



THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Dear on-campus community,

This semester, RHA advocated for changes to policy priorities and practices, developed programming in the residence halls, and empowered students to become leaders in their respective communities.

We continued our support for the Terps After Dark initiative, offering residents exciting late night programming. We achieved record turnout at the RHA House Party and hosted the first-ever RHA Fall Comedy Show.

We, along with other student organizations and campus departments, participated in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge to increase civic participation and promote democratic engagement. Our Fall Leadership Training Day empowered student leaders to think critically about the importance of philanthropy or the intersection between personal values and leadership. Our hall and area councils also collaborated to host several "Floats for Votes" events, offering convenient places for hundreds of residents to register to vote and learn about the importance of civic engagement.

We served as the voice for on-campus students, advocating for policies that address the concerns of our constituents. We worked to improve the implementation of Anytime Dining, expand the use of alternative transit options on campus, and affirm our commitment to sustainability and diversity.

Lastly, we gave back to the community, partnering with the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) and Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) to clean up the campus at our Maryland Beautification Day event. Our members participated in the first-ever Dining Dollar Donation Drive, raising \$800 for the Campus Pantry. Our Program Good Challenge also asked hall council members to develop thematic programming on mental health, environmental awareness, and hunger.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of RHA. We hope to continue to work cooperatively and collaboratively with campus administrators to develop policies that serve the best interests of students living on campus.

Best regards,
Steve Chen

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EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES

Steve Chen - President



- Collaborated with other student organizations to advocate for and empower students
- Facilitated a focus group about substance abuse resources
- Served as a panelist on SGA's Mental Health Town Hall "What's On Your Mind?"
- Worked to improve understanding of mental health services available on campus
- Advocated student concerns for issues around campus parking, diversity and inclusion, and sustainability



Sasha Galbreath - Vice President

- Chaired Senate: stayed updated on and facilitated all policy going through our legislative body
- Chaired Town Hall: planned budget timelines for our represented Departments; met with Chairs and SALs, both as a group and in one-on-one format
- Took part in writing multiple bids: Student Award for Leadership Training, case studies
- Transitioned chairs and committees from last year to this year
- Set up committee reflectors, which are now utilized for minutes and other pertinent information distribution to members and involved department administrators



Dana Rodriguez - Student Groups and Organizations Liaison (SGOL)

- Brainstormed tactics to get students to both participate in the election process and continue a culture of civic engagement for years to come
- Worked with and supported SGA efforts to secure more funding for the Title IX office
- Jumpstarted the initiative surrounding RHA and ResLife support for the libraries' top 100 textbook program, which promotes sustainability and affordability
- Ensure RHA maintains their commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Collaborated with campus organizations and staff to ensure that no student is left out of the opportunities offered



Helen Liu - Public Relations and Outreach Officer (PRO)

- Increased Facebook Likes by 60% for a total of 808 Page Likes
- Attended CAACURH 2015 as part of the UMD Delegation and served on the bid team
- Participated in the Mental Health Working Group and invited Dr. Kirkland-Gordon to Senate to discuss mental health resources on-campus
- Drafted and presented a resolution exploring the designation of the University as a sanctuary campus to RHA Senate
- Planned and oversaw the RHA Scavenger Hunt



EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES

Rick Mikulis - National Communications Coordinator (NCC)

- Developing plans for Spring Leadership Training Day
- Served as Exec Board liaison to North Campus Carnival meetings
- Drove UMD to be a leader in CAACURH Paw Points
- Regular CAACURH chat attendance and social media participation
- Led UMD delegation through delegation meetings and at CAACURH 2016
- Served on CAACURH Transition Task Force



Val Kologrivov - Chief Information Officer (CIO)

- Updated Google Calendar to reflect hall/area council events and website to reflect new legislation, constitution, upcoming events, and more
- Oversaw the Hall Of The Semester (HOTS) competition and updating our members monthly
- Supported the RHA Executive Board by attending few review meetings and working groups



