



State of Affairs Report December 9, 2021

ASI has made great efforts to support students and showcase their advocacy in many ways like Board discussions, and Webinars with administration, but being remote has been one of the biggest issues that ASI faced. This issue brought up internal and external conflicts that was the first in ASI. This semester, ASI continued their meetings and office hours online while service work such as attending events or tabling was in-person and online depending on the member's class schedule, essentially overall working hybrid. This mode brought many internal issues including, lack of participation/engagement in meeting discussions, in-person events, and overall lack of advocacy and service work. ASI prides themselves in being student advocates yet they were not being active in meeting discussions when the Board will discuss current issues that students were facing. As well as members were also multi-meeting and not fully engaging in the meetings where they are voting members to critical decision-making that will impact the student body. Actively voicing student concerns is part of the job, yet many members were struggling with this. It was clear that members were not paying attention to student needs and interests and it was clear that there is a disconnect between ASI members and students. This issue particularly emerged because half of our student body was in-person but ASI still worked remote. These issues were shared through the State of Affairs reports submitted by ASI members.

Furthermore, when ASI requested for members to engage in-person to serve those students, many members requested to continue their advocacy online which made it harder to target students who were on campus. This request and actively having to remind members to participate and engage with the student body resulted in a drastic loss of members. ASI lost half of their board members as many argued that ASI was starting to be "too much." This was another internal issue that ASI faced as college reps were down to one representative for each college. (except CCOE). There was less motivation from members to continue and work in their role. The biweeklies reports started to show that members were burned out, or confuse, or not motivated. At one point, 10 members did not submit their biweekly report which was a first for ASI.

ASI was dealing with the lack of engagement from within but as well as externally from the student body. We noticed that the students who were on campus were disappointed that they did not see any organizations on campus and have mentioned that they wanted to hear more from ASI. ASI wanted to reach those students hence why in-person tabling began this semester. Another issue that ASI was facing was the lack of communication as we rolled out many of our events this semester, we have limited platforms and it does not reach as many students as we would like.

Through these issues, ASI has created alternative plans of actions. There was a lot of flexibility this semester in that those members who had classes fully online were not punished for not being able to come in-person to engage with the student body. Those who had classes in-person had the chance to table. We were able to coordinate this by setting a week of tabling and sign-up sheets. In order to have more participation in meetings, there meeting expectations in place where members had to have their cameras on to reduce/prevent multi-meetings, multi-tasking and members were being called on to



participate. ASI also began to collaborate with the university in sending mass emails to students about certain events and vacancies.

Major programs that were undertaken by ASI this semester was the Addressing Student Needs webinar in collaboration with key university stakeholders. This event is a favorite in the student population and in ASI. This event focuses on addressing major issues of the student body which ASI gathers student questions weeks prior to the event. In the webinar, administration gets to answer those same questions which many students get to be informed about the current state of the university. Other programs that were a success were the events hosted by the CCOE reps, Womxn in STEM (ECST), Mi Vida Su Vida (DIO), and few others. Some proposed plans for the upcoming semester are all in-person and many have expressed interest in club fairs, meet and greets, and career growth.

The current status of ASI staff is the vacancy of the program coordinator. This position focuses on serving student leaders when it comes to their programs and leading them through ideas to flourish their events to cater the student body. The need for a program coordinator is noticeable as many members struggled in figuring out how to best use their funds to provide our services to the student body. With the proposed onboarding of new ASI staff, we hope to see enhancements made to the leadership development curriculum and member orientation/training program. The current status of ASI membership is low and ASI is currently at the lowest point they have been with membership. We currently have about 5 students at large in committees.

In regard to finances, ASI currently has a lot of money rolled over and we have not yet fully spent the money budgeted for this semester as well. This has to do with the fact that zoom events are free and the only thing we would have to pay for is the speakers we get which does not really cause a dent in our budget. Majority of our reps still have a good amount of their budget to use.

It remains our firm belief that we have succeeded in accomplishing various short-term goals such as providing online events to serve our online students, and tabling events to serve our in-person students. We also had various board discussions and presentations from administration to address student issues. ASI continues to work toward achieving the long-term goals defined by our strategic plan. ASI continues to address member retention, internal communication and low discussion participation. It is our intention to build and foster relationships across the University and increase campus unity. ASI is hopeful that the return to campus this spring will increase motivation and sense of belonging to the university. ASI also recognizes the ways in which we can continue to improve with trainings to better prepare ASI members for spring semester during our winter retreat where we will focus on motivation, self-assessments, and goals. Nonetheless, ASI has grown tremendously, and we are proud to have served the campus community as student leaders during this unique environment.