challenges

- Covid-19 threw us for a loop in terms of seeing projects through. April hosts so many Earth Week events that our committee gets to be involved in! We had planned many exciting and engaging events during April, but now hope to see some of those actualize in the next academic year.
 - **SustainaBagels:** A way to generate excitement around Earth Week, this year we were partnering with Aramark to give away free Starbucks coffee

and reusable to-go tumblers, plus Bodo's to folks committing to attend earth week events

- **Divestment Rally:** Utilizing art, students were planning to rally together to generate a conversation and encourage support of divestment within the UVA community and demonstrate that this issue is important to UVA students.
- **EarthFest:** A community celebration of sustainability progress on grounds and in Charlottesville. This event, re-imagined for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, planned to focus on artistic ways to express major change demanded for our future. We hoped to invite community members on grounds and off to both celebrate climate wins and fuel discussions about the urgency we face with climate change and impending risks to communities around the world.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Zero Waste Mission
- UVA EcoNetwork

A Note from the Vice President for Administration

Dear UVA,

I am incredibly proud of the growth of the Administrative Branch over the past year. Since the summer, we established the new Alumni Relations Committee to help grow our endowment and gain alumni support for Student Council initiatives, significantly expanded our social media presence and connectivity, increased internal accountability and engagement by reinvigorating membership requirements, and increased outreach to previous Student Council administrations to augment our institutional knowledge. I'm grateful to the wonderful leadership and committee members in the Administrative Branch who worked hard to see their plans and ideas come to fruition, and I'm so excited to see the good work that the Administrative Branch will accomplish in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Ellen Yates

Vice President for Administration

Administration

Alumni Relations

Accomplishments

- **Partnered with the Office of Advancement** to mine alumni information and get an accurate list of former Student Council members, with data going back as far as the 1970s
- **Creation of an alumni database** wherein this information from the Office of Advancement will be stored for Student Council use
- **Release of a monthly newsletter** to keep alumni up-to-date on initiatives, accomplishments, and challenges facing Student Council

Ongoing Initiatives

- **Establishing Student Council as an Alumni Interest Group**, which would give Student Council access to valuable resources provided by the Alumni Association, including: mentorship on fundraising, resources to create alumni-funded scholarships, access to premium marketing and communications tools, and a presence on the Alumni Association website and its communications. This initiative will carry over into the next administration
- **Building up the Alumni Endowment** with help from the Finance Committee and the UVA Alumni Association, which will be carried over into the next administration

Finance

Accomplishments

- **Chipotle Night Fundraiser:** We worked with the Representative Body to raise money for Student Council's operations and initiatives by partnering with Chipotle.

Challenges

- We struggled with balancing our mandatory tasks (creating the budget and processing reimbursements) with our other initiatives.

Ongoing Initiatives

- **Endowment Planning:** We would like to start planning a capital campaign to raise money for the Student Council endowment.

History

Accomplishments

- Expansion of the **Alumni Network** alongside the Alumni Relations Committee.
- **Recorded the current General Body's achievements** through uniform and easily accessible Meeting Minutes.
- Through collaboration with Larry J. Sabato, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, and Ken Stroupe, **directed President Ryan to add Robert F. Kennedy (LAW '51) to the University's Committee on Names' shortlist.**

Challenges

- Unwillingness of staff in charge of room bookings to allow Student Council to **book rooms** (specifically, any room at all in the Rotunda) for events.
- Difficulty **collaborating and corresponding with some (not all) higher-up University administration.**

Ongoing Initiatives

- Working to **update the plaques** in the Student Council President's Office.
- Booking and planning **an event in the Rotunda celebrating Student Self Governance** in the 1970's with the Chair of the Corcoran Department of History, Dr. Claudrean Harold and the University's Small Special Collections Library.

Marketing & Communications

Accomplishments

- **Finalization of Student Council unified brand** to increase consistency among public-facing platforms. While closely related to the University's brand guidelines, the Student Council brand has a distinct, fresh look and feel.
- **Continuation of Canva Pro** for graphic design, allowing the committee to produce and archive higher-quality graphics and to ensure brand unity.

