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

DSAC Annual Report
2019-2020

May 10, 2020
Chair: Alix Brooks
Advisors: Cierra O'Keefe, 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 2019-2020 academic year were:

*Fall 2019 - Spring 2020*

**Chair:** Alix Brooks  
**Vice Chair of Academics:** Elena LeVan  
**Vice Chair of Programming:** Kathryn Obisesan  
**Vice Chair of Student Services:** Shelton Daal

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Committee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services Committee</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academics Committee</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Partnerships</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Recommendations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Members</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

100 Days Until Graduation

The annual 100 days to graduation event was held on Monday, February 17th. This event took place in Ledo’s Pizza on Route One. This event was attended by current seniors and alumni to celebrate the upcoming spring commencement. The committee is currently working on rebranding the event as a whole, possibly with a new name and also troubleshooting various date options to ensure more attendance and interest in the event.

Coffee and Donuts

In the Fall semester, the programming committee hosted three coffee and donuts events. During the events, students were given free coffee and donuts provided by DSAC. During the first event, DSAC members informed students about DSAC and DSAC’s mission. The second coffee and donuts event in October was used to promote the Student-Faculty Dinner. The final coffee and donuts was held in November. This event promoted Vice Chair of Academics, Elena Levan’s SGA initiative and closing event for #reclaiamthered.

In the spring semester, the programming committee hosted one coffee and donuts event. This event was held in Lefrak hall to target a different demographic of BSOS students. This event marketed programming’s upcoming Criminology and Criminal Justice Student to Student Series, as well as the spring proposals of all of the DSAC representatives.

Student Faculty Dinner

The 13th annual Student Faculty Dinner for the fall of 2019 was held in Riggs Alumni Center on Tuesday, November 5, 2019; it had a turnout of about 125 with the last RSVP count the day before the event being 193. The meal was catered by Good Tidings and consisted of the standard
buffet menu that Good Tidings offers, different from the dinner plan the last few years. The purpose of this event was to facilitate productive conversation between students and faculty within each department of the college. The BSOS DSAC invited faculty, some with personally handwritten invitations, staff, and students in the college then worked together to successfully plan and execute the event, much of the planning being completed by the Programming Committee. The BSOS DSAC made important planning decisions, organized spreadsheets, and helped to set the room on the day of the dinner. Events like these are crucial because students and faculty often don’t have any other opportunities to meet more personally.

*Suggestion Boxes*

Programming created a flyer to be given to each department to collect feedback from students in departmental advising offices and around campus. Once this flyer was made, a QR code was attached that was linked to the feedback survey. DSAC representatives were asked to give a flyer to their respective departments. The flyers can be found in several BSOS offices on campus.
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.

Black History Month Events
A series of events celebrating Black History Month were created in partnership with the Black Student Union. The following events that were executed: Black Games Workshop, Black Privilege, Student-Faculty Discussion, Black Art Expo, and the Cultural Show. The Black Games Workshop was designed to bring people together for a fun night with games commonly played by Black Americans. The Black Student-Faculty Discussion was a General Body Meeting, and brought together Black students and Faculty for a candid conversation on race relations on our campus. “Privilege in the Black Community?” lead Black students in an interactive workshop to decipher issues within the Black community such as toxic masculinity, homophobia, and colorism to name a few. Other events sought to highlight the beauty of Black culture and talent. The Black Art Expo brought together multiple talented Black artists to showcase their work. Finally the Cultural Show brought together all the Black Dance for performances.

Career Preparation Fair
Three members of the Student Services committee planned a Career-Preparation Fair during the Spring 2020 semester to help prepare BSOS students for career and educational opportunities post-graduation. The event was branded as “for the students, by the students.” This was an opportunity to get students involved in career preparation in a fun, low stakes event. The event included headshots, resume and cover letter workshops, and information about career resources on campus.
**Sociology Capstone Project**
The BSOS DSAC continued its efforts to work with the Sociology department to encourage students to think about life after graduation from an earlier point in their college career. To do so, BSOS DSAC did an in-depth analysis of other capstone and practicum experiences around campus in order to determine the best fit for the sociology department. This capstone was piloted in the Sociology internship course in the Spring and recommendations for a more permanent change will be presented to the department when campus is open.

