



RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

The *VOICE* of on-campus students.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Dear campus community,

As the Spring 2021 semester has come to an end, it warms our hearts to reflect on the incredible work that RHA has accomplished. While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our membership levels, members' lives, council structures, and event-planning practices, RHA student leaders have worked tirelessly to improve the on-campus student experience through programming and advocacy initiatives.

The spring semester continued to be extremely hard for students, so our seven area councils were needed more than ever. By planning events both virtually and socially distanced outside, our members were able to bring community members together in new, creative ways. Scavenger hunts, game nights, plant giveaways, spikeball tournaments, movie showings, educational panels, and community carnivals are just a few examples of the extraordinary events our members successfully planned, giving on-campus students a chance to enjoy college life safely.

During our bi-weekly senate meetings this semester, RHA Senate passed 10 resolutions. Every other Tuesday night, Senators met on Zoom to have long discussions about improving academic systems, reviewing departmental budgets and fees, advocating for sustainable initiatives that UMD could take, revising internal RHA procedures, and more. And behind the scenes, our six committees of the Senate met on non-senate weeks to give feedback to campus departmental directors, brainstorm new initiatives, and strategize for the future of the campus community.

Lastly, the exceptional work of the 2020-2021 Executive Team cannot be understated. The team held larger events for RHA such as our Spring Leadership Training Day and Year End Reception in a virtual setting, tasks that have never been attempted before the pandemic. Furthermore, the executive board took active roles as mentors for area councils throughout the year, and each of our Senators-at-Large served on as many as four committees at once.

As we pass the torch to the new leadership of RHA, Scott Cronin and Mel Mader, we are so excited for the future of the organization. Leading RHA into a post-pandemic world is no small task, but the great vision of our leaders coupled with an outstanding incoming executive board gives us great confidence that RHA will continue to make tangible changes for students, creatively expand our initiatives, and develop a remarkable generation of student leaders.

Sincerely,
Emily Berry, outgoing RHA President
Alec McCarren, outgoing RHA Vice President

A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as the President of the Residence Hall Association for the 2021-2022 academic year. Though my path to this position has not been the most conventional, I feel confident that this coming year will be promising for our organization. This past year, I served as the President of the Denton Community Council. While not the most ideal circumstances, we were able to adapt and build a real sense of community. This position taught me a lot but it also fostered my love for RHA and left me wanting to continue in this great organization.

Though my time in RHA has not been the longest so far, I was able to see RHA in a very different light. Coming into this past school year, a lot had to change due to the unfortunate circumstances of the pandemic. However, the outstanding leadership shown by everyone in RHA allowed us to continue on. While it may not have been ideal, we adapted and overcame. We went from block parties to online paint nights. I personally still have yet to meet a lot of the organization's members in person. Through all of this, everyone's determination and dedication to the campus community allowed us to continue to be effective.

Next year will prove to be challenging for RHA. We are transitioning back into a sense of normalcy on campus and we will have many more students that do not know what that is like than normal. We will have to work hard to ensure that students get appropriately acclimated to the campus environment. This will look like engaging programming, impassioned advocacy, and most of all, teamwork. We owe it to our campus community to do everything within our power to ensure they have the best experience possible here at the University of Maryland.

RHA has a lot of growing to do and I am confident that we will be a crucial part of getting RHA where we want it to be. RHA is full of passionate individuals that care about others and I do not see that changing any time soon. We will continue to address issues on campus and ensure that they are met with appropriate responses. As members of this organization, we are advocates, leaders, and in my opinion, a family. Let us continue to do everything we can for on-campus students while also ensuring each of us has a worthwhile experience in RHA. I hope you all have an amazing summer and I am unbelievably excited to work with you in the near future.