Samantha Bingaman - Finance and Philanthropy Officer

- Organized Program Good challenges that encouraged hall councils to program with a focus on mental health, environmental awareness, hunger awareness, and paying it forward
- Facilitated Maryland Beautification Day and the Dining Dollar Donation Drive
- Partnered with the LEAF Outreach Team of the Office of Sustainability to educate students on proper waste separation



Emily Franzone - Administrative Officer

- Developed and planning the MDDC RHA Summit where Residence Hall Associations from Maryland and D.C. will convene at the University of Maryland to discuss highlights from their experiences, idea sharing, and issues faced on their own campuses. A program grant has been submitted and is pending approval
- Working on the beginning stages of developing a organizational wide effort to promote inclusive language and behavior



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Dining Service Advisory Board (DSAB)

- Assessed student demand of Dining Hall programming, such as special event days
- Facilitated the implementation of additional guest passes for student meal plans
- Addressed various logistical matters within the dining hall; e.g., food temperatures, product supply, etc.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Explored the option of an any time ridership for all resident students on the WMATA Metros.
- Dealt with parking scarcity - explored multiple options including two main focus points: a new surface lot and the usage of under utilized park and rides as satellite lots.

Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE)

- Began the possible implementation of potential RA Emergency Training
- Reviewed Strategic Housing Plan and Substance Free Housing
- Discussed Green Room Certifications and possible implementation strategies

Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB)

- Gave Facilities Management feedback for "4-Work Online"
- Discussed the upcoming changes to the Strategic Housing Plan
- Worked on getting mirrors in new halls

Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM)

- Won Pepsi Grant funding for the Spring 2017
- Began planning for Green Week, a week-long interactive and educational program where students learn more about sustainability and environmental concerns, taking place in the Spring 2017.
- Participated in a renewable energy event for the Save the Bees Campaign



SENATE HIGHLIGHTS

Presentations from: FOHTY, DOTS (David Allen), Mental Health Services (Dr. Kirkland-Gordon), President Loh, and TerpThon:

Over the course of the past semester, Senate has been the host of a myriad of presentations spanning across many topics of student interests. These are pivotal in ensuring that Senators are engaged and informed about any concerns or interests their constituents may have. By allowing student and departmental groups to present in front of our campus' elected representatives, we are furthering the accessibility of our organization and voice of the on-campus student body.

Parlipro on Senate name tents:

Through the facilitation and compliance of these guidelines, the Chair is able to provide a medium by which everyone can voice their opinion, thus it can be recognized and thereby considered by everyone who has a vote in the room. By printing the most relevant points and motions onto the back on each Senator's name tent, parliamentary procedure is now a transparent, user-friendly method of running Senate, as well as an efficient one.

QCC Cards:

To increase the receptiveness and delegation surrounding constituent concerns, "questions, comments, and concerns (QCC)" cards are placed at each Senator's chair before every Senate meeting as a means for them to relay any insight they have to offer without having to personally talk about it. Really, the main impetus behind this supplementary method is that some may not feel comfortable bringing certain suggestions up, so this is a great way to alleviate that issue while simultaneously getting feedback from our constituency.

RESOLUTIONS

- **SEG002F:** A Resolution to Approve Standard Operating Procedures Changes for the 2016-2017 Academic Year: Passed 47-1-0
- **SSC001F:** A Resolution Urging DOTS and UMD to Explore Subsidizing WMATA Metro Fares: Passed 47-0-0
- **SEB001F:** A Resolution Supporting the UMD Campus Pantry as the Beneficiary of the 2016 Dining Dollar Donation Drive: Passed 47-0-0
- **MDO001F:** A Resolution Supporting the Construction of A New Parking Lot: Failed 17-30-0
- **HZL001F:** A Resolution Exploring the Designation of the University of Maryland as a Sanctuary Campus: Passed 44-3-0



HALL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



This semester the RHA hall and area councils have worked hard to put on events that keep our "programming with a purpose" motto in mind. During September and October many councils teamed up with MaryPIRG to register students to vote. North Hill and LaPlata's "Root Beer Floats for Votes" and Centreville's "You're a Dum Dum If You Don't Vote" offered hundreds of students the opportunity to register to vote.

