



Mid-Year Report

Bishop-Biancamano Administration

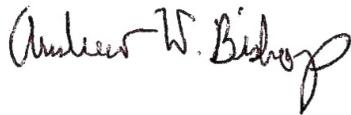
February 2014

Dear Drew Community,

Last year, Student Government President Janelle Hoffman and her Executive Cabinet authored Student Government's first Mid-Year Report. It served as an opportunity for Student Government to present issues that were at the forefront of many students' minds and set forth the organization's agenda for the coming semester. Following a great deal of positive reception, we decided that Student Government would issue an annual report on its progress in order to promote greater awareness of the work that we do.

Included in this year's report is an explanation of the major issues which Student Government has worked on since the start of the Bishop-Biancamano Administration in April of 2013. Furthermore, it outlines some of the most pressing student concerns that we will be addressing throughout the spring semester. We look forward to hearing feedback from the campus community and continuing to work towards the benefit of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Andrew W. Bishop

President

The Executive Cabinet

Carmine Biancamano
Vice President

Hetika Shah
Chief of Staff

Mark Patronella
Attorney General

Cassandra Worthington
Executive Secretary

Tim Andres
Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Board

Zee Sulaiman
Chair of the Student Organization Advisory Board

Michelle Taliento
President Pro Tempore

Dylan Jones
Special Envoy to Drew2017

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Section I: Student Concerns and Suggestions

INTO

Throughout the fall semester, the issue of the proposed INTO partnership took center stage for Student Government. Following its initial announcement, President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano began meeting with various members of the administration to learn more about the proposal as well as raise a variety of concerns pertaining to the details of the partnership. At first, Student Government was concerned about the lack of information available about the partnership as well as the speed at which it would be decided upon and implemented. As a result, we held a roundtable discussion with various members of the administration and also had a follow-up presentation by Dean Taylor. While we remain cautious and still have concerns about the way in which the process was carried out, we do see the potential that this partnership has to revolutionize our campus in a way that benefits all students. There is no better way to become more fully engaged in an increasingly globalized world than by having daily interactions with students from all around the globe. However, Student Government believes that there needs to be constant communication between INTO and various parties at the university in order to make this type of interaction possible.

This semester, our efforts will be focused on ensuring that both Drew and INTO follow through with their guarantees that international students will be provided with the academic and support services they need to fully succeed on campus. Drew has traditionally had issues in providing adequate services to international students, so we will continue to monitor progress in this area. Furthermore, Student Government will continue to support the new International Student Association, cultivate new ideas, and assist in developing better campus-wide cross-cultural programming.

Drew2017

In February of 2013, the Trustees of Drew University unveiled a process that would review every program and administrative unit, called “Drew2017.” Drew2017 is governed by a Steering Committee (SC) made up of members of the cabinet, elected faculty representatives, and a student, Dylan Jones CLA '15, appointed by the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Affairs Waldron and confirmed by President Bull. When appointed, Dylan was serving as the Elections Chair under the Hoffman-Mower Administration. Following his election, President Bishop created a position called “Special Envoy to Drew2017,” which was filled by Dylan Jones. This position is dedicated to keeping the Bishop-Biancamano Administration informed of all matters regarding the decisions and processes of Drew2017.

Since then, Special Envoy Jones has ensured that student constituencies from all three schools are represented at the SC conversation. Over the summer, Special Envoy Jones created two surveys, one for academic programs and one for administrative units, for all three student constituencies to take and provide feedback for the SC to analyze any patterns in the data.

For the spring semester, Special Envoy Jones will hold meetings, if necessary, with student representatives of all three schools to discuss where the Drew2017 process is. If there are any questions, please email Special Envoy Jones at djones2@drew.edu or attend the weekly SG meetings where he provides an update about the Drew2017 process.

