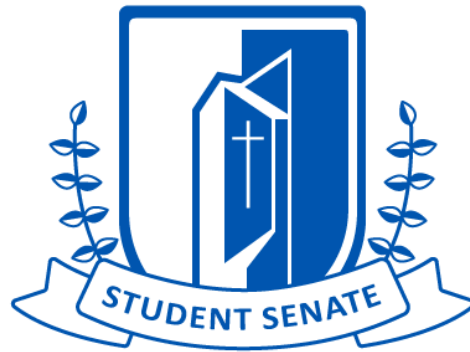


*The lively 2016-17 Senate is here to work for you! Open weekly meetings are held on Wednesdays at 9 pm in Massman 250.*

## **BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

*Fall 2016*



We, the Student Senate of Rockhurst University, in order to promote the interests and concerns of the undergraduate student body in matters that affect the University community, shall maintain and improve the rights and general welfare of the students; stimulate and promote support among students for policies beneficial to their interests; strengthen understanding and communication between students and the University; and uphold the ideals and values of the Catholic Jesuit tradition through learning, leadership, and service.

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# 2016-17 Student Senate Members

## Executive Board

**President** – Zachary Pohlman, [pohlmanz@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:pohlmanz@hawks.rockhurst.edu)

**Executive Vice President** – Abby Bergman, [bergmant@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:bergmant@hawks.rockhurst.edu)

**Vice President of Finance** – Matt Baker, [bakermw@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:bakermw@hawks.rockhurst.edu)

**Vice President of Programming** – Leah Dionisi, [dionisil@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:dionisil@hawks.rockhurst.edu)

**Executive Secretary** – Justine Berezintsev, [berezintsevej@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:berezintsevej@hawks.rockhurst.edu)

**Advisor** – Dr. Matt Quick, [Matthew.Quick@rockhurst.edu](mailto:Matthew.Quick@rockhurst.edu)

## Senate Committees

### Social Justice

Beverly Ziegler, Chair  
Ben Franco  
Will Martel  
Justine Berezintsev  
Leah Dionisi  
Sara Gregg

### Finance

Matt Baker, Chair  
Shannon Strecker  
Tony Gambino  
Dalton Goser  
Ryan Kelly

### Campus Life

Matt Rancilio, Chair  
Ryan Crawford  
Maddie Corrao  
Ryan Moore  
Audrey Byerley  
Annika Lewis  
Jansen Rouillard  
Mitch LaMendola

### University Affairs

Kelsey Keady, Chair  
Deyanara Solis-Najera  
Danny Mitchell  
Alexa Narke  
Brian Tornquist  
Matt Maasen

# A Message from the President

Dear Rockhurst Students,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Student Senate President this semester, and I want to take this opportunity to update you on a few exciting initiatives of the Student Senate.

This bi-annual report is to be the first of many as a way to increase the transparency of the Senate. By publishing what the Senate does for you each semester, I am hopeful that more students, registered student organizations, and the broader campus community will become more invested in the success of our school, a primary goal of the Senate.

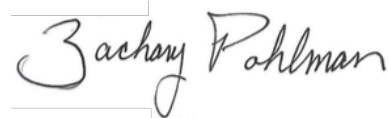
I would like to address a few issues that are of utmost importance to you on a daily basis. In support of Fr. Curran's invitation to increased awareness of diversity and inclusion on campus, the Senate has committed itself to furthering our discussion and involvement in the incorporation process. We continue to explore ways in which our Oath of Inclusion, which many of you have signed, might be a driving force behind a unified campus, especially in light of divisions caused by the previous election cycle.

Working closely with the Fair Trade Initiative, the Student Senate helped to make Rockhurst the first Fair Trade designated university in Missouri. As part of this designation, Rockhurst dedicates itself to offering products for sale that are ethically produced, whose workers are paid a living wage, and whose manufacturing meets sustainability requirements. Our ongoing commitment to Fair Trade calls us to

continue educational programming, so I am confident that if you do not know much about Fair Trade now, over the coming semesters you will have ample opportunities to become a part of this socially responsible way of consuming.

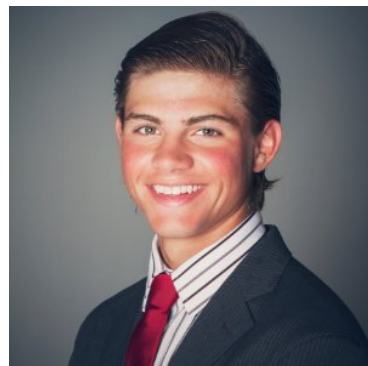
Lastly, I want to make everyone aware, more broadly, of what the Senate does. We work for YOU. We, the Senators, listen to our friends and constituents with an ear for improvement, and we want you to be involved in that process. I invite each of you to contact a Student Senator or attend a meeting directly to voice your concerns and create positive change in accordance with the Jesuit Mission and Values on our beloved campus. Our weekly, open Senate meetings are on Wednesdays at 9 pm in Massman 250. We would love to see you there!

