



COLLEGE OF  
**BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**THE SOLUTION**

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

Annual Report  
2016-17

May 5, 2017

Chair: Adwoa Boateng

Advisors: Marcella Morris and Associate Dean Katherine Russell

## **Executive Summary**

The Dean's Student Advisory Council (DSAC) is a representative and advisory student body that implements proposals to improve the student experience within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, as well as advises the Dean and Associate Dean regarding students' concerns and ideas. DSAC committee members represent students from each major and program within BSOS. This year, there were 15 student-members in the fall semester and 14 student-members in the spring semester. Dean Russell has found DSAC to be an invaluable resource for gauging student feedback to BSOS policies and proactively seeking out student concerns and ideas.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of DSAC's activities in the past academic year. DSAC 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 2016- Spring 2017*

Chair: Adwoa Boateng

Vice Chair of Programming: Sabrina Christian

Vice Chair of Student Services: Shahrazad Hired

Vice Chair of Academics: Julie Knorr

Appendix 1 contains information about the Committee Members, their majors, and their respective constituencies.

## **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.*

### ***Election Night Celebration***

The committee organized the campus-wide Election Night Celebration party on November 8, 2016. We partnered with a student organization of campus, the Kappa Phi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The event took place in the Colony Ballroom of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union. There were live news streaming of election results coverage, light refreshments, three faculty speakers from the Government & Politics Department and Economics Department, and election-related games. Over 200 guests attended the event, including students, faculty, and staff.

### ***BSOS Student Faculty Dinner***

DSAC hosted Student Faculty Dinner in the Spring this year to accommodate for scheduling overlaps in the fall. Good Tidings Catering served a meal for about 200 students and faculty. Prior to dinner, we held a "mocktail" networking hour for students and faculty to network. Our three course plated dinner service allowed students and faculty to interact and build relationships, which are critical for future student success, outside of a standard classroom setting.

### ***DSAC/Sadat Chair Event Partnership***

DSAC had a promotional partnership with the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development and the Center for American Politics and Citizenship for the launch of the Critical Issues Poll, which presented new poll results on the presidential election and on domestic and foreign policy issues. DSAC sent the announcement to 25 organizations and two students assisted at the event. The partnership was founded on the goal of increasing civil discourse related to policy on-campus.

### ***100 Days Before Graduation***

In partnership with the BSOS Alumni Chapter Board and the BSOS Office of External Relations to hold the inaugural 100 Days Before Graduation for seniors. The 100 Days until Graduation Reception was held on Thursday, February 16 from 4-6 PM at Riggs Alumni Center. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for graduating seniors to mingle with their classmates and meet other College seniors who plan to graduate this May. Graduating seniors were introduced the University's Alumni Association to stay engaged with the University and the College. Additionally, seniors were reminded to utilize the Career Center's resources to grow their professional network. Over 180 students RSVP'd to attend the event.

## **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.*

### ***DSAC Maryland Day***

This semester the Student Services Committee was in charge of facilitating and implementing the DSAC table at the 2017 Maryland Day held on Saturday, April 29th. We set up a game of corn hole, with a Maryland themed board painted by a previous programming committee. Guests were able to engage in discussions with DSAC members while playing the corn hole. BSOS Trivia tested the Maryland community on information regarding the college and individual departments. We rewarded our participants with BSOS/DSAC branded stickers and pens.

### ***U.S. Department of State Field Trip***

The committee proposed a field trip to the State Department in conjunction with the University Career Center. The field trip will give BSOS students an opportunity to learn about careers at the Department of State and network with Terp diplomats. The proposal has been postponed to Fall 2017 due to time conflicts.

### ***Peer Mentoring for PSYC Department***

A committee member proposed a mentoring program for psychology majors. After further consultation with staff from the Department, the proposing Council member and Council generally decided that a mentoring program required more structure and thought that pushed the implementation date back until next 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***

DSAC partnered with Kaplan to host practice, in-person exams for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Law School Admission Test (LSAT) at no cost for students. This project was an extension of work completed during Spring 2016. The goal of the project is to provide current undergraduate students with free resources to prepare for graduate admission exams, as there are not currently any offered through the university. Through surveying of participants of the practice exams, it was found that these events are largely used as a diagnostic exam for those who have never taken the actual, proctored exam. After the large showing at the practice exams, we were able to work with Kaplan to help provide free GRE, LSAT, and MCAT prep classes for these students as well to help expose students to the exams.

#### ***CCJS Forensic Science Concentration***

The Academics Committee investigated the possibility of a Forensic Science minor or concentration, but deemed it unfeasible due to limited faculty within this specialization and lack of support from possible partnering departments. Our committee gathered interest from CCJS majors and created a survey, however, terminated the program before its dissemination. Budget constraints related to increasing staff and the lengthy process to find quality professors would make it difficult to implement a new program. After considerable research the committee determined the forensics field requires a great deal of technical background knowledge, so such a program would fit much better in the College of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

### ***ECON Talks***

DSAC is looking into developing a video series for the economics department. The short videos will give an overview of important information about the major for undergraduates including major requirements, class overview, and career paths. DSAC assisted with this project by collecting and condensing information about the differences between the new ECON Bachelor of Science degree and the original ECON Bachelor of Arts degree program, popular career paths, salaries, and graduate school options. The goal of this project is to create an accessible way learn about the major and to eventually play this video series at an event for the major. It may accompany a short information session in the fall for freshmen students who might be interested in switching their current major to economics.

