



2013-2014 Year in Review

Students,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your 2013-2014 Student Government Association President. During my term of office, there were many changes that transformed our student body of East Tennessee State University to who we are today. As we prepare for the closing of this academic year, I wish to share with you where we stand as a student body and what we can look forward to with the remainder of our time at this university.

To begin, I would like to commend the efforts of our student government senators who dedicate their time and efforts to voice your concerns. Every Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 in the afternoon, these senators deliberate and decide what changes would represent your concerns. It is with great pleasure that I share a few notable resolutions that have passed during my time in office.

We have passed legislation in support of sustaining the quality of student life. Some of these include keeping custodial staff when there was discussion of possible staff outsourcing; acknowledging the significance of the fountain desegregation display; supporting our ROTC, a program of ETSU since 1952, which was undergoing a suggested phase-out by Secretary of the U.S. Army John M. McHugh; and, along with other student bodies of Tennessee institutions, our opposition to Tennessee Senate Bills 1608 and 2493 (bills that would have restricted student activity fees from minority student organizations and guest speakers). These pieces have effectively expressed student attitudes towards these issues so that a positive atmosphere for our college community may remain.

Additionally, our legislative body has continuously addressed three major challenges: dining, safety, and advisement. First, we love food and want quality food to fit our needs. Because of this, we have passed a resolution to establish meetings on a regular basis with Dining Services to implement changes that students wish to see such as “Meatless Mondays” every so often. Additionally, we have passed legislation to increase the number and variety of dining options available for vegetarian and vegan students by ensuring fair pricing and food options at venues such as Field of Greens. Second, safety is a real world challenge that is no exception for ETSU students. Notably, we have heard concerns near Lucille Clement & Centennial Halls during evening hours. Consequently, we passed legislation to reflect a request for an installation of lights on the side entrance of the Lucille Clement Hall as well a request for camera security outside of Centennial Hall. Third, Advisement always has room for improvement. Consequently, we’ve passed legislation to acquire more advisors and have initiated a committee to review a



priority-based list for class permits. These areas of focus continue to be addressed as new safety concerns are expressed and the offices of dining services and advisement look to ways of improving student satisfaction.

One of the major projects of focus for the Student Government Association has been the Pridewalk, tangible evidence of a creative piece of legislation put forth by Senator Cynthia Faircloth. The painted pavement features 28 organizations and their perspective of peace on campus through unique and colorful design. The Pridewalk initiated the beginning of Civility Week this year and will remain a tradition of East Tennessee State University for years to come.

Perhaps most notably this year, the Student Government Association moved to sustain Little Bucs, a child-care program aimed to help student parents. This initiative included a five-dollar increase in student fees, the only student fee increase passed by the 2013-2014 SGA. Little Bucs was facing federal government cuts, and we did not want to see the program close its doors. Students who have children use this facility when in class and at work, and it allows the student parents to continue their education. Considering education and childhood development students as well as APS and Federal Work Study positions, Little Bucs is more than a day-care; the program now remains a staple of the ETSU community.

These resolutions are a representation of you. They represent your voice, your school, and your college experience. After resolutions are passed, they are given to the administration of ETSU. From there, implementation is discussed, and the administration accommodates these needs as they see fit.

Your student government works with students outside of resolutions as well. We have a funding process for student activities, referred to as Buc Fund, which is led by Secretary of Allocations Lucas Hitechew. Through the Buc Fund and Secretary Hitechew's role, student organizations were able to host several events this year featuring a multitude of various student activities.

As many of you know, student government also programs ETSU major concerts. This year we had 3OH!3 and Ryan Cabrera for Welcome Week, Ty Dolla \$ign and Wiz Khalifa for Homecoming, and will soon see the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Old Crow Medicine Show take the stage. Our SGA's Secretary of External Affairs Kathryn Prendergast works diligently to direct these large events, and her efforts have made a positive impact in our campus culture.

Kicking off with the Wiz Khalifa concert, Homecoming 2013 presented another great success for the Student Government Association. Current Vice President and former Secretary of State Robert Vance collaborated with his committee to provide BucWild. This theme captured the wild side of ETSU in an animalistic environment of skit & dances, banner competitions, and decorating the Culp Center like a spirited safari. The lawn of the Quad gave students an opportunity to break in the grounds with the 2013 Pep Rally, which included fireworks and a basketball competition.



In conclusion, this experience has been monumental for me. By my side, I have had the opportunity to work with three amazing individuals: Vice Presidents Robert Vance and Caroline Baird, and Secretary/Treasurer Alicyn York. Their collaborative efforts have guided many important decisions, and their service has been greatly appreciated. My aim has been to represent the concerns of students to the best of my abilities, and I hope that you feel my aim has been accomplished. You are the reason that student leaders wish to lead, and I thank you for being a part of my ETSU experience.

Go Bucs!



Michael K. Wallace
SGA President '13-'14