- **Regular use of diverse social media platforms** to enhance Student Council connects with the student body and various faculty members, departments, and schools. Increasing our use of Twitter and Instagram has allowed us to be more public-facing.
- **Incorporation of TikTok** into social media approach, both to highlight daily life of Student Council and to reach younger audiences and prospective students/members. One post went viral, with over 1.4 million views.
- **Incorporation of Hootsuite** into social media approach, allowing the committee and the Director of University Relations to schedule posts ahead of time and keep track of what content was going out and when.

Challenges

- **Increasing negative sentiments** regarding Student Council and its operations have harmed our ability to engage in meaningful outreach and recruit in satisfactory numbers.
- **Committee size** was too large, leaving work too thinly distributed.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Preliminary work in **website redesign** and a public **legislation database**, which will be continued into the next administration.
- Preliminary work in **responding to negative perception** and **producing positive media content** to highlight Student Council and its important work.
- Sourcing of **streamlined platforms** for the graphic design process, such as Trello, which will ideally allow chairs to submit requests and for these requests to be processed under one roof, and Knack, which will ideally allow for the construction of the aforementioned database.

Technology

Accomplishments

- Continued support of the <https://www.uvastudco.com/> **website**
 - **Updating Chair and Representative information**, ensuring its accuracy
 - **Gathered community concerns** through the SpeakUp UVA portal, then sent them to the appropriate Committee Chair
 - **Posted proposed legislation** week by week
- Continued support of **Student Council listserv email addresses**

A Note from the Vice President for Organizations

Dear UVA,

This year we have made exciting improvements in how we internally allocate funding, audit that funding, approve new CIOs, and create resources for those CIOs. We organized two highly successful Activities Fairs (the largest in history for both the Fall and Spring semesters), helping more than half of the existing CIOs publicize their events. As so many students primarily interact with Student Council through the Organizations Branch, in the coming term we will be working towards increasing the accessibility and presence of the resources offered by the Branch. We are excited to offer an online Activities Fair in the Fall, to create new versions of the SAF Guidelines that are easier to read and highlight commonly requested items, to simplify and empower the audit system, and to increase our efficiency and communication while approving new CIOs. We hope to be a resource to students in the coming year, more so than we ever have before. Thank you to the wonderful Chairs who served this past term. I look forward to working with the incoming Leadership Team in the term to come!

Sincerely,

Shefalika Prasad

Vice President for Organizations

Organizations

Appropriations

Accomplishments

- **Allocated roughly \$400,000 in SAF funding to around 300 CIOs**
- **Abolished the Semi-Annual round**
- **Updated the SAF guidelines** multiple times to reflect changes in CIO's needs and to increase equity in how SAF funds are distributed

Challenges

- CIOs have a hard time finding information listed on our website
- Enforcing the new Rolling Round system, having abolished the Semi-Annual round

- Graduate organizations continually feel as though their needs are not properly met by undergraduate Student Council members

Ongoing Initiatives

- Complete revamping of the online resources available to CIOs applying for funding
- Institutionalizing a quiz all CIO Financial Officers must take before applying for funding
- Working to increase collaboration between Appropriations and the Finance Office
- Working with BAM to ensure that funds are being used appropriately
- Reinstate a graduate committee on Appropriations, led by a graduate Vice Chair

Board of Audit & Management

Accomplishments

- **Successfully completed audits** for the Appropriations Rolling Round 1 and Rolling Round 2 - a total of 42 audits.

Challenges

- The dissolution of the Data Analytics Subcommittee and the reintegration of those members into Budget Management has allowed the Board in general to focus exclusively on audits and management now
- CIO response rate is not perfect, and in person audits are often more effective than the traditional email audits done now

Ongoing Initiatives

- Continual refinement of the auditing process and working to improve member productivity and CIO compliance
- Complete review of the structure of financial statements (add or omit any aspects of them), look over the auditing process (how we organize everything, deadlines, etc.), and determine dates for the Rolling Rounds audits for next semester

CIO Consultants

Accomplishments

- Successfully planned and executed, along with the Vice President for Organizations, the **Spring Activities Fair**
- Continued work on five resource guides for CIOs:
 - **CIO Application Process Tutorial**