Thank you,

Scott Cronin, incoming RHA President

ADVOCACY

SEMESTER'S LEGISLATION

JMS001S: A Resolution Approving the Fee Proposed by the Departments of Residential Facilities and Resident Life for Fiscal Year 2022

SEF001S: A Resolution Approving the Fee Proposed by the Department of Dining Services for Fiscal Year 2022

ACN001S: A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fees Proposed by the Department of Transportation Services for Fiscal Year 2022

MRM001S: A Resolution Supporting the MaryPIRG Student Climate Action Coalition's HB0803/SB0835: The Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act

EHB001S: A Resolution to Incorporate Emergency Guidelines into the Residence Hall Association Constitution

EHB002S: A Resolution In Support of the General Education Diversity Requirement Revisions Presented in the 2018-2020 Diversity Education Task Force Report

HCM001S: A Resolution to Reinstate the Resident and Police Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

EHB003S: A Resolution Expressing Support for Incorporating the Consideration of "Compelling Circumstances" into the Student Conduct Sanctioning Process

JMS002S: A Resolution Supporting the Department of Residential Facilities Change to Include Laundry Costs in Housing Fees for Unlimited Service

MRM002S: A Resolution Supporting an Increase to the Student Sustainability Fee

DINING

This semester was very unusual for the Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB). One major topic of discussion was rolling back some of the restrictions put in place due to COVID to give students more options and prepare them for the return to Anytime Dining in the fall. To do this, many stations were transitioned to include self-serve elements, such as the make-your-own salad bar, waffle machines, and ice cream machines. This allowed for some fan favorites to return in a safe manner. Additionally, when confronted with the challenge of selecting a new dining hall name to support, DSAB helped get the student body involved - with a survey! DSAB helped give students more of a voice within the survey while keeping it simplistic by having one of the questions use ranked-choice selection. This meant that students could pick not only their favorite name, but also their second- and third-favorite names as well! On top of that, DSAB suggested the introduction of PB&J sandwiches, a new favorite for those who needed a quick lunch. DSAB was also active on the legislative side, approving the non-mandatory fee proposal from Dining Services. Overall, DSAB has had a very successful semester and is looking forward to returning in the fall!

SUSTAINABILITY

At the start of the spring semester, the Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM) dispersed a Google survey on various social media platforms. This Google survey was used to receive feedback from on-campus students regarding sustainability efforts on campus. It was also educational, explaining to students how to sort their waste and promoting the green terp program. With over 20 entries, SCOM randomly chose one student who filled out the survey to receive a UMD stadium scarf donated by area councils. Later in the year, we discussed supporting a flat fee for laundry and how this flat fee would be a more sustainable option versus paying per load. SCOM also voiced its support for increasing the UMD sustainability fee. At the end of the year, the Senate passed two bills. One supporting a flat fee for laundry and another supporting an increase in sustainability fees. At the end of the year, our committee created infographics for earth week covering themes of waste management, save water, conserve energy, commute smart, and clean safe. These infographics were then posted on various RHA Instagram accounts. To wrap up the year, SCOM created transition documents to help next year's committee be successful.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES & RESIDENTIAL LIFE

This semester, the Resident Facilities Advisory Board and Resident Life Advisory Team, otherwise known as the joint ReFAB/ReLATE committee, had the main focus on the revamping of the laundry service system, ultimately resulting in a passed resolution in the Senate supporting the proposed change of a fee-based system. In addition, the committee held a dialog session sponsored by ResLife where members could practice their conversation skills on a difficult topic ensuring no one felt left out or overpowered. The committee also voiced its opinion on a proposed system that would check in on students that were not showing the use of on-campus services for an extended period to ensure their health and safety, which will look different in a post-pandemic era. Finally, we discussed the status of cable subscriptions in the dorms and their current utilization rate as it is likely the service will be dropped in the coming years.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

This semester, the Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom) met biweekly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. In addition to reviewing best practices for diversity and inclusion, the committee also organized 2 programming events. In February, the committee hosted a panel to discuss President Pines's Anti-Black Racism Initiative, structural violence, and environmental racism. Near the end of the semester, the committee organized a paint night for students to design a piece of art that celebrated their identity and strengths.



TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) began the semester discussing fees as well as planning for the DOTS Art Park. RHA contributed its own art installation to this creative collection of artwork produced by groups throughout the campus community. The committee also spent time reviewing issues of safety as it relates to campus transportation services. To conclude the semester, the committee discussed upcoming changes to service and considered innovative ways to offer campus tours with a bus.

STUDENT FEES

This summary of the student fee review process throughout the 2020-2021 academic year will be more valuable than not as students will be able to use information from that for future years to come.

