



COLLEGE OF
BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE SOLUTION

Dean's Student Advisory Council
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of Maryland

DSAC Annual Report
2017 - 2018

May 20, 2018

Chair: Nathaniel Zumbach

Advisors: Margo Shear, Associate Dean Katherine Russell

Executive Summary

The Dean's Student Advisory Council (DSAC) is a representative and advisory body of fourteen students which implements proposals to improve the student experience within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), as well as advises the Dean and Associate Dean regarding students' concerns and ideas. The DSAC committee members represent students from each major and program within BSOS. Dean Russell has found the DSAC to be an invaluable resource for gauging student feedback to BSOS policies and to proactively seek out student concerns and fresh ideas.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the DSAC's activities in the past academic year. The council's leadership is structured with one Chair that leads the Council and three Vice Chairs that each lead a committee as follows: Committee of Programming, Committee of Student Services, and a Committee of Academics. The DSAC leaders for the 2016-2017 academic year were:

Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

Chair: Nathaniel Zumbach

Vice Chair of Academics: Johanna McAlister

Vice Chair of Programming: Nancy Jin

Vice Chair of Student Services: Nia Nickerson

A comprehensive list of the council's members, including their majors and respective constituencies may be found at the conclusion of this report.



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Table of Contents	2
Programming Committee	3
Student Services Committee	5
Academics Committee	6
Campus Partnerships	9
Council Members	10



Programming Committee

The committee plans, organizes, and manages all of DSAC's events. The committee plans at least one major event each semester, and collaborates with the Dean's Office Staff to make reservations for campus buildings.

BSOS Student-Faculty Dinner

DSAC hosted the 11th annual Student-Faculty Dinner in October of 2017. Good Tidings Catering prepared and served meals for approximately 160 students and 55 BSOS faculty members. The first thirty minutes of the evening included a networking session for students and faculty attendees. The rest of the evening included a three-course plated dinner, keynote speakers, and a lively atmosphere for students and faculty to interact outside the classroom setting. We introduced the official BSOS icecream, "Be the Swirloution," which the Maryland Dairy specially crafted. Following the event, the DSAC reached out to attendees to gather feedback.

100 Days 'Til Graduation

In partnership with the BSOS Alumni Chapter Board and the BSOS Office of External Relations, the BSOS DSAC hosted an event celebrating the 100 Days 'Til Graduation for BSOS seniors. The reception was held in the Riggs Alumni Center in February of 2018. This year, the event had a carnival theme. The celebration was designed to be whimsical and interactive for all attendees, including carnival-themed food, games, prizes, and a themed photo booth complete with unique Snapchat filters. Students were able to enjoy a beer tasting and music from the house DJ. The celebration provided a platform for the Alumni Chapter Board to promote the University's Alumni Association and provide information for new graduates on how to stay involved. Over 300 students RSVP'd online and 180 students, faculty, and alumni attend the celebration.



Coffee/Donuts

The BSOS DSAC hosted a coffee and donuts event in the fall and spring semester to welcome students back to campus. The event was held at a table near the main entrance of Tydings Hall. We invited Margo Shear to take pictures and videos for the BSOS Instagram page. Students were able to meet their DSAC representatives and Dean Russell. The event in the spring also provided the DSAC an outlet to promote the 100 Days 'til Graduation program. Students gave positive responses of the event and some general feedback to the council.

BSOS DSAC Alumni Event

At the conclusion of the first semester, the BSOS DSAC hosted a Holiday Party for all current and past members of the group. Current DSAC members self-catered the event which was held in Morrill Hall. Invitations were sent out to all DSAC alumni, of which several on- and off-campus alumni members joined.

BSOS Poster Day

The BSOS DSAC proposed to create a BSOS poster day in the course of the academic year. The program would provide BSOS students an outlet to present on the independent research they had been cultivating. A short survey was sent to target groups who might have interested students. The finding was that the event would be redundant to Undergraduate Research Day and a similar Scholars event. The council decided not to move forward with the project.