- Infographic and voice over on the CIO application process (as inspired by Student Engagement), that lays out the process and steps to go through the CIO Application process
- **Appropriations Benchmarking**
 - Continuation of the guide started last term, which compares and contrasts the appropriations process at UVA with other similar institutions.
 - Also provides a summarized version (FAQ) of the appropriations guidelines
- **Technology and Space Reservations**
 - What spaces work for which kinds of meetings/events and how to reserve technology for these spaces
- **Member Retention and Recruitment**
 - Best strategies for organizational needs of a CIO; ie. leadership methods, how to maintain membership retention
- **Fundraising**
 - Elaborates on our existing fundraising guides, discussing funding methods outside of SAF funding

Challenges

- CIO response rate was very low for some of the targeted guides

Ongoing Initiatives

- Creating an online Fall Fair
- Completely revamping how the online resources are displayed on our website
- Publicizing the various guides as they are completed
- Expanding the use of atUVA to be more beneficial to students and CIO leaders

Organizations Recognition

Accomplishments

- Successfully reviewed **36 organization applications for CIO status**
 - Of these 36 total organizations, 27 were approved or have been put forward to bill for General Body vote, four were rejected by the committee, and 5 are currently being reviewed

Challenges

- Without hard deadlines for committee members, some application vetting lasted longer than others, creating confusion
- Properly communicating with CIOs that their applications are not being reviewed yet needs to be emphasized

Ongoing Initiatives

- Institutionalizing hard deadlines that organizations can expect to have a decision made about their CIO status
- Making the CIO application easier to quickly vet

A Note from the Chair of the Representative Body

The Representative Body of 2019-2020 achieved real and impactful results for the students of the University of Virginia. Beyond serving as a voice of the student body, the Representative Body focused on *follow through*, giving our legislation and initiatives new meaning. By building strong relationships and considering all of the tools in our toolkit as Representatives, we have re-defined what it means to be a Student Council Representative.

Representative Body

Passed [Legislation](#) (w/ significant policy bolded)

Spring 2019

SB19-01: A Bill to Approve Appointments to the Cabinet Made By the President

SB19-02: A Bill to Approve Appointments Made By the Vice President of Organizations

SB19-03: A Bill to Approve Appointments Made By the Vice President of Administration

SB19-04: A Bill to Approve the Appointment of the Director of University Relations

SR19-05: A Resolution in Recognition of the Efforts of Take Back the Night

SB19-06: A Bill to Create an Ad Hoc Committee on Renaming, Recontextualizing, and Removal

SB19-07: A Bill to Approve the 2019 Student Council Summer Budget as Presented by the Chief Financial Officer

SB19-08: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

SR19-09: A Resolution in Support of the Demands of the Newcomb Hall Student Staff

SR19-10: A Resolution to Support the Renewal of Assistant Professor Sreerekha Mullassery Sathiamma's Contract in the Global Development Studies Program

SR19-11: A Resolution in Support of Amending the CIO Non-Discrimination Clause with the Addition of Immigration Status as a Protected Identity

SB19-12: A Bill to Create an Ad-Hoc Committee to Report on University Student Elections

SR19-13: A Resolution in Remembrance of Kristen Kiefer, Rehan Baddeliyanage, and Rouzbeh Rastgarkafshgarkolaei

Fall 2019

FB19-01: A Bill to Approve the President's Appointment to the Office of the Vice President for Administration

FB19-02: A Bill to Approve the Appointments to the President's Cabinet

FB19-03: A Bill to Approve the President's Appointment of the Executive Director of the UVA Community Food Pantry

FB19-04: A Bill to Approve Contracted Independent Organizations Space Allocations for 2019-2020

FB19-05: A Bill to Approve the Appointment of the Rules and Ethics Board

FB19-06: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to the Officers of the Vice President for Administration

FB19-07: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws to Create a Transfer Affairs Committee

FB19-08: A Bill to Approve the Appointment of the Director of University Relations

FB19-09: A Bill to Create an Ad-Hoc Committee to Evaluate Student Voice in Council Appointment Processes

FB19-10: A Bill to Approve Appointments to the President's Cabinet

FB19-11: A Bill to Approve Appointments Made By the Vice President for Administration

FB19-12: A Bill to Modify the Ad Hoc Committee on Renaming, Recontextualization, and Removal

FB19-13: A Bill to Approve the 2019-2020 Student Council Operating Budget as Presented by the Director of Finance

FB19-15: A Bill to Create an Ad-Hoc Committee to Create an Online Handbook for Transfer Student Resources at the University of Virginia

