52 & YOU
A Culture of Access Collaboration Progress
2018 - 2019
To our fellow members of the WashU community–

What can 52 do for you? That is the question that we have been exploring since we began our term. We quickly found that we had to ask: who is 52? 52 is not one person, one group, or even just Student Union. We are embarking on the 52nd year of Student Union’s existence. Student Union was founded on the principle that WashU students could come together to advance our interests in a way that cannot be accomplished by any one of us alone. 52 is you–52 is all of us, together.

We understand that this notion—that each and every one of us make up Student Union—can at times feel far from the truth. Our objective is to make this coming year one of connection, where we can rediscover the reasons why we are better together. We intend to do this by fostering a culture in which access, collaboration, and progress connect Student Union’s pursuits with the entire student body’s interests.

In the following pages, we will outline some ways in which we intend to prioritize this culture of access, collaboration, and progress. In no way will we be limited by what is written in this document. As we continue to engage with each of you, we plan to adapt our course of action to best support you.

All our best,

Grace Egbo  
President

Steven Kish  
Vice President of Administration

Shelly Gupta  
Vice President of Finance

Charlotte Pohl  
Vice President of Programming

Rory Vu Mather  
Vice President of Public Relations
One of the main charges of Student Union is to provide opportunities for students to voice their opinions, questions, and concerns about a wide variety of issues that affect all of us. In order to facilitate this, we need to not only connect students with Student Union, but also with administrators. We plan to do this by fostering direct and informal conversations between students and university leaders.

Access

Student Union should be a space for everyone. In order to keep moving toward this vision, we must ensure that students have direct, established, and effective lines of communication with Student Union representatives, university administration, and each other.

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Increased Interaction

Student Union needs to be available to hear student needs informally and at a deep level, not just at formalized events. We intend to place a special emphasis on student body involvement in ways that will define the future for Student Union. In addition to holding regular office hours, Student Union representatives will open several opportunities to the entire undergraduate student body where everyone can partake in important conversations about Student Union’s purpose, rules, financial structure, and much more.

Opportunities for Input

We plan to improve the breadth of representation in Student Union in several ways. We will further the reach of our information sessions and publicity when Student Union entities are accepting applications or holding elections. Additionally, we will expand the neutral, Student Union-sponsored effort to increase voter turnout in our elections and make information about the races and candidates accessible prior to election day.

Recruitment and Voting
Collaboration

By working together, we will always be more effective than if we were working alone. We plan to foster a synergistic environment where members of Student Union want to work towards the common goal of improving our campus community. By better utilizing systems we already have as well as introducing new ones, we hope that SU becomes a more positive and inviting place.

Student Union Leadership

The leaders of our entities and branches are some of the most visible and influential members of Student Union. We should have efficient meetings where these leaders can come together to share constructive feedback, access each others’ resources, and transparently discuss plans for Student Union and WashU.

Collaboration Over Competition

Our mission as Student Union is to advocate, allocate, and program for the undergraduate students of WashU. In order to do this, we must work together instead of against one another. To be efficient and meet our collective goals, any sense of competition between officers and their entities should be translated into a sense of collaboration in order to move forward together as a union.

Centralized Information

In order for collaboration among Student Union officers to be possible, resources like entity rosters and constitutions should be easily accessible to everyone. By having this information, SU officers will be able to better understand how other entities and branches operate and then utilize that information to better support the student body.
In order to best serve the interests of the student body, the structures set in place within Student Union need to align with the wants and needs of the students. This requires an examination of SU’s financial policies, our entities’ inner workings and SU’s overall structure so they can be utilized by the student body in the most effective way possible.

Re-Evaluating Internal Processes

Above all else, Student Union must harness student voices in order to create meaningful and lasting change. This change may include small things that make a big impact and others might be much larger scale initiatives that shape our WashU community for years to come.

Supporting Student Union

Regardless of which entity Student Union officers are a part of, we all have the same desire to better students’ experiences on campus. However, there exists a lack of cohesion that hinders us from fully utilizing all the passion within SU to take action. By improving the relationships between members of all Student Union entities so they feel supported, we will be able to be more effective in meeting the student body’s needs.

Examining Our Statutes and Constitution

Over time, Student Union’s Constitution and Statutes have been amended but have not always been kept consistent. We plan to spend significant energy this year going line-by-line through our governing documents and making our Constitution and Statutes more easily usable and understandable for all.
Contact Information

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