Maryland Day

The BSOS DSAC hosted a table for the annual Maryland Day event. At the table, members played corn hole with visitors, made paper flowers with children, and gave out information about BSOS student organizations.

Sub-committee: BSOS International Week

This year, two BSOS DSAC members organized the second installment of BSOS International Week. The program had the same mission as last year's— to celebrate international backgrounds of students in the college, and promote BSOS departments and organizations which seek to



tackle worldwide issues. This year, the week-long program featured 17 events with partnerships between 14 campus organizations (both up from last year). Partners included the Global Communities Student Association, language flagship programs, the Federal/Global Fellows program, and the Education Abroad Office to name a few. Most of the events were well attended. Promotional channels for the week included print media, social media, TV announcements, and the BSOS newsletter.

Student Services Committee

The Student Services Committee improves student life through technology, alumni relations, facilities, and other non-academic issues. The committee aims to reach students, provide them with networking opportunities, and improve student life outside the classroom.

Unpaid Internship Scholarship

The committee received one thousand dollars of funding from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences to support two, five-hundred dollar scholarships for students in the College who will participate in an unpaid, summer internship and display a need for the external monetary support. Students from the College participating in unpaid internships applied for this scholarship, and those chosen to receive it used this money for transportation fees, business attire, and other necessary fees associated with working unpaid internship.

Funding for Additional Hallway Seating

The BSOS DSAC submitted a proposal to the SGA Facilities Fund to request additional seating accommodations for students in LeFrak Hall. This proposal seeks to offer students more seating options in the hallways of BSOS buildings with inadequate availability— especially in areas of the building where students must wait for office hours. The funding for this proposal was granted in January 2018, and seating will be installed by the end of 2018 with the assistance of BSOS facilities.



Psychology Mentoring Program

The committee seeks to pilot a mentoring program to aid Freshman, Sophomore, and transfer psychology students in their academic journey. Incoming and transfer students will be paired with Junior and Senior psychology students, in excellent standing, who will provide guidance for students with regards to class selection and opportunities for psychology majors outside of the major. The program has nearly completed its planning stages, but due to time constraints, implementation will be postponed to the next academic year.

Internship Workshop

The committee has planned an internship workshop to promote students' abilities to market themselves with a focus on employable skills rather than their major's traditional tracks. The workshop will employ the experiences of BSOS alumni to display potential career paths. The final goal will be to prepare students for internships or jobs which are not seemingly "relevant" to their major, but are indeed viable careers for a student in their position. Due to time constraints, this workshop will be postponed for another academic year.

Academics Committee

The Academics Committee implements policies to improve student-faculty relations and academic procedures. The committee collaborates with the Directors of Undergraduate Studies to discuss campus-wide issues.

Graduate School Admission Exam Preparation

The BSOS DSAC partnered with the Princeton Review this past spring semester to offer in-person practice exams for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). This program is an extension of the services offered in the spring of 2016, however, the council was required to switch partners which created a lapse in services. The mission of the project was to provide current undergraduate students with a free resource to prepare for post-graduate entrance exams— which are not currently offered through the University. The council offered two test sessions for both exams during the semester.



Indigenous Studies Minor

An Indigenous Studies Minor has been in the planning stages for the last two years within the BSOS DSAC, and with the support of the Anthropology Department, the minor is on track to be available during the 2018-2019 academic year. A survey of 23 students showed there is strong interest from students in BSOS and other disciplines such as engineering, public policy, and biology. The minor will establish one of 64 demands of the #ProtectUMD initiative. Five Big Ten universities have a minor in either Native American Studies and/or Indigenous Studies. No new courses are required to implement this minor.

African Studies Minor

This year, the BSOS DSAC pushed for the development of an African American Studies Minor. The 18 credit academic program will be housed in the Department of African American Studies (AASD) and is scheduled to launch during the 2018-2019 academic year. The minor will include concentrations in development studies, history, and language and culture. In a survey of 60 students, 95 percent of respondents expressed interest to enroll in the proposed major. The AASD voted unanimously to include the minor in the curriculum. Courses in the minor range across a few colleges at UMD. No new courses are required to implement this minor.