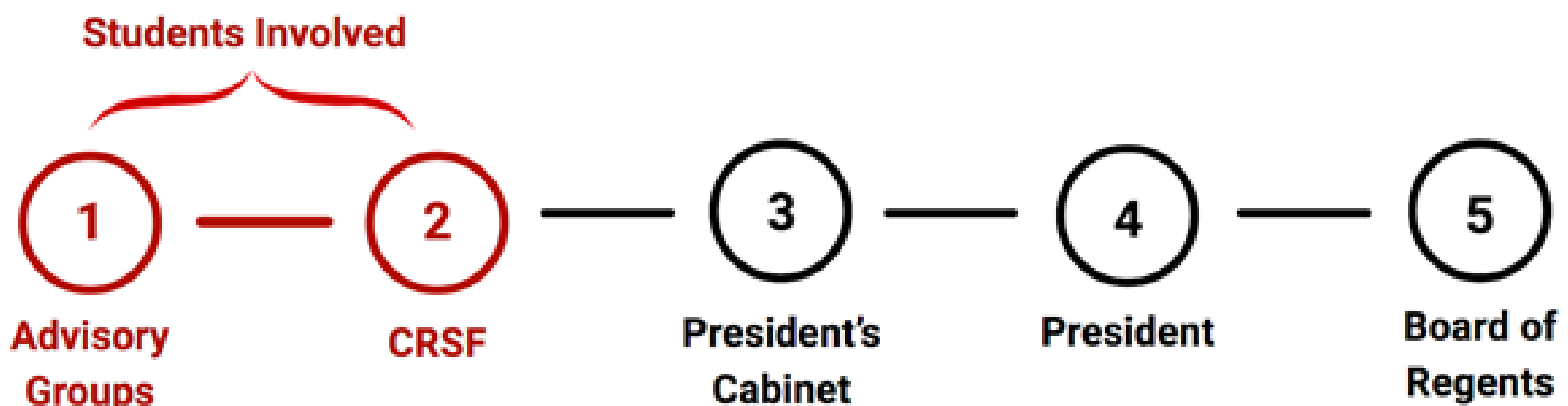
Students attending the University of Maryland have to pay mandatory fees at the beginning of each semester. These fees include, but are not limited to, the University Health Center, the Athletics Department, the Clarice School of Performing Arts, and the Student Union. These funds go towards new projects and initiatives to promote student well-being on campus. To preserve student voices, representatives undergo the student review where they meet with directors through committees and the RHA Senate to understand changes in fee proposals.

Our Senate body serves on advisory committees for the Departments of Resident Life, Residential Facilities, Dining Services, and Transportation Services. Senators work directly with these directors to brainstorm new initiatives and to create legislation. Typically our Fall semester is less hectic than the Spring semester, but especially this year as mandatory fees for each department on campus were frozen. Meaning, there was not an increase nor a decrease in the proposal.

This spring semester featured numerous conversations revolving around non-mandatory fee proposals and departmental plans for the upcoming academic years. The RHA Executive Team and the Senate body heard non-mandatory fee proposals from the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS), Dining Services, and a combined proposal from Resident Life and Residential Facilities. These proposals were presented and voted on by senators after thorough conversations and debates. In totality, the RHA Senate Body expressed support for all three resolutions.

As these non-mandatory fee proposals passed through the RHA Senate, they were then voted upon by CRSF. This committee, composed of faculty and other student leaders, voted on such proposals and passed an increase in non-mandatory fees for the Department of Resident Life and Residential Facilities and Dining Services; while, the proposed increase from the DOTS was not passed.

With the 2020-2021 academic year ending, more conversations are being held about long-term fiscal planning within departments. For this summer term, the RHA Executive Team hopes to preserve and strengthen the pre-existing relationships with directors of departments as the University of Maryland acclimates to in-person activities and meetings.



