

# State of Affairs

## Fall and Winter Quarter 2016

- 1) What major programs, projects have you found to have positive impact on students while realizing A.S.I. goals?

Overall, the commissioners saw great interaction with the student population for the winter quarter. They found that their programs had a positive impact on students and lay down foundation for future programs for future program planners and leaders. Specifically our spirit week enlivened campus spirit and activity by bringing many aspects of campus together. Additionally, we saw that the Green Resolutions was an advocative event for our students representing the environment. Overall, the interactive programs have the largest positive impact on students.

The Farmer's Market has been very popular and brought members of Cal State LA and the surrounding community together for diverse, health food options. The float decorating this quarter was a good way for students to interact with each other, while working together for more Cal State LA spirit. Finally, the D-Stress event has been popular, with ASI actually being out there, instead of in the office all the time.

There's a concern with the amount of programming that happens within ASI. So much programming is being planned by the college reps, where they seem to be losing touch with advocacy and connecting their students within their college with ASI and the University. Programming is too broad, and doesn't narrow the colleges down specifically.

College representatives have successfully planned and organized college specific events that helped to cultivate new relationships among students and improve campus experience. The programs were utilized as a tool for marketing ASI initiatives.

Executive officers increased their collaboration for identifying campus needs and draft resolutions to address them.

- 2) What are the major issues and challenges facing ASI this quarter? How can ASI address these challenges and work towards creating solutions?

The major issues facing ASI this quarter are holding our student leaders back from reaching their full potential. For example, our students are left to focus on handling these issues and getting past these challenges so that they may be effective within their positions as student leaders. One of the major issues that our

student leaders face today is the communication amongst professional staff members and student leaders. When information is not forwarded to student leaders, they are unable to prepare and adequately execute their objectives. Additionally, it is difficult for a lot of students to reach out on certain issues because they do not know where to do so. Through our reaching out, I am hopeful that we will harbor an environment where students and student leaders can communicate effectively with one another to ensure justice and equity in advocacy.

There are many issues that A.S.I. is facing this quarter. The Senators believe that the date for fall registration is early this year and on the same day as summer registration. Financial aid packages may not be ready in time, effecting a large amount of students. Another issue seen was the BOD voting. Some feel as if there is personal bias on voting items, and this voting does not reflect the constituent's needs.

There is also a delay with prostaff making things be continually pushed back, printing issues, another budget not approved, lack of committee reports by BOD members being submitted, and there's a delay on recruitment efforts. Also, there are a lot of unexcused absences at committee meetings, a lack of state of affairs on the Shared Governance end, and lack of respect for others personal space, as in putting things where they don't belong, and moving others belongings.

3) Propose plans, programs and activities that you will undertake during the upcoming quarter?

During the upcoming quarter our team will undertake very large programming efforts that many students will be able to enjoy. Our spring calendar is always packed with lots of events to do for students and this upcoming quarter will serve as an echelon for ASI programming. This spring, we plan on having our large Earth Day event where we will have the largest Earth Day event that we have ever prepared. Additionally, we are working directly with housing to ensure that the annual Spring Madness event will offer our students a lot of activities. Currently our budget for Spring Madness is threatened, so we will ensure that we are able to fix the 3:9 before it is too late.

There will be a push back initiative to make later registration dates, along with a potential ASI Academic Senator restructuring, to connect them internally more than they are currently. Shared Governance will hopefully be recruiting, emphasize committee participation during elections, and pass a strategic planning for Shared Governance.

Executive committee is planning to pass resolutions to address the need for gender neutral bathrooms, divestment from prison related funds, and to support the next of the undocumented students.

- 4) Do you believe that you have developed as a stronger student leader this quarter? As a leader, which areas can you further grow?

Our student leaders developed further this year. In one instance, we saw that one student leader within the cabinet of commissioners of associated students incorporated "gained more control over the committee and we are much more organized with our duties and our goals." Through guidance, this student leader was able to improve their committee and ensure that it was pursuing the direction that they wanted to pursue.

The Academic Senators have grown critically by speaking up for student concerns in both the Academic Senate and the Senate Executive under the Academic Senate. The Senators also want to learn how to better manage their committee members, delegate workloads, and better focus on their position. The Vice President for Academic Governance identifies with a strong leadership development through delegation, Shared Governance, Strategic planning for Shared Governance, and being inclusive to all Board members.

We can improve on getting committee reports faster, not scheduling classes during Shared Governance, being more present and directly constructive criticism in a better fashion.

ASI members require more training and institutional knowledge to fulfill their responsibilities.

- 5) Has A.S.I. stepped closer to reaching its short and long term goals this past quarter?

There is a consensus that ASI still has a lot of work to do before reaching its goals. We want students to be more involved and we want to have effective lines of communication with students. Additionally, other goals are yet to be solidified, which is a huge problem for the organization.

Shared Governance has had a problem with the retention of committee members. We had a large chunk of members at the end of Fall quarter, but as soon as eligibility came in, many students were deemed ineligible and our retention rates fell drastically. We have also attempted to work on fixing our damaged relationships with specific administrators, while still having a tense environment with other administrators. Student feedback is reaching higher up in the administration, and we've been working on finding more applicants for open positions.

Short term goals completed: ensure elections is flowing, clear tensions between some A.S.I. members, finally passed tablets, programming

Long term goals completed: start the hiring process for the vacant ASI administrative spots, start the strategic planning.

The ultimate goal would be to establish ASI as a strong student advocacy on campus that has the tool and means necessary to respond to students needs.