Student Leaders Summit

In the spring the BSOS DSAC organized the campus' first student-lead "Student Leaders Summit." The meeting was held in April and included student leaders from various DSAC's and Student Advisory Boards from different departments. The meeting featured guest speakers from the Academic Affairs Committee of the SGA and members from the campus Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The purpose of the event was to bring student leaders together to share best practices from their councils and to discuss major student issues on campus. At the conclusion of the 2-hour meeting, the students drafted a memo to summarize their findings which was sent to the Undergraduate Deans of the colleges which were represented there.



UMD Financial Literacy Project

The BSOS DSAC wishes to develop an annual semester-long program where students will have the opportunity to serve as financial literacy mentors in neighboring Title I high schools. With intense collaboration through the Department of Economics, the program's curriculum has been developed and a professor has been identified to lead the program. The program is waiting for funding to hire a graduate assistant who will facilitate all internal operations. It is projected that an executive student board will be tasked to facilitate external program operations.



Campus Partnerships

DSAC collaborates with a variety of different organizations on campus to advance our mission and support theirs. We often work with the Alumni Chapter Board, the SGA, the BSOS Ambassadors, and the University Career Center– to name a few.

Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA)

The BSOS DSAC collaborated with the undergraduate SGA to promote initiatives of mutual interest on campus. Such cross-organization support included the SGA’s TRAIN scholarship program, the development of new academic programs, support to BSOS facility improvements, and BSOS International Week. Several of the council’s members held leadership positions in the SGA this past year as well.

Terps Against Hunger

DSAC and the BSOS Alumni Chapter Board volunteered in one of the Terps Against Hunger service events to help pack meals for families in need. The event was part of a larger initiative, the Do Good Challenge, to improve food security in the D.C. area.

BSOS Open House Events

A few DSAC members participated in campus-wide Open House events for prospective BSOS students. Council members spoke on student panels with other BSOS student leaders, including BSOS Ambassadors, to share their experiences in the college.

Pre-Law Office

The BSOS DSAC worked with the Pre-Law Office to promote their graduate school admission exam practice sessions. The marketing was primarily directed towards prospective law students.



First Look Fair

DSAC members helped staff the BSOS table at the First Look Fair to market student leadership opportunities in the college and provide information on the academic majors and programs housed in the college. The First Look Fair is the first involvement event on campus, allowing students to learn about campus organizations and services during the first weeks of the semester.

Council Members

Al-Hafis Adegun

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: African American Studies
- DSAC Constituency: African American Studies

My-Asia Chaplin

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Psychology
- DSAC Constituency: Hearing & Speech Sciences

Departed from DSAC after the Fall semester

Lillia Damalouji

- Committee: Programming
- Major: Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large Representative

Shikha Dave

- Committee: Programming
- Major: Economics
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large Representative



Jonathan Frank

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Economics
- DSAC Constituency: Living and Learning Representative
Departed from DSAC after the Fall semester

Nancy Jin

- Vice Chair of Programming
- Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice, Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Government & Politics

Sagen Kidane

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice , Sociology
- DSAC Constituency: Sociology

Johanna McAlister

- Vice Chair of Academics
- Major: Anthropology
- DSAC Constituency: Anthropology
Departed from DSAC after the Fall semester

Kanta Mendon

- Committee: Programming
- Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice , Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Criminology & Criminal Justice

Nia Nickerson

- Vice Chair of Student Services
- Major: Psychology
- DSAC Constituency: Psychology



Rahila Olanrewaju

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Economics , Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Geographical Sciences

Paige Rodrigues

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: SGA Representative

Ashli Taylor

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Environmental Sciences & Public Policy

Nathaniel Zumbach

- Council Chair
- Major: Economics , Finance
- DSAC Constituency: Economics