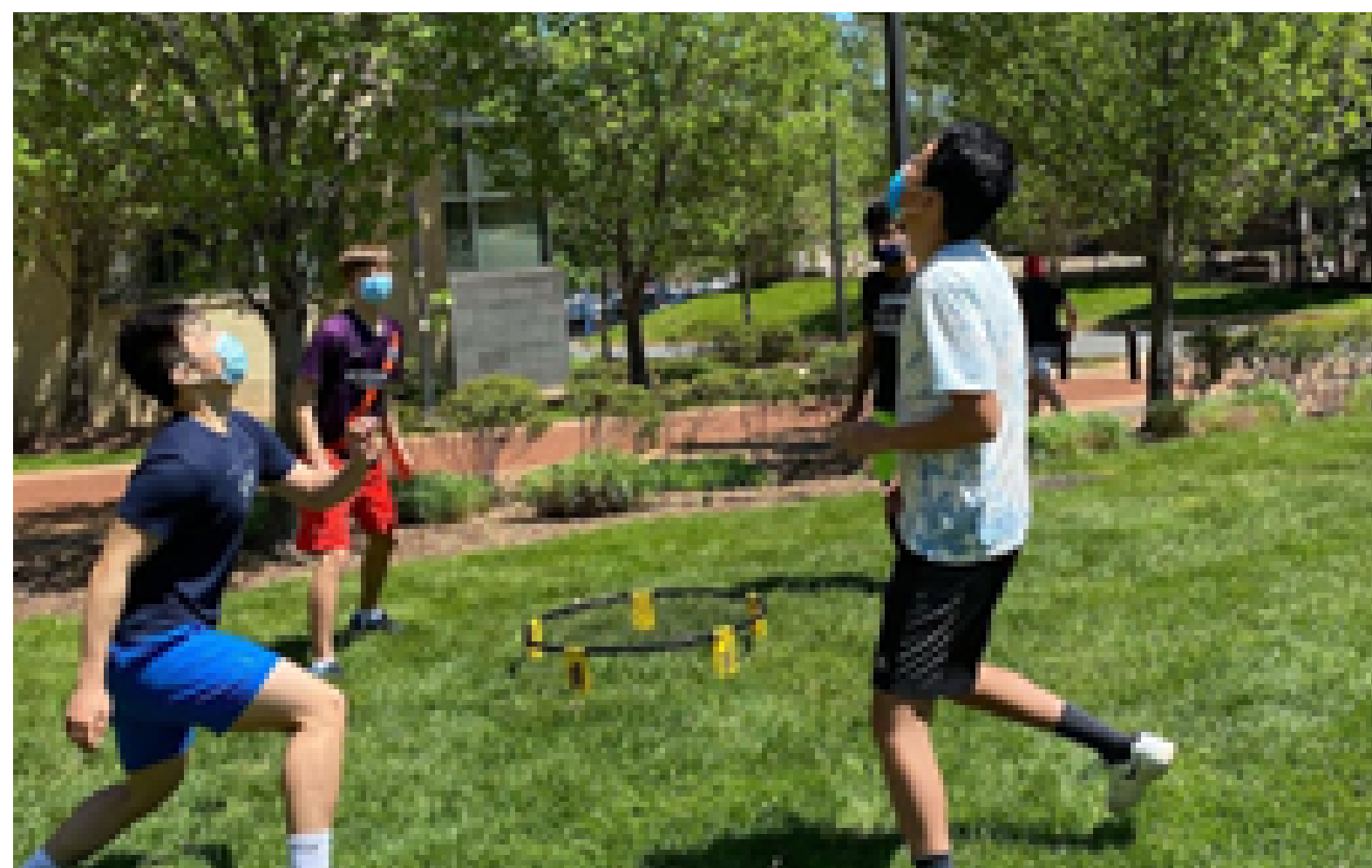
As seen above, student representatives are involved in the advisory groups and the Committee for the Review of Student Fees (CRSF) during the student fee review process. From there fees are voted on by the President's Cabinet, the President, and finally the Board of Regents.

PROGRAMMING

Similar to the fall semester, the spring semester held mostly virtual events or outdoor events that were socially distanced. We partnered with Reslife to host Maryland Trivia Night where we tested residents' knowledge on the state of Maryland to win prizes. RHA also hosted several Thursday night events as a study break for our members. Some of these events include a movie showing of Pixar's "Soul," creating your own Spotify playlist, and decorating RHA's parking lot for the DOTS' Art Park! We hope that next year, there will be many more opportunities for in-person events that our members can enjoy.