Presidential Search Committee

The search for Drew's next president is perhaps the most important process that is currently underway at the university in determining the future success of the institution. As a result, Student Government has closely followed all of its developments. President Bishop was appointed to serve on the Presidential Search Committee in the spring of 2013 and has played an active role on the committee as its sole student representative. Throughout the candidate campus visitation process, members of Student Government attended various events and open fora, providing feedback through appropriate means. Moving forward, Student Government will ensure that it serves as a resource for the new president to learn more about the student body and campus life.

Facilities Room Rental Charges

At the start of the spring semester, Facilities implemented a new room rental charge policy in which all Drew organizations are required to pay a fee in order to use different spaces on campus. This includes student-run organizations like Student Government and all of the clubs which fall under its auspices. While Student Government acknowledges the necessity for having such charges in larger spaces such as the Baldwin Gym and Simon Forum due to their unique and specific needs, we take issue with charging students for the use of what are supposed to be student-centered spaces. Crawford Hall in the Ehinger Center is our primary concern. It is at the heart of student life and a major focal point for the campus community. However, Facilities has placed a \$50 charge on the use of the room, which will have an incredible impact on the budgets of clubs and organizations who choose to hold events in that space.

President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano have met with Facilities in order to find an acceptable resolution to this issue. When asked to submit a counterproposal by Facilities, Student Government proposed that the charges on non-student organizations, particularly outside vendors, be increased in order to offset the cost of student use. Currently, outside organizations are charged a mere \$100 to rent Crawford Hall. However, this proposal was not met with a favorable response by Facilities, citing speculation that outside groups would be

unwilling to pay more than \$100 for prime conference space. We remain in negotiations on how to best resolve the issue at this time. Also, it should be noted that Student Government meetings have been relocated out of Crawford Hall until a resolution is reached.

Another concern pertaining to charging student groups for the use of Crawford Hall is that a portion of student tuition through the General Fee already “underwrites support of University Center operations.”¹ However, after speaking with both Facilities and Student Activities, it is unclear as to where exactly this money goes. With tuition at an all time high, it goes without saying that students already pay a high enough price to attend this institution. They should not have to sacrifice the minimal funding they are given to develop and implement campus-wide events in order to use spaces they pay to maintain.

This issue raises an even greater concern about the current state of the university’s financial structure. As it stands, the university maintains a “chargeback” system for many of its departments. Essentially, these departments begin with a budget deficit that must be reconciled over the course of the year. The primary way that this is done is through charging organizations to use their services. Both Facilities and MRC use this system. Student Government takes issue with this system as it is currently practiced because it requires Drew organizations to budget for services which fall under the basic responsibilities of a modern university as if they were instead being provided by an independent contractor. It is already ridiculous enough that Drew organizations are charged nothing short of \$30 to simply turn on an existing projector under the guise of maintenance fees², or \$25 an hour for a Public Safety officer to be stationed at a small low risk event on a small campus already being regularly patrolled. Student Government recognizes that some service requests for large events rise above and beyond the call of duty for some departments, but the vast majority of services requested of Drew departments by student organizations fall under the the basic duties of university support staff. We believe it is fiscally irresponsible to put in place such inefficient chargeback systems rather than properly budgeting for support departments to perform these basic services in the first place.

Furthermore, Drew’s system of internal chargebacks runs the risk of creating misleading internal accounting. If the university is not careful to distinguish internal transfers such as chargebacks from real revenue generated by charging outside entities for services, it could very easily appear without closer scrutiny that the chargeback system somehow generates revenue for Drew, when it in fact only moves numbers around on a spreadsheet. Money transferred into departments through chargebacks may be money prevented from leaving the university, but it is by no means real revenue. However, in the case of Student Government supported clubs, it does

¹ See 5 - Current Term Charges <http://www.drew.edu/fba/students-parents/understanding-your-drew-bill/>

² A \$30 fee to use a projector for several hours vastly exceeds the operational costs by any reasonable estimate. Clearly, much of this fee goes toward paying an employee to be on call to unlock the projector in the first place, which would not be necessary in the absence of a chargeback system.

come from the limited budgets of small organizations of volunteer student leaders who are already struggling enough to put on events for students. In a time in which it is increasingly difficult for clubs to generate student turnout at events, \$50 could buy food, print advertising, or prize items to incentivize attendance. Instead, student leaders are being forced to spend such funds to cover planned gaps in the budgets of university departments charged with providing this fundamental support in the first place.

