

YEAR IN REVIEW

K-STATE STUDENT GOVERNING ASSOCIATION YEARLY SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative branch of student government is comprised of the Student Senate, who is led by the Speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore and has 62 voting senators representing and elected by each college on our Manhattan campus.

Privilege Fee – Every full-time student pays a \$431 Privilege fee each semester. The approximately \$16 million generated from the fee is allocated by the Student Government. This year the Privilege Fee committee granted a continuance to the Office of Student Activities and Services, the Recreation Center operations, the radio station 91.9-KSDB and the Student Governing Association. It also gave an increase to the Student Activity Fee (allocations, Graduate Student Council, CARE office, UFM, Academic Competition Teams) the Academic and Sports Club Team allocation, and created the allocation to Wildcat Watch. The Privilege Fee Committee also provided \$50,000 to the creation of a Health and Wellness Master Planning Commission to develop a strategic plan for the future of our health and wellness offerings on campus. The libraries proposed a fee to keep Hale Library open 24 hours, but the committee did not feel that the library was a student service, but rather an academic service and didn't want to set the precedent of funding

academic services. The privilege fee encouraged the library to work with the union to ensure there is adequate software available in the union, which is currently open for 24 hours. Furthermore, the Privilege Fee Committee is excited to announce that, for the first time 2002, the Privilege Fee will remain flat for consecutive years!

Allocations – Student Government allocates money to student organizations requesting for various on-campus and travel events. This year, the allocations committees allocated a little about \$47,200 to over 60 student organizations with the largest request approved being for \$3,500. The Diversity Programming Committee which helps fund diversity events requesting over \$3,000 allocated about \$185,500 to 15 different organizations.

Diversity and Inclusion – Student Senate passed several resolutions this year regarding diversity and inclusion including a resolution to encourage the Big XII to only allow institutions to join the conference if they agree with the conferences' welcoming policy towards gender identity and sexual orientation diversities. Senate also unanimously passed a resolution in support of the transgender students in the K-State community

and for the state legislature to maintain protections for transgender individuals with regards to housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Engagement and Membership – Student Government recognizes that its membership is not representative of the entire K-State campus community. This year, the Student Engagement and SGA Membership committee sought to identify ways to reduce barriers to entry and make Student Government more aware about communities that are not represented or underrepresented in Student Government by developing relations with student organizations.

Student Government increased the number of interns that it may choose to learn about the student governing processes at K-State from 25 to 35. In addition, SGA advocated for changes to make it more accessible for students to campaign in the residence halls given the permission of the hall's governing board.

Student Government is planning an open forum and creating an outreach plan for next year so there is increased outreach to university-wide and college-specific organizations.



CONTACT INFORMATION

LOCATION: OSAS (Second floor, Student Union)

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EXECUTIVE UPDATE

The executive branch is comprised of the student body president and vice president as well as their chosen cabinet members. Overseen by the Chief of Staff, members of cabinet this term included directors of State and Local Relations, Technology, International Affairs, Public Relations, Multicultural Student Affairs, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Strategic Initiatives, Academic Affairs, Athletics, and Graduate Student Affairs. Also on cabinet is the current K-State Polytechnic SGA President.

Mental Wellness Week – While running for Student Body President/Vice President last spring, Jessica Van Ranken and Trenton Kennedy shared a campaign priority to increase awareness for mental wellness among the student body. Olivia Baalman, director of health and safety, quickly went to work creating plans for a first-ever, campus-wide Mental Wellness Week. Olivia assembled a committee of students, faculty and staff to prepare a schedule of activities that included opportunities for students

to have fun while learning about mental wellness. Committee representatives include WellCat Ambassadors, Union Program Council, Counseling Services and Student Governing Association. Programming included bubble wrap on the quad, art on Bosco Plaza, a motivational speaker and social media campaign!

Health and Wellness Collaboration – Through a collaboration of student leadership, Student Life directors, Campus Planning, and Athletics, a group has been working with an external consultant team to analyze our current health and wellness offerings on campus and develop a long-term vision and strategy to bring multiple wellness related entities and programs into one shared coalition and proposed wellness facility. The concept being pushed is a model that is gaining traction in both university and other organizational settings across the country, where numerous personal well-being services are being combined into one shared model of "wellness". The desired model is aimed at capturing efficiencies from cross-promotion and shared services, while col-

lectively working to de-stigmatize the insecurities or negative perceptions associated with keeping oneself physically, emotionally, and socially well. Ultimately, this vision is shared by many as a long-term priority for improving student retention and graduation rates, and being our next innovative step to continuing K-State's commitment to student success.

State and Local Relations – SGA's state and local relations director was able to dive deep into our state's politics and be actively involved in the affairs that shape higher education policy in Kansas. Through meeting with administrators, other Kansas Universities and Colleges, and elected state officials the opportunity to advocate for the interests of students on a number of issues like higher education funding, campus sexual assault, and concealed carry policy. In an effort to engage more of the student body, the Legislative Advocates program was launched this year allowing students to have the opportunity to research and communicate with elected state officials to talk about opportunities for growth and development in our state.