AREA COUNCIL EVENTS

This fall, each of our 7 Area Councils hosted a number of wonderful events. South Campus Commons hosted a **Bingo Game Night**, where residents can play virtually to win awesome prizes. North Hill Area Council held a **Disney Movie Trivia Night**, giving residents the chance to win Terp Gear and other prizes. South Hill Area Council provided a showing of the film "**Dark Waters,**" and to enjoy the spring weather, held a **Turtle Egg Hunt** on the Washington Quad. In April, Ellicott Community Area Council enjoyed a beautiful day on McKeldin Mall to encourage their residents to exercise.



Meanwhile, Denton Community Area Council held several events and giveaways. To celebrate the Super Bowl and March Madness, residents guessed the winners in the hopes of winning prizes. Denton also celebrated Earth Day by hosting a **Creek Clean Up** and **Plant Giveaway**. Their campus-wide **Spikeball Tournament** gave residents a fun break from studying for finals. Cambridge Community Area Council wrapped up the spring semester with **the Cambridge Carnival**. There was a raffle and free Maryland Dairy Ice Cream was served.

YEAR-END RECEPTION

At the end of every academic year, the Residence Hall Association hosts the Year-End Reception to celebrate their members' achievements. While this year's event was held virtually, we were able to provide catering in SORC at the Stamp Student Union. During the Year-End Reception, we acknowledged the hard work of our RHA members during these uncertain times and gave out awards for specific members and Area Councils. In addition, we praised our Area Councils for spreading awareness about important initiatives. For example, the Ellicott Community emphasized the importance of being sustainable, while the South Hill Community celebrated Black History Month and other observances.



A CLOSER LOOK AT COUNCIL EVENTS



ACE WINNERS

ACE President

Scott Cronin (Denton)

ACE VP of Community Development

Alexa Stimpson (Denton)

ACE VP of Communications

Sophie Eitel (Denton)

ACE VP of Sustainability

Hannah Klein (Denton)

ACE VP of Diversity and Inclusion

India Lolin (Denton)

ACE Senate

Kylee Robertson (Denton)