Race Dialogue

After hearing concerns from the Drew Community regarding the issue of race on Drew's campus, Student Government decided that it would like to learn more about some of the concerns that were being raised. In October, Attorney General Patronella helped organize a student-only race dialogue in order for students to come together and discuss their concerns in a safe environment. Dr. James Mandala, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, was also present at the event in order to provide support. We received a great deal of feedback from students that we were then able to relay to various offices on campus. Some of these concerns were directed towards Public Safety, and Chief Lucid was highly receptive towards this feedback and willing to implement certain measures discussed in the dialogue. Given the success of this approach, we would like to continue the dialogue this semester and are currently discussing ways in which this can be done. Furthermore, Student Government would like to provide greater support to its cultural clubs which are a core component in the promotion of cross-cultural dialogue through their weekly meetings and campus-wide events.

Dining

Although dining is a perennial issue for Student Government, dining concerns seem to have been less prevalent in the fall semester. Appointed students met with Dining Services through Dining Committee to address concerns brought to them by the student body. President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano also met with Mark Vallaro, Director of Food Services, several times throughout the semester. The two major concerns which were brought up last semester were rude behavior by a small number of EC staff and an increase in catering prices.

Through social media and emails, many students complained about the behavior of select members of the EC staff toward students, with reports of inappropriate comments made about EC Food Court customers. Members of Student Government aggregated these complaints and anonymously relayed them to Dan White, manager of the EC Food Court. Dan has assured Student Government that the problem will be taken care of and that problematic staff members will be disciplined.

Last semester's increase in catering prices was a significant problem for club leaders who had budgeted based on the previous semester's catering prices. After bringing this to the

attention of Mark Vallaro, Dining Services created a new student catering menu with reduced prices as well as a new set of options. This new menu is much more affordable and convenient for club leaders and has been well received thus far. .

Changing Alcohol Policies in Madison

During the transition from the Hoffman-Mower to the Bishop-Biancamano Administration, the town of Madison began proceedings to enact an ordinance prohibiting the consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 on private property. Despite common perceptions to the contrary, the sole act of consuming alcohol on private property is legal in New Jersey at any age unless the town enacts an ordinance prohibiting it (although the sale and distribution of alcohol to underage persons is still illegal statewide). Madison did not yet have such an ordinance. While this ordinance does not allow local law enforcement to roam freely through Drew's residence halls as some have suggested, it does put Drew students who chose to consume alcohol underage at risk of severe legal consequences if they are observed drinking by law enforcement officials who happen to be on campus. In essence, the ordinance allows the underage drinker to be prosecuted in addition to the supplier, with consequences including significant fines and suspension of a driver's license, even if the offender did not even so much as have car keys in their possession while drinking.

It quickly became clear that the Madison town council was intent on passing this ordinance based on their concerns about drinking by high school students during prom season, and that despite the council's opinion that Drew generally handles drinking violations competently on its own, no exemption would be made for Drew's campus. Seeing this, Student Government chose to focus on ensuring that a Good Samaritan Policy was added to the ordinance. This protects those who call emergency services to aid an intoxicated person from prosecution. The vocal opposition to the passage of the ordinance without such a policy by members of Student Government at the council meeting caused the council to delay the implementation of the ordinance and introduce a Good Samaritan Policy amendment. Members of Student Government continued to attend and speak at these meetings well into the summer to ensure that the amendment was passed, and that it would include calls to Drew's own Public Safety department as well as 911. In addition, language was added to the ordinance explicitly giving the judge discretion to consider sanctions already placed on the offender by educational institutions like Drew.