**Sociology Internship Assignment**
Last semester, the BSOS DSAC developed an ELMS assignment to be utilized by professors within the sociology department. The goal of this assignment was to allow students to form a connection between what they have learned within the classroom to internship and job opportunities. This assignment was continued and edited to fit with more sociology courses.

**Mentorship Program for Incoming GVPT Students**
BSOS DSAC worked closely with the Government and Politics Advisors to develop a mentorship program for incoming GVPT students. This program aims to guide second semester freshmen and transfer students towards different opportunities and career opportunities within the GVPT major. As such this program aims to guide students towards the resources that will maximize their career development at UMD.

**UMD 2020 Census Efforts**
The Vice Chair of Student Services, Shelton Daal, attended a UMD 2020 census meeting and had ideas to include marketing for the census catered to BSOS students (using the Be the Solution branding). A lot of these efforts fell through due to the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide stay at home order, it is recommended future student services committees take the lead when it comes to community engagement centered events in the future.
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.

Academic Resources at Coffee & Donuts
The BSOS DSAC has looked into the most effective ways to utilize monthly Coffee and Donuts outings as ways to connect students with academic resources. For a recent Coffee & Donuts event, a list was compiled of reasons students should attend Guided Study Sessions (GSS), with information about how to find GSS for their classes. In the future, resources that could be advertised include study spaces available to students, tutoring services offered by the Academic Achievement Program, and perhaps even information about academic integrity.

Anonymous Grading
The BSOS DSAC continued its efforts to promote anonymous grading in the College and larger university through further research. Polling was originally conducted, but in-class polling opportunities seemed to be slim, especially in classrooms outside of the Department. The BSOS DSAC decided it may be more effective to publish an opinion editorial, which could then be followed up with a bill from the Student Government Association endorsing the initiative, and a message from the Dean with information about anonymous grading. Though the materials have been put together, amidst the coronavirus pandemic the BSOS DSAC found this initiative would be most effective after the pandemic passed. The BSOS DSAC plans to continue these efforts in the 2020-2021 academic year.

CCJS Research Availability
The BSOS DSAC surveyed students in the CCJS Department to gauge students’ interest in participating in research opportunities. From there, we performed outreach to professors in the
Department to encourage their inclusion of undergraduates in their research. Research opportunities and local internships were compiled.

**PSYC Research Database**
The BSOS DSAC worked with the Department of Psychology to enhance undergraduate research opportunities by creating a Department Research Database. This database consolidates information on all research labs including components like the application process, type of research, and type of involvement. Progress has begun on a coinciding survey that would match a student to a research lab based on their interests.

**Subcommittee: Student to Student Series**
In a continuation of last year’s Student to Student Series for Economics students, the first ever Criminology and Criminal Justice Student to Student event was held on March 2nd, 2020. This event was a panel of current CCJS upperclassmen and CCJS Director of Undergraduate Studies. On this panel, the panelists answered questions about their experiences in CCJS and offered advice to those in attendance. Programming had begun organizing an ENSP panel to focus on concentrations and internships searches, but COVID postponed this event, it will likely resume planning next semester with the help of ENSPIRE and the ENSP Representative.
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.

Black Student Union
The Black History Month Event series was created in partnership with the Black Student Union. Each event showcased different aspects of the Black student experience ranging from games, art, general body meetings, and interactive workshops.

Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA)
DSAC participated in the UMD SGA’s Reclaim the Red campaign to educate students about sexual misconduct prevention and resources at the beginning of the year which had been deemed by experts as the “Red Zone.” The Council participated via social media, heard from a member of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Committee, and attended relevant events.

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.