ACE Council of the Year

Denton

MEET THE 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE TEAM



President
Scott Cronin
Sophomore - Government & Politics



Vice President
Mel Mader
Junior - English & Theatre



Chief of Internal Affairs
Michael Purdie
Senior - Journalism



Marketing and Technology Officer
Vivan Flanagan
Junior - Public Health Science

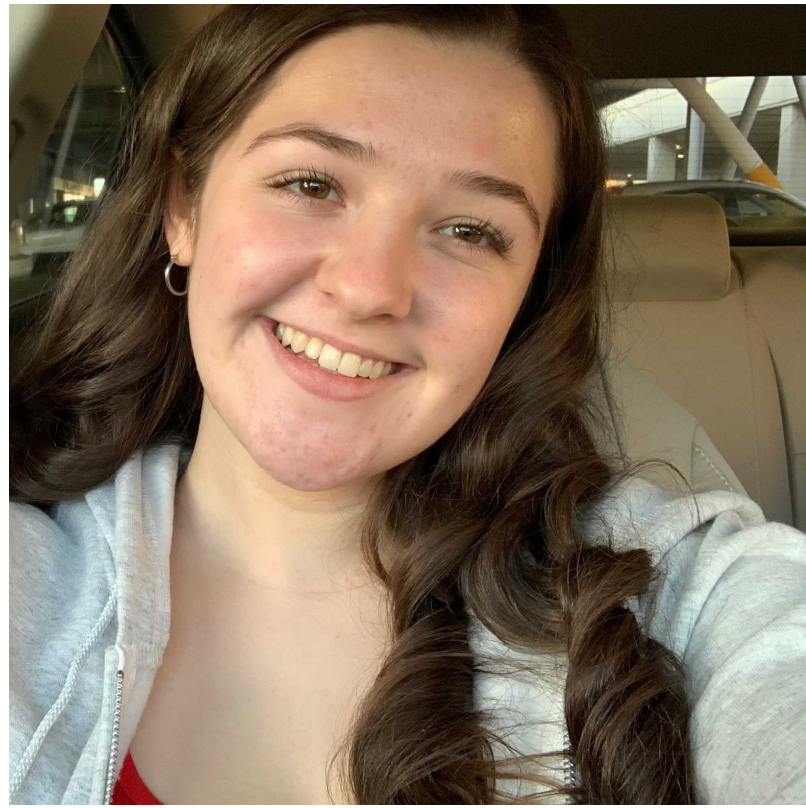


**Programming and Community
Development Coordinator**
Sarah Dresh
Senior - Government & Politics



**Student Groups and Organizations
Liasion**
Alexandra Figaro
Senior - Public Policy

MEET THE 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE TEAM



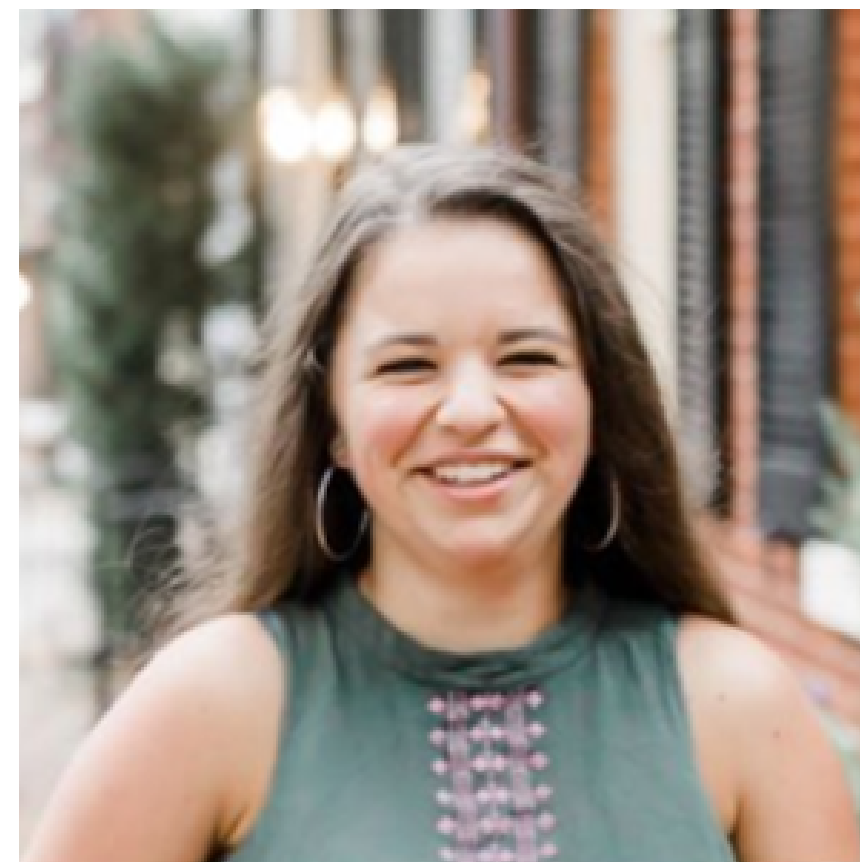
National Communication Coordinator
Hannah Klein
Sophomore - Government & Politics