Section II: Club Support

The Budget and Appropriations Board

This semester saw the start of a new budgeting system for Student Government, in which the cabinet's constitutionally mandated discretionary fund was eliminated, and the cabinet was

required to request a budget from the Senate. This new system has moved an excess of funding controlled by the cabinet to the Senate, but still allowed for flexibility in spending through the much smaller allocation of \$1,014.00 which the cabinet requested from the Senate's initial budget of \$11,173.30 to cover internal expenses.

Student Government was initially allocated \$60,260.07 from the Office of Campus Life and Student Affairs, and it carried over \$14,908.47 from the previous semester, for a total of \$75,168.54. This amount was split according to the constitution between the Senate and club funding as overseen by the Budget and Appropriations Board.

The Senate started with an unusually high budget of \$11,173.30 thanks to the transfer of the old cabinet fund into its budget. Most internal operating expenses were covered by the cabinet fund, while the Senate fund was mainly used to co-sponsor events such as Hoyt Halloween, SAAC's Ranger Run, and Alternative Winter Break. Under the Student Government constitution, the remaining balance of \$5,357 will remain with the Senate. Nearly half of the cabinet's \$1,014 fund was spent on Student Government uniform attire. An additional two hundred dollars was spent on Media Resource Center fees for regular meetings, and less than one hundred dollars was spent on food for the Student Organization Advisory Board's Student Organization Forum events. After a small additional allocation from the Senate spent on the Meet the SG event, the cabinet's remaining balance of \$117.53 will be returned to the Senate for the spring semester.

At the time of budgeting, Student Government was unable to report on what was actually spent by clubs and organizations due to flaws in the club accounting system. Although clubs now have their own separate Banner accounts, a lack of consistency in how internal chargebacks are applied to those accounts made the balances of many accounts appear artificially high at the time of budgeting. Furthermore, because internal chargebacks are not reported to the comptroller for manual bookkeeping, and the comptroller is not given access to Banner data, the Budget and Appropriations Board found itself unable to estimate the balance to be carried over to the spring semester at the time of budgeting. It is unlikely that Student Government will be informed of these balances until several weeks into the spring semester, and a lack of transparency in the accounting means that we are unable to determine if these charges are even being applied during the appropriate semesters. While the current Student Government Constitution does not allow the Budget and Appropriations Board to consider carryover funds, the lack of this information prevents the board from learning to estimate the carryover should a bloated ad hoc fund necessitate this being changed in the future.

The Budget and Appropriations Board started with \$21,264.22 in ad hoc funding, \$9,761.17 of which came from rollover from the previous semester's ad hoc and unspent club budgets. Despite this large amount, the Board was careful to ensure that the funding was spent

wisely, awarding \$4,915.87 to ad hoc funded events. Because the final budget amounts for the spring semester will likely not be known until several weeks into the spring semester, it cannot yet be determined how large the ad hoc fund will be for the spring; however, if it is this large again, the Board may explore changing the bylaws to allow more of the fund to be spent down.

Clubs and organizations requested \$82,921.61 in budgetary funding for the spring semester, and the Board awarded \$52,064.25 in total, nearly the maximum allowed by the constitution. A detailed breakdown of the awarded budgets is available at <http://goo.gl/qHLn5j>. The total requested amount was over \$7,000 less than the amount proposed by clubs for the spring semester of 2013, despite the fact that fewer clubs were requesting budgets in the spring of 2013. It is unclear if this is indicative of the commonly perceived reduction of interest in clubs and organizations, or simply caused by club leaders attempting to request more reasonable budgets.

Overall the Budget and Appropriations Board has performed well so far in the 2013-2014 academic year, and it looks forward to improving itself through Student Government's review of the two board system.

The Student Organization Advisory Board

During the fall of 2013, SOAB addressed issues faced by club leaders heard during our Student Organization Forum (SOF), a strictly student-run forum for club leaders to discuss issues they face and to advertise for their upcoming events, and our weekly meetings.