### ***ANTH Graduate and Undergraduate Student Mentoring***

A large amount of undergraduate ANTH majors continue on to graduate school and it was found through a survey that there is a need for increased support when applying and considering graduate school. Thus, we reached out to current juniors that were considering graduate school and well as students in any ANTH graduate program. The goal of the program is to provide a support system to undergraduates considering and applying to graduate programs in ANTH through students that are relatively close in age and can share their own experiences through frequent meetings between undergraduates and graduates.

### ***HESP Post-Graduation Brochure “After HESP: What to do and How to do it”***

Currently, HESP majors are advised on their options in careers in speech-language pathology and audiology, but otherwise have lack of knowledge of other possible career paths. This program aims to inform current undergraduate students in the major about other careers, such as a scientist, educator, and other options. In addition, a large amount of HESP students go on to graduate school, but some wish to take a gap year or do not gain admission to any programs the first application cycle. Therefore, we will highlight possible options in the form of a compiled brochure between undergraduate and graduate studies, such as Ph.D. programs, working in a lab, Teach for America, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy, and many more. We have held interviews with Ph.D. students, lab coordinators, and teachers to add to the brochure to add personal experiences and contact information.

### ***Indigenous Studies Minor***

DSAC is working toward the possibility creating an Indigenous Studies Minor program within the Anthropology Department, in line with the 64 Demands published recently. In order to gauge student interest, DSAC created a Qualtrics survey to be administered to the undergraduate student body. DSAC partnered with the American Indian Student Union (AISU) to complete the required Program, Curriculum, and Courses (PCC) proposal and cover document. The goal is to complete the required PCC materials and submit it to the University Senate PCC Committee by the end of the upcoming fall semester. This will require support from the Anthropology Department and University Administration, including professors, Anthropology Committee Chair, Anthropology Chair, BSOS PCC Chair, and BSOS Dean.

### **BSOS International Week**

Three DSAC members formed a subcommittee to organize the first campus-wide International Week to celebrate the international backgrounds and diverse cultures within the campus community. The subcommittee applied for funding from the Pepsi Enhancement and SEE Fund Programs to finance International Week. DSAC received over \$2,170 for International Week from these two external sources. Additionally, DSAC partnered with Global Communities, a BSOS Living and Learning Program, for the kick-off event. The event was held on February 27 in the Stamp Grand Ballroom from 7-9 pm. Students performed dances, spoken word, and music representing various cultural groups and backgrounds. DSAC promoted 12 events during International Week, in collaboration with over 10 organizations on campus. The purpose of International Week was to raise awareness about the diverse campus community, and celebrate the different cultures represented on campus through the kick-off event and campus event.

### **Campus Partnerships**

DSAC collaborated with different organizations on campus this academic year, to advance our missions and support theirs. We worked with the Alumni Chapter Board, the SGA, the BSOS Ambassadors, and others.

#### ***Terps Against Hunger***

DSAC and the BSOS Alumni Chapter Board volunteered in the Terps Against Hunger event 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 students. Council members spoke on student panels with other BSOS student leaders, mainly BSOS Ambassadors, to share their experience in the college.

#### ***TerpsVote:***

The SGA re-implemented TerpsVote before U.S. election this year, an initiative to help students register to vote prior to election day. DSAC helped spread the news about the chance to register to vote on campus, through our social media accounts. DSAC created a unique link to the voting registration server the SGA purchased, to assess more information about the election and voter registration.

#### ***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.

## Appendix 1

### DSAC Committee Members

#### **Sabrina Christian**

- Committee: Programming
- Major: Sociology
- DSAC Constituency: Sociology

#### **Adwoa Boateng**

- Committee: Programming
- Major: Economics/Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Environmental Science & Policy

#### **Madelyn Darbie**

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

#### **Shahrazad Hired**

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Government & Politics
- DSAC Constituency: Government & Politics

#### **Nia Nickerson**

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Psychology
- DSAC Constituency: Psychology

#### **Tyrone Tongo**

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Economics
- DSAC Constituency: Economics

#### **Sagen Kidane**

- Committee: Student Services
- Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice/Sociology

- DSAC Constituency: Criminology & Criminal Justice

**Julie Knorr**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Hearing & Speech
- DSAC Constituency: Hearing & Speech

**Nathaniel Zumbach**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Economics/Finance
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large

**Brooke Rothman**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Hearing & Speech
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large

**Rena Ali**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Hearing & Speech
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large

**Jane Lyons**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Economics
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large

**David Falvo**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Psychology/Neuroscience
- DSAC Constituency: At-Large

**Johanna McAlister**

- Committee: Academics
- Major: Anthropology
- DSAC Constituency: Anthropology

**Rick Tagne-Teta**

*Rick was on DSAC for just the Fall semester, due to class scheduling conflicts.*

- Committee: Programming
- Major: African American Studies
- DSAC Constituency: African American Studies