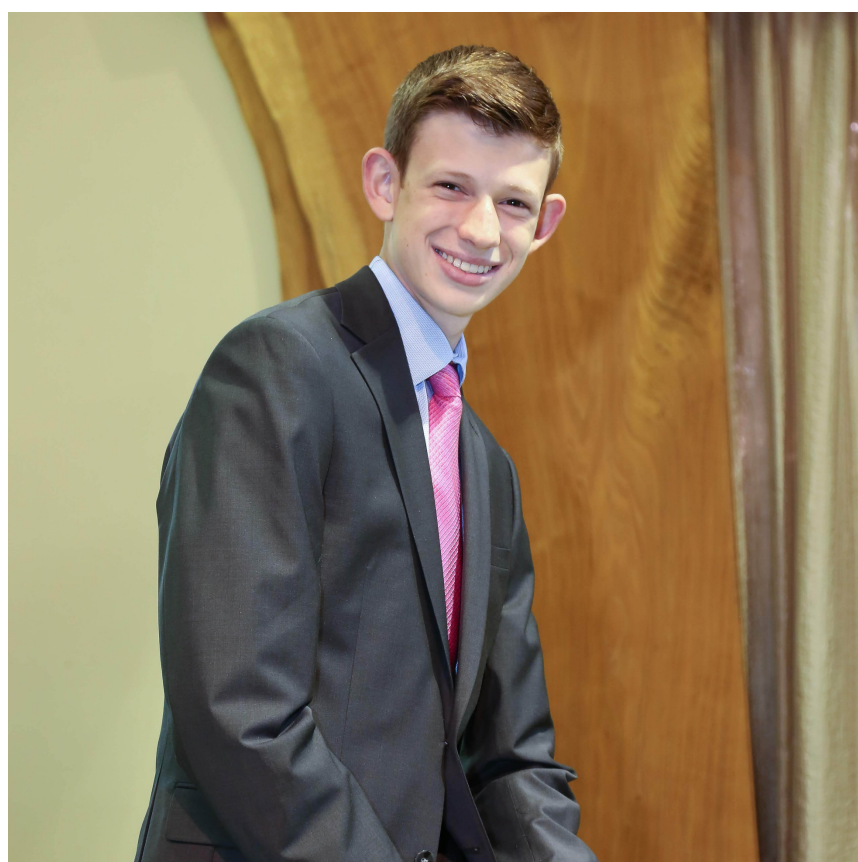
Student Fees Coordinator
Aiden Wechsler
Sophomore - Government & Politics



Senator-at-Large
Jason Spizuoco
Senior - Aerospace Engineering



Senator-at-Large
Alexa Stimpson
Sophomore - Finance



Senator-at-Large
Scott Fleischmann
Sophomore - Electrical Engineering



Senator-at-Large
Kylee Robertsson
Junior - Psychology

A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT

Hello UMD Campus Community!

My name is Mel Mader and I am excited to serve as the next Vice President of the Residence Hall Association. Our Senate body is my favorite part of RHA. One big part of that is because of our senate committees. Over my two years in RHA I have served on a majority of our committees and I always look forward to talking to our directors and being part of the students speaking directly to the directors. This position has been especially important during this past year.

This past year, things were changing constantly. Between take-out vs indoor dining, the residence hall guest policy, or shuttle routes, our Senators were part of the first students to know and have the ability to provide feedback. This position is always valuable thanks to the responsiveness of the departments we work with and the effectiveness of our Senators seeking feedback from students but it felt especially important this year as we were all working together to navigate the pandemic. I look forward to overseeing this process next year as Vice President.

Another way that the Senate speaks for the on-campus body of students is through our resolutions. Even with our smaller Senate body this year, we still reviewed ten resolutions during our spring semester on a variety of important topics. We did our usual review of fee changes, some administrative resolutions, and some committee-based advocacy. Two resolutions that I presented as a Senator-at-Large were based on issues of sustainability at UMD. Other committee-based advocacy resolutions had to do with diversity in our general education requirements, a change to how students pay for laundry, and student judiciary procedures. All in all, it was a well-balanced semester.

I am fortunate to come into the position of Vice President after Alec McCarren who was able to lead us gracefully despite how tumultuous the year was. I look forward to guiding our largely new executive board through operating during a hopefully more in-person year. The main things on my agenda for the fall are recruiting and training the new Senators.

Thank you to RHA and the University of Maryland for trusting me with this position,

Sincerely,
Mel Mader
Vice President of RHA
Class of 2023

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

RHA Advisors:

Aaron Hood and Steve Petkas

Senate Committee Directors:

Lisa Alexander, David Allen & Valerie Gobeau, Andrea Crabb,
Valronica Scales, Colleen-Wright Riva, Ben Beltran, Chief Mitchell &
Sgt. Hoas

Hall and Area Council Advisors:

Chris Carter, Cory Hibbetts, Bria Jackson, Angie Major,
Olivia Murphy, Markell Saunders, Ray Ward

University Staff:

Patricia Perillo, Colleen Auberger, Carlo Colella, Jay Gilchrist,
Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Mary Hummel, Warren Kelly, Anne
Martens

Shared Governance Partners:

Student Government Association, Graduate Student Government

All Department of Resident Life Staff