In addition, SOAB reviewed and approved seven clubs and organizations that were later approved by the Senate. Five of these were new club proposals, while the other two were clubs which were previously on probation. SOAB approved two clubs that are particularly relevant given Drew's current culture and plans to diversify internationally: International Student Association and the Drew Commuters Association. The Board believes these clubs, in addition to the other clubs approved in the fall of 2013, will greatly benefit the Drew Community at large. SOAB will continue to hear and work to address issues faced by club leaders through SOF and other venues.

Additionally, the Board will review its section of the Student Government By-Laws and incorporate new rules and eliminate outdated rules in order to ensure that the spring semester runs smoothly for club leaders. SOAB plans to hold sessions for new and existing club leaders in conjunction with our Student Activities advisor, continue with SOFs, and utilize SOAB liaisons.

Section III: Governance

Board Merger

A central objective of the Bishop-Biancamano Administration is aiding club leaders in their endeavor to create successful clubs and events for the Drew community. We have two highly qualified board chairs assisting the clubs and organizations on campus to the best of their ability. Our primary focus is improving the boards and making the process for clubs as easy as possible.

One of the ideas that Student Government has created is the possibility of merging the two boards. This discussion has been opened up with Student Government, club leaders, and administrators. With a merged board, we believe we could streamline the review and budgeting processes for clubs and create a one-stop shop that clubs can utilize to their advantage. Club leaders would not have to reproduce duplicate information, and they will have one centralized place to ask all of their questions. The same people would then review club statuses and dispense budgets. Concerns about the amount of work that would be placed on members of such a combined board have been raised, and we are carefully considering such implications. We are also considering whether the chair of such a board should be elected or appointed by the SG president.

Student Government has worked with the Office of Student Activities to create a survey that was sent to all club leaders requesting their opinions on the boards and the idea of a merged board. We will consider this information as we move forward in the reevaluation of the two board structure.

Communication and Outreach

Student Government is committed to fostering and strengthening connections with the student body. This semester, we have achieved successful communication with students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

At the beginning of the semester, we held a “Meet the SG” cupcake decorating night. At this event, Student Government members heard the concerns of those who attended and discussed campus issues. Due to the success of this event, we plan to hold a similar event next semester. Additionally, we plan on tabling in the Commons next semester in order to improve communication with students.

Student Government has continued our commitment to maintaining open lines of communication with Drew’s administration. President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano met with the staff of Student Activities and the Office of Campus Life and Student Affairs every week, and will continue to do so in the spring semester. These meetings have helped resolve concerns

quickly and effectively. This connection has proved particularly useful as Drew adjusts to incorporate the INTO program. Dean Taylor has met with the Senate twice in discussing INTO, and Vice President Waldron and Vice President Groener have also joined Dean Taylor in updating the Senate on the INTO discussion.

Social media has been a great outlet for our outreach to the student body. During Senate meetings, Chief of Staff Shah live-tweets the dialogue and important updates. This has been a great way for students to follow the decisions made during the meetings. Next semester, SG aims to update our Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly with important information from SG, as well as with interesting information and upcoming events. We retired Google Moderator from last year due to underwhelming use by the student body. Additionally, we began a new program by starting a radio show called “Bro-in’ Out with B-Squared,” hosted by President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano. The show provides informative updates on Senate meetings and campus life. It also features guest interviews with various student leaders. We plan to advertise this program more next semester and encourage the student body to tune in, call in, and provide feedback. The show will run during its weekly timeslot on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. In the past, student outreach has proved challenging for Student Government, but we are working diligently to make information readily accessible to the student body.

We also plan to do more internal team building through more “SG Fun Nights” and leadership activities after short meetings. We want to get more feedback from our senators through surveys throughout next semester. This communication will help us work together to form new ideas on student outreach.

Elections

Fall 2013 Elections

Our new Elections Chair, Nycole Nurse, oversaw the election of our new Senate. This election has produced an exciting crop of senators to represent the student body. Though many of them are new to Student Government, they have brought unique perspectives to this organization and have excelled in representing the interests of their constituencies. However, after seeing low voter turnout and a smaller candidate pool than in years past, we learned from this election that Student Government needs to improve its outreach efforts in order to inspire more of our campus leaders to run for office and work towards the betterment of the campus community.

