

# Student government elects 10 new senators

09/18/2015 by [Jackie Cohen](#)

Student government announced the 10 newly elected senators, which included five contested seats on Wednesday.

These elections included four at-large senators, who are elected once freshmen arrive on campus, a Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences senator, four Argyros School of Business and Economics senators, two School of Pharmacy senators, a freshman class senator and a senior class senator.

Helen Garcia, a freshman biochemistry major, was nervous for the student government election results to be announced. When she found out that she had been elected as freshman class senator, she recorded herself jumping up and down and screaming out of excitement.



*Name: Helen Garcia*

*Year: Freshman*

*Major: Biochemistry*

“I want students to feel like they have a voice in SGA (Student Government Association) by interacting with students on a daily basis, whether it is by sitting and talking to someone who is alone at the caf or meeting weekly with groups of freshmen to get their feedback,” Garcia said.

Her goals for the semester are getting more food options in the cafeteria and making people on campus aware of diversity. She is already starting to work with Marco Huergo-Lizarraga, a resident adviser in her building.

While Garcia is new to student government, Jordan Beeks, senior business and strategic and corporate communications major, is excited to return after being an at-large senator last year.

“It saddens me and motivates me that being in SGA carries a weight,” Beeks said. “It would be amazing if everyone could go out and make decisions for themselves and be involved in SGA, but it isn’t possible, and as elected officials we get to represent the entire student body. I have come to realize with my role in SGA that with great power comes great responsibility.”



*Name: Jordan M. Beeks*

*Year: Senior*

*Major: Business administration and strategic and corporate communication*

He wants to become involved in developing the Cultural and Creative Industries project, which gives Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences students the opportunity to collaborate with Europe on creative industries. Beeks said that Chapman received a \$200,000 grant from the European Union to develop this program after the union realized how much of the economy goes into creative industries.

Beeks also said he hopes to work on a campaign to create designated smoking areas on campus.

“It is a compromise between people worried for their health and people that choose to smoke,” he said. “It is inclusive but allows students to be able to walk to class without walking through smoke.”

[Chapman’s student conduct policies](#) currently prohibits smoking in any university-owned property, 20 feet from building, residence hall and apartment door and windows and in quads, sidewalks and courtyards in the residence hall area.



*Name: Christopher Nelson (write-in candidate)*

*Year: Freshman*

*Major: Political science and communication studies*

Christopher Nelson, a freshman political science and communication studies double major, was elected as one of the four at-large senators. Nelson explained that one of the first actions he plans to take is adding water fountains to Pralle-Sodaro Hall. He also hopes to create mocktails and banquets within the different schools to allow freshmen and upperclassmen to interact and to build an interconnected community.

Nelson's biggest goal is to bridge the gap between student government and the student body.

"I want to publicize all of the things that SGA is doing because students appreciate them, but are probably unaware that SGA was behind them," Nelson said.



*Name: Adam Cash*

*Year: Senior*

*Major: Creative writing*

*Greek affiliation: unaffiliated*

A third at-large senator, senior creative writing major Adam Cash, would also like to focus on integrating the voices of students into the student government.

“I have seen that some issues go unnoticed in SGA and I want to make sure these issues are known,” Cash said.

Cash would like to continue working on the issues brought up last spring about being more multicultural.

“My primary objective is keeping the conversations going and making myself the person that continues making Chapman more inclusive and open to as many people as possible,” Cash said.