



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

—2020-2021 Midyear Report—

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Executive Summary

We began this year with unique challenges. Through it all, our staff has put their best foot forward—fighting to change our organization and campus for the better. I look forward to continuing working to ensure the welfare of the student body.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone from the executive team who worked hard to make these projects a reality. In addition, I would like to offer a special thank you to Dean Dave, Mara Dahlgren, Hannah Laughlin, Dean Paulin, and Provost Robel for their continued support.

It has been an honor and a privilege to help make Indiana University a better place. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the student body. This year we expanded the number of people in IUSG, broadened outreach initiatives to students and increased our availability on campus. I am proud of the work IUSG has done this year and I am eager to continue this success as we pass the midway point.

We have more important projects on the agenda for this semester including expanding Safer Sex Express, implementing a prayer room, and diminishing the add/drop fee for classes. I look forward to seeing all the initiatives IUSG will accomplish as we grow.

Sincerely,

Rachel Aranyi
Student Body President



Promises Made, Promises Kept.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR

—*Keeping our campus*—

HEALTHY & OPEN

TACKLING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CAMPUS

- ✓ Helping create three Wellness Days for the Spring Semester
- ✓ Expanded Access to Greek Housing Students for Quarantine & Isolation Dorms
- ✓ Created Safer Sex Express for Discrete, Contactless Delivery of Free Contraception
- ✓ Awarded \$55,808 in Emergency Aid to International and DACA Students
- ✓ Awarded \$9,192 to the Crimson Cupboard and \$1,000 to the Emergency Meals Project



—Boosting Engagement for the—

GENERAL ELECTION

A HISTORIC GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN

- ✓ Secured an on On-Campus Voting Site
- ✓ Registered 350+ Students to Vote
- ✓ Engaged 12,000+ Students with Voting Resources with Our Website IUVotes.com
- ✓ Hosted the Livestreamed College Republicans v. College Democrats Debate
- ✓ Co-Hosted U.S. Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debate Watch Parties



—Connecting with Students through—

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

OUR MAJOR WEB AND DIGITAL PROJECTS

✓ Creating New Digital Marketing Platforms

- Sending Regular SMS Student Action Alerts to 12,000+
- Launching a New Salesforce-based Marketing Cloud

✓ Crafting Key Web Projects

- New IUSG Public Website (beta December '20)
- University Budget Dashboard Site (launching Spring '21)
- Student Petition Site (launching Spring '21)

✓ Building a Fully Distributed Team

- Moved all IUSG branches to Microsoft Teams
- All meetings held with a remote option

✓ Fostering Livestreaming Capabilities

- Livestream of IUSG Congress's General Assembly meetings each week
- Hosted Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong and Holocaust Survivor Fishel Goldig



—Protecting and promoting—

STUDENT RIGHTS

REVAMPING LEGACY PROJECTS TO AID STUDENTS

✓ Appointed five new Justices to the Student Body Supreme Court

- Andrew Barncile, *Associate Justice*
- Anna Engel, *Associate Justice*
- Grace Siefker, *Associate Justice*
- Ronak Bosamia, *Associate Justice*
- Katelyn DeAgro, *Associate Justice*

✓ Revitalizing the Department of Student Rights to assist students with

- Personal and academic misconduct
- Mediation of personal disputes
- Education on university policies



—*Fighting for Students of*—
ALL BACKGROUNDS

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND INCLUSION

✓ **Attracting and Retaining Diverse Students within IUSG**

- Instituting a first-ever open hiring practice, receiving more than 500 applications for Executive Branch roles
- Recruiting more than 200 students to run for IUSG Congress, the most in its history
- Hiring an Executive Cabinet that is majority BIPOC and nearly two-thirds female

✓ **Ensuring Equitable Policies on Campus**

- Helping create a community advisory board for the IUPD
- Earning commitments from IUPD to publish key data and policies on its website
- Instituting a web accessibility education project to assist students with physical and intellectual disabilities
- Creating a new interpersonal mediation clinic for student disputes with a focus toward restorative justice
- Creating new Kosher and Halal in-person and delivery dining options for students