Spring 2014 Special Elections

We are currently in the process of holding a special election this semester to fill open Senate seats in both the Junior and Senior class. The individuals in these positions make important decisions that impact everyone in the Drew community, including the planning of the

Junior | Senior semi-formal, and Senior Week events. Voting will take place via Moodle on Thursday, Feb. 13th and our new senators will be sworn in Sunday, Feb. 16th.

Section IV: What Lies Ahead

Reviving The Other End

One of the recurring concerns that we heard this semester is that it is becoming more difficult for students to find on-campus entertainment during the weekends. While some weekends are filled with highly successful and well attended events put on by Student Activities and groups such as UPB, others have very little, if any, programming. As a result, there are fewer places for students to go and avoid the drinking culture present on campus.

In order to address this problem, Student Government is pursuing two new initiatives this semester which will work towards reviving campus culture on the weekends. The first is to reestablish The Other End (TOE) as an alternative late night location for students to gather and spend time with their friends. Located in the basement of Sitterly House, TOE served as a small student-run eatery where students could order nachos, quesadillas, and milkshakes while enjoying their eclectic surroundings. Unfortunately, TOE was shut down in the spring of 2012 due to a variety of health code and safety violations. While there is a cost associated with making the necessary renovations needed to reopen TOE, Student Government is interested in dedicating a significant portion of its budget to revive a critical component of Drew's campus life. Student Government will be reaching out to a variety of offices and organizations in order to determine the best way forward.

Spring Semester Saturday Event Series

In addition to finding alternative locations for students to relax, our second initiative will focus on the development of a new event series that would take place on Saturday evenings on which there are few other events running. We would like to encourage the clubs and organizations which fall under Student Government to plan large-scale events that would appeal to many students on campus. Since Student Government has funding available in the ad hoc pool, these events do not have to have been budgeted for in advance. SOAB Chair Sulaiman has already begun discussions with the SOAB Board on how best to reach out to clubs and provide Student Government support in the planning process. We will announce specific dates and events on our social media and website once the details are finalized.

Class Activities and Events

Student Government currently has a committee structure which allows for the planning and development of class year-specific events and activities. This structure has allowed senators to

explore various ways to fundraise and build class community on campus. The First-Year Class Senators are currently developing multiple ideas on how to fundraise for their class fund. Two ways in which this may happen are through the creation and sale of class t-shirts and the commissioning of art by a first-year student. The Sophomore Class Senators have also been hard at work in fundraising, developing a video game tournament for their class. Although they did encounter some difficulties and challenges through this process, they have learned a great deal from this experience and will now turn towards building more community with their sophomore peers.

Student Government is also currently in the process of planning several traditional class events. The Junior Class Senators are focusing their efforts on the Junior|Senior semi-formal which will take place on April 11th. They have secured a theme, Casino Royale, and are in the process of making all other preparations for the event. Tickets will be on sale after spring break, with ticket prices being announced as soon as they are finalized. The Senior Class Senators have been hard at work on a variety of senior events. The annual “99 Nights” event took place on Feb. 7th, with the theme of “Highlight Your Life at 99 Nights.” It was met with very high attendance and received a great deal of positive feedback. Next on the agenda are the preparations for Senior Week and the many events that will occur in the days before graduation.

It should be noted that Student Government is interested in beginning a dialogue with other groups to reassess its position in the future planning of these large events. While these events are an essential part of the Drew experience and will always have the involvement of class senators, we feel that our senators are overburdened by the minutiae that accompanies event planning and are sidetracked from focusing their efforts on more pressing campus issues and constituent concerns, which is their primary duty. President Bishop and Vice President Biancamano will be speaking with Student Activities to see how we can better incorporate other students into the planning process as well as redesign the current committee planning structure.