First & Second 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.
In the spring semester, DSAC members helped staff the BSOS table at the Second Look Fair to recruit prospective DSAC members and BSOS Ambassadors.

**Future Recommendations**

_A list of recommendations from the outgoing council as well as initiatives and proposals that may not have been completed during the 2019-2020 academic year. This list only serves as recommendations for the incoming council to consider and is not required to finish._

**BSOS Leadership Coalition**

In the beginning of the spring semester, various BSOS student leaders were contacted for a potential meeting, named BSOS Leadership Coalition. The goal was to connect BSOS student leaders, their ideas and projects, and focus on how to serve the shared constituency of undergraduate BSOS students. In addition to the executive board of BSOS DSAC, the BSOS SGA Representatives, BSOS Senate Representatives, BSOS Ambassadors President, and representatives in CIVICUS and Global Communities were in the process of planning this meeting. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the meeting did not come to fruition. It is recommended the next council decide whether or not to continue these efforts and contact the incoming students for these roles.

**Expansion of “The Black Book”**

2019-2020 At-Large Representative, Pauline Sow, created and distributed the first edition of “The Black Book” in 2019. The Black Book serves as an in-depth guide for Black students at the University of Maryland that showcases student organizations, resources, events, and more. Pauline plans to expand this to other groups on campus while working with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Student Government Association (SGA). Pauline can be contacted at (psow1@terpmail.umd.edu) for more information or with interest in collaboration.

**International Week 2020**
Typically, spearheaded by Student Series, but can involve a subcommittee specifically for International Week planning. After looking at the Smith School’s International Week, we plan to adjust to something closer to their model. It will take place in the same week as International Education Week in November as most of the campus will be participating as well. Partners from previous years should be contacted and DSAC’s main role will be advertising and support of said events.

**Welcome to BSOS Day/Week**

A widespread welcome-back event hosted by BSOS aimed to introduce students to opportunities in BSOS. It would be a two-day event advertising opportunities and resources in departments, research, leadership, as well as clubs/organizations. The programming committee met with the Psychology representative to gather information about Welcome to PSYCH Day such as scaling the event, logistics, and timelines.

---

**Council Members**

Alix Brooks
• Council Chair
• Major: Anthropology
• DSAC Constituency: Anthropology Representative

**Jessica Coghlan**
• Committee: Student Services
• Major: Government & Politics
• DSAC Constituency: Government & Politics Representative

**Shelton Daal**
• Vice Chair of Student Services
• Major: Sociology
• DSAC Constituency: Sociology Representative

**Vardaan Dua**
• Committee: Academics
• Major: Psychology
• DSAC Constituency: Psychology Representative

**Ariel Golightly**
• Committee: Programming
• Major: Geographical Sciences
• DSAC Constituency: Geographical Sciences Representative

**Madelyn Harris**
• Committee: Academics
• Major: African American Studies, Sociology
• DSAC Constituency: African American Studies Representative
  
  *Departed from DSAC during Fall semester*

**Kayleigh Hasson**
• Committee: Academics
• Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice & Economics
• DSAC Constituency: Criminology & Criminal Justice Representative

**Jinwook Hwang**
- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Government and Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Student Government Association (SGA) Representative

**Erica Lemen**
- Committee: Programming
- Major: Economics
- DSAC Constituency: Economics Representative

**Elena LeVan**
- Vice Chair of Academics
- Major: Psychology
- DSAC Constituency: Living & Learning Representative

**Naomi Lichtenstein**
- Committee: Programming
- Major: Environmental Science & Policy
- DSAC Constituency: Environmental Sciences & Policy Representative

**Kathryn Obisesan**
- Vice Chair of Programming
- Major: Government & Politics, Economics
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large Representative

**Pauline Sow**
- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Government & Politics, Economics, Dance
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large Representative

**Jennifer Zuhl**
- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Hearing & Speech Sciences
- DSAC Constituency: Hearing & Speech Sciences Representative