—Reducing Financial Barriers to—

HIGHER EDUCATION

ELIMINATING OUTDATED STUDENT FEES

- ✓ Permanent Elimination of the Drop/Add Fee
- ✓ Adding four free, floating credits for the 2020-21 Academic Year



—Making our campus more—

JUST & SUSTAINABLE

NEW COMMITMENTS TO PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Implemented campus wide plastic bag ban alongside RPS
- ✓ Partnering with campus organizations to plan for sustainable food options for students in need



—Meet our—

THREE TEAMS

LIASIONS + OPERATIONS + POLICY

IUSG Liaisons

I want to start by thanking our amazing executive team that has worked diligently every week to finish their projects and pursue tangible policy changes. I also want to extend an additional thank you to the members of the other branches and departments of student government as well as the countless other student advocates who have worked in official and unofficial capacities to make this campus a better and more accepting place. One final thank you goes to the administrators, faculty, and staff who have worked with the students and are willing to hear our voices including Dean Dave, Hannah Laughlin, Mara Dahlgreen, Provost Robel, and the Bloomington Faculty Council.

IUSG has had one of our best years for student engagement on university policy committees. Executive Directors have served as members for many BFC subcommittees and have played key roles in the delivery of new policy to better support students and have even played a role in the University's COVID Response plan. Some of the projects we have successfully accomplished include extending the Auto-Withdrawal deadline, OCQ Revision process and working on the Sustainability Gen Ed task force. We have worked to include more representation in various BFC subcommittees and the IU Foundation Investment Committee while also reprising key roles with committees such as the Campus Recreation Sports Board. In addition, IUSG representatives have worked with the Student Transportation Board to extend routes and created a more COVID-19 safe environment. Finally, the Campus Survey Committee and Campus Name review committee are two university committees I have had the honor to personally sit on. However, our work is far from over, this upcoming semester, we are establishing a Student Advisory Board for the CoAS Dean's office and will be developing a blueprint that can be used by any Dean or Vice Provost's office to establish their own SAB and hear more student's voices.

I am excited to continue the progress we have made this year in IUSG and I look forward to achieving more for the IU student body.

Sincerely,

Ruhan H. Syed
Student Body Vice President



Congressional Relations

The Congressional Secretary serves as an intermediary between the Student Body Congress and the Executive Branch—shepherding policy proposals from ideation to execution. This role was expanded this year to:

- ✓ Consulting Congress members on legislation and its process
- ✓ Setting meetings between Cabinet and Congress members regarding project proposals
- ✓ Sitting in on Congressional committee meetings in order to prepare IUSG's Executive Branch for what is to come
- ✓ Conducting outreach to organizations regarding Multi-Cultural representation in Congress
- ✓ Reviewing nominations and impeachments with the Steering Committee



Association of Big Ten Students

The ABTS Liaison serves as an intermediary and campus coordinator for the Association. While COVID-19 has limited the ability of IUSG and other student governments to travel, we have worked collaboratively on:

- ✓ Comprehensive federal lobbying strategies for Spring 2021
- ✓ Creating an ABTS sustainability working group to elevate conversation on carbon neutrality and divestment



University Committee Appointments

Committee for Fee Review – Rachel Aranyi	BFC, Student Affairs - Rachel Aranyi
Cabinet of Student Leaders – Rachel Aranyi	BFC, DEIC - Paul Nguyen
Presidential Search Committee – Rachel Aranyi	BFC, Intl Affairs - Maddie Butler
University Publication Board – Andrew Ireland	BFC, Tech Policy - Adam Ratzman
Board of Trustees Student Selection Committee – Andrew Ireland	BFC, Research Affairs - Ethan Fairbanks Patten Foundation - Jason Wang
Campus Name Review Committee - Ruhan Syed	Student Transportation Board - Julianne Akard
Campus Survey Committee - Ruhan Syed	IU Foundation Investments - Leo Banks
Parking Appeals Committee - Joa'quinn Griffin / Tyonna Smith	Campus Recreational Sports Committee – Michael Pitz
Bloomington Faculty Council - Taylor Paige-Guba / Ruhan Syed	Sustainability Gen-Ed Taskforce – Amani Khoury
BFC, Education Policy Committee – Neliya Nyirenda	