FB19-16: A Resolution in Support of Adopting the New College Curriculum

FB19-17: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to the Cabinet Committee Leadership

FR19-18: A Resolution Calling on the University to Provide Free STI Testing

FB19-19: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

FB19-20: A Bill to Create an Ad-Hoc Committee to Support Student Workers

FR19-21: A Resolution Denouncing the University's Practice of Providing an Additional Review to Applicants of "Institutional Interest"

FB19-22: A Bill to Amend the Student Activities Fee Guidelines

FB19-23: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

FB19-24: A Bill to Modify the Student Elections Exploratory Ad Hoc Committee

Spring 2020

SB20-01: A Bill to Approve the Appointments to the President's Cabinet

SB20-02: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to the Community Food Pantry

SR20-03: A Resolution In Support of Mental Wellness and Resiliency Courses In Engagements

SB20-05: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

SR20-06: A Resolution In Support of Mental Wellness and Resiliency Courses In the Disciplines

SB20-07: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

SB20-08: A Bill to Amend the Student Activities Fee Guidelines

SB20-09: A Bill to Approve An Appointment Made By the Vice President for Administration

SB20-10: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to General Body Meeting Procedures

SB20-11: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to the Presidential Senate

SB20-12: A Bill to Amend the Bylaws in Regards to the First-Generation Low-Income Coalition

SB20-13: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

SB20-14: A Bill to Approve Newly Created Contracted Independent Organizations

SR20-15: A Resolution to Support the Uyghur-American Community by Raising Awareness of the Uyghur Genocide Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

SR20-16: A Resolution Demanding Full and Timely Compensation for Non Federal Work Study Student Employees Amid the COVID-19 Crisis

Accomplishments

- The Representative Body offered a **decisive stance on the University's "watch list"** practice with FR19-21 which condemned the practice. Following the failure of FR19-14, the Representative Body worked hard to collect more information on the "watch list" and contacted administrators in the Office of Advancement, Office of Admissions, and the Office of the Provost. These efforts uncovered a previously unacknowledged shift in the University's "watch list"

practice: that Advancement stopped maintaining the formal “watch list” in 2017, making the current “watch list” an opaque and piecemeal system of “endorsements” from donors and University officials that earn applicants a second review. Though no formal “watch list” presently exists, the Representative Body condemned, on principle, the practice of giving a second review to applicants on the basis of connections to donors with the passage of FR19-21.

- The Representative Body made several key additions to the Student Council 2019-2020 Operating Budget. Highlights include:
 - **Creating a research grant for undergraduate and graduate SCPS students**
 - **Allocating funding for the formal printing of the Ad Hoc Committee on Historical Landscape’s final report**
- The Representative Body **created several Ad Hoc Committees** to start addressing more complex and impactful issues at the University. See list of leg above for examples.
- The Representative Body **passed several resolutions** supporting initiatives and programs that help create a more accessible UVA. See list of leg above for examples.
- The Representative Body has begun the important task of **building strong relationships** with organizations like DREAMers on Grounds, Jewish Leadership Council, the Latinx Student Alliance, the Indian Student Association, and other identity-based groups. We build these relationships in the hopes of becoming effective and equal partners with these groups in pursuing policy change at UVA. Specifically, we are working together on supporting undocu+ matriculation, more equitable religious-based absence policies, and the translation of admissions and financial aid documents into Spanish and Mandarin.
- First Year Representatives pioneered new projects for their class such as improving the recycling and composting systems at Crossroads Food Court and collecting data on access to water in the first year dorms.
- The Representative Body produced major legislation and advocacy on the New College Curriculum. Prior to the CLAS Faculty’s vote on adopting the New College Curriculum, the Representative Body passed FB19-16 and urged the passage of the New College Curriculum. Once the New College Curriculum was adopted, the Representative Body followed up with resolution SR20-06 on behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illnesses at UVA (NAMI), calling for a Wellness and Resilience requirement within the New College Curriculum. Representatives are working with NAMI to create formal proposals for Wellness and Resilience requirements and lobby the CLAS faculty to adopt this requirement.

- Following the University's inequitable policies on student workers in their COVID-19 response, the Representative Body passed legislation urging the University to compensate non-Federal Work Study student employees. Several members of the Representative Body are still advocating for this policy and negotiating with administrators across the University.

Challenges

- Our internal Representative Body committees need more structure and consistency.