



ASI State of Affairs Report

November 29, 2018

Within the past few months, ASI has made great efforts to serve the campus community and empower student voices. We have had growth and success in various areas regarding teamwork, programming, tabling, and advocacy. However while this is very powerful, ASI still faces limitations and like most organizations, there is still room for improvement. In essence, our ASI administration has worked diligently to serve the campus community and we will continue to do so in the remainder of our term.

First, some of the major plans, programs, projects and activities undertaken by our organization include: Pizza with the President, ASI Referendum, Military Connected Student Surveys, National Voter Registration Day, and the upcoming Destress and Open Deliberation programs. With all of these programs, ASI has effectively improved communication with the campus community, established transparency around ASI programs and resources, and informed the public on University policies that impacted the campus community. For some of these projects, such as the ASI Referendum, our administration has made tremendous progress thus far because this is the closest we have ever gotten to achieving our end goal of expanding ASI services. For other projects, such as the Military Connected Student Surveys, this year will be the first year our ASI ever reached out to our campus community in such a way and yielded such significant data. Additionally, next semester we can also look forward to having an ASI led Roberts Rules training for both students interested in running for ASI positions and students actively engaged in clubs and organizations, which might I add, has also never been done before. Overall, this work is absolutely ground breaking in reference to what has been accomplished in previous years and we intend to continue this progress

While we have great growth, there is still room for improvement in various areas. Given the current status of ASI staff and membership on committees it is apparent that our organization is grossly understaffed internally and that there is a need for more student representation on both internal and external committees. Our organization has undergone several adjustments to both management and structure but we do intend to fill the staff vacancies as soon as possible. We are also receiving administrative support from Betty Kennedy and Frangelo Ayrán who are University staff members that volunteered to support our student leaders for the duration of this transition. Additionally, to increase student representation on committees and in the governance programs our organization will be placing more emphasis on promotion and communication with campus faculty who can also support promoting our student leadership opportunities.

Other major issues and problems our ASI faces include membership retention, internal communication, low event turnout and collaborative efforts between our ASI and University faculty and administration. Alternative plans of action include enhanced elections and orientation trainings as well as further discussions regarding potential shadowing opportunities within ASI. In addition to that, we will take time during Winter Retreat to stress the importance of communication both internally and externally to ensure that all members can receive the necessary support to be successful with in our organization. As I previously mentioned, we will also be placing more emphasis on ASI promotion through student leaders and faculty. Additionally, we will continue to build and foster relationships with University faculty and administrators by reaching out for collaborative opportunities and representing our student government as leaders looking to increase community unity and campus collaborations.

In regards to our finances, we are currently actively working to address the \$75k deficit related to the post retirement benefit obligations. Recommendations were presented at and approved by both the Finance Committee and Board of Directors. We have made cuts in several areas without significantly impacting our programming or resources that we offer to students. We will be looking at this in more detail at the 6 and 6 to determine where else can be adjusted to remedy our deficit. Additionally, we have exhausted our club funding allocation for the fall semester and rejected a few reimbursement request due to our financial constraints. We are now encouraging students to begin submitting finance proposals for the spring semester as allocation will continue to be on a first come first serve basis.

Ultimately, it is my firm belief that we have succeeded thus far at working as a team to enhance campus resources. We have also met our goal of being more advocacy focused. In terms of the goals that have not yet been achieved, I believe we are still on track to accomplishing them. Specifically, we will continue to push forward with our goal of passing the ASI Referendum and increasing student engagement with ASI programs and services. Overall, we have done great at supporting each other the way a team should and I look forward to continuing our team work and advocacy throughout the spring semester as well.

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