IUSG Operations

Professionalizing our organization is my top priority—creating structures and developing tools to support our core mission. The Operations Team—comprised of Communications, Recruitment & Morale, Technology, Treasury, and Student Rights—has been laser focused on just that.

From leading a major digital expansion to recruiting and retaining a staff that is more representative than any in IUSG history, we are laying the groundwork for a stronger, more effective student government.

Thank you to our staff, now numbering more than fifty students, who have dedicated countless hours to make these successes possible.

Sincerely,



Andrew Ireland
Chief of Staff



Communications

Our Communications team was retooled from a small committee to a staff of twenty-four—providing public relations, digital marketing, and outreach assistance to all of the branches of IUSG.

This semester, the team created the first-ever SMS Student Action Alerts marketing regularly to more than 12,000 students; hosted regular Digital Office Hours for leadership with more than 1,300 attending each session; increased applications for the Student Body Congress by more than 460 percent and voter participation by 84 percent; created a unique live-stream plug-in for weekly Student Body Congress meetings; and created a unique partnership with IUSTV and The Tab to produce weekly Fireside Chats with the Student Body President.



Technology

The Student Body Congress created the role of Chief Technology Officer in the Spring of 2020—a reflection of a strategic need for greater use of digital platforms to connect with and promote the needs of the student body. This has quickly evolved into a team of more than twenty developers working on a series of high-impact projects across IUSG.

This semester we rolled out a major website redesign, digitized all 2020 records for public access, and crafted a live dashboard for the IUSG budget. And soon we will begin rolling out three other key projects: a Student Petition Site, a University Budget Dashboard, and Student Syllabi Site.



Recruitment & Morale

The role of Co-Directors of Recruitment and Morale were created by the President to better attract and retain diverse, talented students in IUSG.

This semester, the team led a revamped First Year Internship Program—mentoring twenty first year students in roles in both the Executive Branch and the Student Body Congress. The team also began a series of important internal reforms, including Anonymous Reporting



Treasury

The Treasury is building a web portal to dashboard the IUSG budget and is crafting regular financial statements for the first time in recent memory. Both the budget and statements will be on the IUSG website with daily updates beginning in February.



Student Rights

The Department of Student Rights was reformed in November 2020 to better secure student rights.

This year we helped rebuild the Conduct Clinic, a resource that helps students prepare for conduct proceedings against them.

The Student Rights operation has also divided into two new divisions: Mediation Clinic and Advisory Services. The developing Mediation Clinic will help resolve interpersonal disputes on campus while Advisory Services works to help shape university conduct policy and to educate students on major changes.



IUSG Policy

I have been on the executive team for three years now. This year we have collected the most diverse, talented, caring, and capable individuals for directors that I have seen since being in active member for IUSG.

Despite the pandemic which has stalled a good amount of student organizations across the board, we have had spectacular wins and advancements from every committee. To highlight a few, Health and Well Being's Safe Sex Express delivering free contraceptives to IU students, Sustainability's Carbon Neutrality Pledge pushing for IU to go completely carbon neutral, Diversity, Equity + Inclusion's Leadership Conversations with leaders of underrepresented organizations to get to the meat of what we can do as a campus to better support them, Academic Affairs advocating for wellness days to be incorporated into our spring semester especially in the absence of a spring break, Government Relations facilitating a civil College Democrats and College Republicans debate during a time of political uneasiness, Student Life's Student Org Incubator, teaching students how to present their new organizations and how to receive funding for them, City Relations Civic Leader Bootcamp connecting interested student with local politicians and public leaders, and that is just naming a few of the numerous projects they have all been working on!

