



March 24, 2013

2012-2013 Mid-Year Report

SGA President Dustin Dorph and Vice President Anjelica Smith spent the summer in Blacksburg reviewing student governance history, reorganizing the SGA office in 321 Squires Student Center, and meeting with university administrators. The entire SGA cabinet traveled to the University of Denver in July for a National Association of Campus Activities conference, and networked with other student government leaders from around the country. Three organizational goals were set for the year:

1. To be highly visible and accessible to all undergraduates
2. To be regarded as supportive of, and attuned to, student interest and opinion
3. To unify and strengthen the student voice by being an effective governing body

The Executive Branch organized a number of student-centered initiatives during the fall semester. Extreme Makeover: Campus Edition was held in October, and engaged students through participating in a survey soliciting feedback on preferences and needs in the dining halls, the library, student centers, and Blacksburg Transit. In partnership with the Town of Blacksburg, SGA sponsored 30 Days of Blacksburg to encourage students to patronize local businesses. SGA held three voter registration drives, and two presidential debate viewing parties, during election season. In partnership with VTU, a student campus forum was held allowing student groups to debate the issues of the national election. The Orange Effect football game was held on September 3, 2012, and the Maroon Effect on October 13, 2012. We released a newly designed, and more user-friendly website. We began publishing a weekly column with VT News, and have expanded our online presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Blogger.

Utilizing data from SGA's student outreach initiatives and engaging with VTPD, the Legislative Branch passed legislation requesting the addition of more blue emergency lights on campus. A resolution was passed to increase the use of evergreen trees in future landscaping projects. For commuter students, a piece of legislation recommended that parking fines be reduced by 50%. In addition, the branch advocated for water bottle refilling stations to be included in all future University construction projects through a resolution.

The Judicial Branch began the fall semester by recruiting justices. An internal review of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code was conducted to ensure our governing documents are up-to-date. Policies and procedures were written for judicial hearings. In addition, the branch laid the groundwork for the spring 2013 election season.