Rock on,



Zachary Pohlman

Rockhurst University Student Senate President



# Issues We Addressed

## Senate Restructuring

In the spring of 2016, the Senate endorsed the platform of President Zachary Pohlman and Executive Vice President Abby Bergman, which called for structural and procedural reform within the Senate. Now, divided into four committees that meet on a biweekly basis, the Senate has clear legislative procedures by which to hear and respond to student concerns and contact appropriate administrators.

## Oath of Inclusion

Student Senate's "Oath of Inclusion," a document that promotes inclusivity and openness of peoples and ideas on campus, was presented at New Student Orientation in August. The Senate worked with St. Louis University's Student Government Association for help in writing and presenting the Oath. This was the first time Senate had been involved in Orientation, and almost all of the new students responded to our invitation to sign the Oath, which states that we dedicate ourselves to "...embrace people for the diversity of their identities, creating an inclusive community."

## Fair Trade Designated

On November 10, Rockhurst University became the first Fair Trade Designated University in Missouri. Led by Social Justice Committee Chair Beverly Ziegler, Rockhurst joins six other Fair Trade Jesuit schools in our commitment to social justice by providing ethically produced products in our campus dining and apparel outlets. Educational programming around Fair Trade and conversations about incorporating Fair Trade into aspects of the curriculum are ongoing.

## Posting Policy and New Student Organizations

Under the guidance of our newly established University Affairs Committee, the Senate has passed amendments to the University Posting Policy and approved the charters of two new student organizations: an American Chemical Society Student Chapter and an American Public Works Association Section.

## "The Buzz" Mobile News App

In an effort to be greener stewards of paper resources and to reach a wider audience, the Senate has reduced the number of physical newspapers on campus in favor of the USA TODAY mobile app: "The Buzz: Rockhurst University." Free to download, this app pulls stories from USA TODAY, Rockhurst University, Rockhurst Athletics, RU student newspaper The Sentinel, and Student Senate. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the University are encouraged to download the app. We have exceeded our download goal of 185 and currently have 400 downloads. The app receives an average of 1,360 launches per month.

# Student Activity Fee Funding Report

## SAFBC

All students pay a student activity fee each semester. The Student Senate, through the Student Activity Fee Budgeting Committee (SAFBC), is tasked with allocating funds from this fee. The SAFBC funds registered student organizations, certain pieces of infrastructure, and University events, all of which are open to all students. For more information about the SAFBC or to learn how to request funds for your student organization, please visit the Senate website: <http://rusenate.com/student-activity-fee-budgeting-committee-information/>

## Special Funding Projects

- “The Buzz: Rockhurst University” mobile news app
- New aerobics equipment and benches in the Massman Student Body
- Tickets to the NCAA Men’s Soccer semi-final game

## Student Organizations Receiving Funding

Alpha Delta Gamma	Active Minds	Alpha Phi Omega
Colleges Against Cancer	Delta Sigma Pi	French Club
Infectus	International Club	LEAP
Orientation	Phi Alpha Delta	Phi Delta Epsilon
Pi Kappa Alpha	Pre-Med Club	RAKERS
Respect Life	The Rockettes	Student Alumni Association
Student Activities Board (SAB)	Student Senate	The Sentinel
Sigma Pi Sigma	Sigma Tau Delta	SOL
Unity	VOICES for Justice	

# Looking Ahead

## **Inclusion and Diversity**

The Senate continues to explore ways in which it can work with administrators to promote diversity and inclusivity on campus, referring to the mission and values of the University and the Senate's Oath of Inclusion as guiding principles.

## **Plaza District Street Signage**

A proposal is being worked on to include "Rockhurst University" on street signs in the Plaza District. With assistance from the office of Public Relations and Marketing and the Advancement Office, we hope to bring the proposal before the City Manager next semester.

## **Recycling Resolution**

Campus Life Committee Chair Matt Rancilio is heading the Rockhurst Recycling Resolution, a push to increase recycling efforts on campus.

## **Social Event Policy**

The Senate will work with administrators to pursue conversation around amendments to the current Social Event Policy.

## **Dates**

December 11 (2016) – Midnight (kind of) Breakfast, 8-10 pm, TMDR

January 19 – House of Reps, 4 pm, Arrupe Hall

February 16 – House of Reps, 4 pm, Arrupe Hall

March 21 – Senate Town Hall, 5 pm, Fishbowl

March 27 – Senate applications available

April 12 – Senate applications due

April 18 – Senate elections forum, 4 pm, Fishbowl

April 19-21 – Senate elections, electronic ballot

April 20 – House of Reps, 4 pm, Arrupe Hall

May 1 – Midnight Breakfast, 10-12 pm, TMDR