The executive directors have been striving to put their goals and the goals of the IU community into a reality that not only applies to current IU student but transcends for the students after us.

Sincerely,

Maiya Cook

Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy



COVID-19 Task Force

In video interviews, the COVID-19 Task Force conducted Q & A interviews with students who lived in the designated quarantine dorms and took a tour of the facilities. Some feedback we received from these students included an interest in online activities for those in the Ashton dorms, a feedback form to help collect information and inform decision makers about issues.

We gave \$1,000 to the Emergency Meal Project, the food insecurity program for students in need.

The task force recently negotiated an agreement with the university to allow students living in Greek chapter houses to use the Ashton COVID dorms this spring.



City Relations

The City Relations team has been hard at work develop a Student Candidate Bootcamp pilot for the spring. This program is designed to help students seek office and be active in local government.



Government Relations

This year our College Republican – College Democrat Debate was hosted on Twitter live and had an approximate 500 student viewers.

We are currently lobbying the Indiana General Assembly actively this month and have several meetings set up with lawmakers. We are bringing student concerns to these lawmakers through direct advocacy for our student body.

We hosted an information session with the Indiana General Assembly about career and internship opportunities, giving students the ability to network into these roles.

We hosted Presidential Debate watch parties with the Union Board and had strong Election Day engagement with the IU campus.

In addition, we are in the process of coordinating meetings with gov leaders to furth advocate for the Indiana University campus and student body.



Sustainability

The Sustainability team hosted a Sustainable Forum with other student groups and leaders to help promote and coordinate the efforts of carbon neutrality and lowering our university's footprint.

With the help of RPS, we implemented a campus wide plastic bag ban.

We have also secured a greater representation with the IU Foundation including ensuring a seat is now reserved for a student to observe the meetings. We continue to push further for full-member status and are currently in talks with the new President to help achieve that goal.



Title IX

The Title IX team is striving to alter COVID-19 campus policy to grant individuals immunity from violations if reporting sexual misconduct. Our committee has also made efforts to more deeply analyze and reflect on cyber harassment policies. We also organize self-defense classes through the SRSC.

Becca Townsend, Claire Malone, *Director*



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion sector successfully created an interfaith prayer and meditation space in the IMU that is slated to open this year.

DEI participated in regular campus connections meetings to help create stronger, more transparent dialogues about diversity on campus.

We created new Kosher and Halal in-person and delivery dining options for students

We are in the process of creating the Inside Out project which would promote diverse art and voices within the IMU and other facilities.



Health & Wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing committee alongside the SRSC organized Glow Flow Yoga, a free online yoga event that was open to all students. The goal was to provide students the opportunity to relax and relieve stress while having fun with their peers.

Safer Sex Express is a new no-cost condom deliver service for IU students both on and off campus. Created through partnerships with IU Health Center, RPS, and IUSG, the program works to promote sexual health and safety throughout campus.

We also organized a Mental Health training for RA's the become Certified Mental Health Aids for three years. This training allowed them to understand mental health crises, how to help those experiencing a mental health crisis, and how to deescalate the situation. This training comes at an especially important time amid the COVID-19 pandemic as it can be an isolating and lonely time for many.



Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs successfully eliminated the drop /add fee for changing and adding classes permanently.

We are also working on projects to ensure that students have equitable access to online services despite disabilities including text reader friendly websites and other online aides.

Additionally, Academic Affairs helped to extend the auto-withdraw deadline until the end of semester to give students afflicted with COVID-19 flexibility.



Student Life

Student Life successfully organized Hoosierpallooza, a socially distant concert held in Dunn Meadow. The event hosted a couple hundred people and was in an effort to get students engaged in campus life safely and give them the chance to get outdoors.

The new student Organization Incubator is a project to help new student organizations get funding, assist them through the paperwork of registering with the university, and guide them in how to plan a successful first program. The first class for this project is coming up next month.

Finally, after extensive planning, Student Life is hosting an Origami Destress Event at all of the residence halls in mid-February.







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