IUPUI Undergraduate Student Government

Transcript

My name is Niki DaSilva and I am a senior studying sociology and philanthropy with a minor in business, and I hope to follow that with a JD/MBA, working in the non-profit sector or contract law. This past year I have had the opportunity, honestly the honor, to be the undergraduate student body president, and I would like to touch on a few things we have done this year. Our focus has mostly been on sponsorship and support of our Pride and Traditions events, as well as continuing support for our ongoing initiatives such as sustainability and student rights and safety.

We strongly support and participate in the continued branding of Pride and Traditions on our campus, from Weeks of Welcome, which is the first time we get to engage new students in the IUPUI student experience, to the IUPUI Regatta, which for those of you who don’t know, is a canoe race down the canal held every year in the fall to raise money for student scholarships. We also have IUPUI Homecoming, which is a week when we not only engage our current student population and raise money for student scholarships, but reengage alumni in the IUPUI experience to build those long-term relationships. And finally, we have Jagapalooza –IUPUI’s newest Pride and Traditions event that acts as an end of the year celebration for our students.

We have continued our support of sustainability efforts from last year with the support of the 30-50-100 paper plan, a joint initiative between USG and GPSG (Graduate and Professional Student Government). It encourages offices and departments to reduce their paper waste and utilize recycled paper. Last semester we passed legislation in the All University Student Association to help garner the final support needed to present this plan to the University Information Technology Services (UITS) leadership team for potential implementation at Student Technology Centers and Residential Technology Centers. As a result of this meeting, we will be working with UITS and the Office of Sustainability to develop a long-term strategy to change printing behaviors at our campus.

Sustainability encompasses not only those initiatives pertaining to the environment, but also sustaining the health and wellness of our students. The IUPUI student body as a whole is passionate about health and wellness. The Undergraduate Student Government, along with the Graduate and Professional Student Government, is committed to working with the office of Student Affairs and others to review the student experience in our partnership with the National Institute for Fitness and Sports to ensure continuous improvement and quality of health and wellness on our campus.

We have created an extensive plan for collecting data from students, faculty, and staff through the use of a “needs analysis.” We have worked with the Director of Survey Research, the Director of Student Data, Analysis, and Evaluation, and the Director of Assessment and Planning for Student Affairs to finalize the content of this instrument. The survey will be distributed online, as well as in paper and pencil format, through the spring and summer semesters. We intend to collect qualitative data in the fall. After careful review, the Undergraduate Student
Government and the Graduate and Professional Student Government will share these results in spring 2016.

Another initiative student government has tackled this year is sexual assault. On September 19th, USG at IUPUI joined as one of 200 student governments from across the nation in support of the White House Sexual Assault Prevention Initiative, “It’s On Us.” It’s On Us is a cultural movement aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault. In conjunction with the It’s On Us campaign, Undergraduate Student Government has collaborated with the Office of Health and Wellness Promotions to execute an entire month of awareness and educational events during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This past fall we also committed to bringing awareness to sex trafficking in Indiana, through a three-year partnership with the non-profit organization “Purchased.” Our goal is to change the inner dialogue surrounding these issues, and create a culture of care for our campus and the surrounding communities.

As the Undergraduate Student Government, we strive to improve the overall quality of the student experience here at IUPUI by advocating those issues that are most important to the student population. I am honored to play a small part in that.

I would like to finish with a few words about Chancellor Bantz. Every semester, Chancellor Bantz makes a point of speaking to the students through Student Government, being at inaugural events, and really listening to students voice their concerns. He also recognized the student leadership with a variety of events throughout the year. We are truly appreciative of his dedication to IUPUI and commitment to our student body.