Hall and area councils program to serve their residents, and many did this especially well by hosting stress relief events. Commons hosted a "Don't Stress, Just Chill" event where council members served ice cream and gave out stress balls to residents and Hagerstown hosted an "Eat Your Feelings" community building and stress-free events for their hall.

Many halls put on seasonal festivals and community building events, such as the Cambridge Terpsgiving and the South Hill Halloweentown Party on the Washington Quad, which featured food, games, and a space to bond with residents.

As an organization, we are proud to be able to host events that are well attended and received by our residents. We are looking forward to all the exciting events that the hall and area councils have in the works for the spring!





REGIONAL REPORT



Awards Won at CAACURH 2015

- SALT Award-Winning Leadership Training Experience
- 1st place in First Regional Case Study
- 2nd place in Second Regional Case Studies
- Campbell Traveling Award
- Cougar Pride Pin (Rick Mikulis)
- Secret CAACURH Award



Bids for No Frills

- School of the Year
- Outstanding Advocacy Initiative
- Student of the Year (Sasha Galbreath)
- NRHH President of the Year (Audrey Simmons)
- NCC of the Year (Rick Mikulis)



RHA IN THE NEWS



For more information, click on each article title!

- A Letter from the Residence Hall Association
- DOTS took away Metro bus service to South Campus. RHA wants it back.
- RHA's election just filled 120 positions in 15 councils
- University of Maryland's Dorchester Hall is getting a \$10 million makeover next year
- UMD RHA wanted students to vote. So it gave them root beer floats.
- American University students get unlimited Metro access. UMD RHA wants a similar policy.

- University of Maryland dorms now feature security cameras to deter tailgating and theft
- DOTS launched an Uber-like app, except it's free
- UMD's Department of Resident Life could create substance-free dorms as early as next fall
- UMD's water filling stations have saved almost 3 million plastic bottles from disposal
- A new parking lot near Xfinity could add 1,000 spots. UMD RHA is saying no.
- The RHA will explore designating UMD as a sanctuary campus for undocumented students

MESSAGE FROM THE SALS

This has been the first semester for all of us in which we served as Senators-at-Large. In this semester, we have all grown personally, connecting with younger senators, bonding as a group and becoming more familiar with the Executive Board and its less visible functions. We've also stepped into our responsibilities with pride and excitement, assisting with move-in, recruitment efforts, Leadership Training Day, as well as serving on new senate committees and even serving as Chair for some, as well. In the upcoming semester we look forward to continuing with our initiatives, and continuing to help the Senate run smoothly. We hope that we will continue to grow in the coming months, and that we remain a resource for all in the RHA.

Happy holidays, and enjoy the break!

Warm Regards,
Tzvi, Lexi, Jerry, and Chaney



NEXT SEMESTER PREVIEW

- Continue advocating for on-campus student priorities, such as ensuring all students feel safe and respected on campus, increasing transparency on mental health resources, and encouraging increased sustainable practices
- Facilitate the Spring Dining Dollar Donation Drive and other service events
- Organize the annual North Campus Carnival and South Campus Block Party events
- Attend the Regional Business Conference on February 11-13, 2017
- Work further with our sister organization, the National Residence Hall Honorary, to better recognize and serve on-campus students

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

RHA Advisors: Tracy Kiras and Steve Petkas

Senate Committee Directors: Lisa Alexander, David Allen, Jon Dooley, Deborah Grandner, Maria Lonsbury, and Colleen Wright-Riva

Hall Council Advisors: Jordan Adams, Lisa Alexander, Coty Behanna, Amanda Bogdan, Jack Breffle, Chamika Ellis, Tiffany Harris, Erica Harvey, Ashley Ladyman, Ray Nardella, Allison Panila, Aspen Shackelford, Karlana Walker, Ray Ward, and Carli Weldon

Conference Advisors: Coty Behanna and Sarah Williamson

NRHH Advisors: Jacqueline Gentile and Tracy Kiras

University Staff: Catherine Carroll, Linda Clement, Jay Gilchrist, Andrea Goodwin, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Mary Hummel, Sharon Kirkland-Gordon, David McBride, John Zacker, and Wallace Loh

All Department of Resident Life Staff