Starting off, I would like to echo the need for a Campus Climate Survey similar to the one that was conducted in 2007 and I look forward to collaborating with Prof Rodriguez on this. In the Spring of 2016, Purdue Student Government conducted a climate survey among undergraduate students. Here was one of the responses, "I am an Asian American. The international students do not socialize with me because I am not a native Chinese speaker. American students don’t interact with me because they think I am an international student." We need to hear more of these stories, because they do exist but there hasn’t been an effort to collect them.

The University Senate offers great opportunities for students to become more informed and have their voices heard, but it has been neglected. In the coming weeks, students will be moved around in committees as they figure out their class schedules. I will do my best to place students in committees that they can meet with, and transfer their committees if schedules are incompatible. Please let me know if you notice a lack of student involvement on your committee and I will resolve that issue.

There are three pillars for action in student government this year:

1. Education – Students lack the requisite knowledge to enter into conversations with faculty and administrators, or to ask questions about campus improvement. We aim to resolve this through the creation of a campus wide student newsletter.
2. Cooperation – No longer can PSG continue to operate in a contained sphere. Progress only goes so far without increased cooperation. University offices have abilities and expertise that PSG could not replicate without full time staff. Student government has the ability to find students, and provide student input. We also have marketing experience when it comes to reaching out to the undergraduate population. As much as we are a liaison from students to administrators and faculty members, we are also a liaison from administrators and faculty to students.
3. Outreach – After progress has been made on an issue, students need to be informed. This can be achieved through both the newsletter and marketing campaigns. It needs to become habit rather than as a conglomeration of one-off outreach projects.

In tackling issues, we need a flexible paradigm for action. We will follow these steps loosely:

1. Collect information about a concern from students or faculty/staff
2. Make initial contact with the necessary office or individual
3. Identify areas for cooperative action and individual action and schedule a follow up date to check in on progress

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to me at seschker@purdue.edu and I look forward to working with all of you during the upcoming school year!