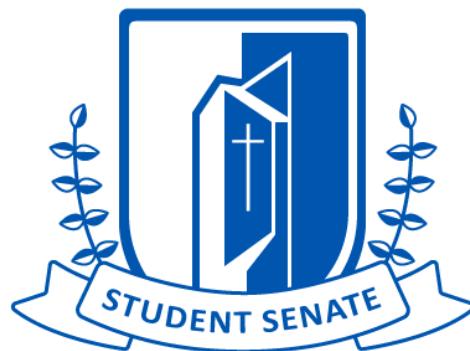


*The lively 2016-17 Senate has enjoyed working for you!*

## **BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

*Spring 2017*



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  
Jansen Rouillard  
Justine Berezintsev  
Leah Dionisi

### Campus Life

Matt Rancilio, Chair  
Ryan Crawford  
Maddie Corrao  
Ryan Moore  
Annika Lewis  
Mitch LaMendola

### Finance

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

### 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 again this semester, and I want to take this opportunity to update you on a few exciting initiatives of the Student Senate.

This is the second bi-annual report to be published, and the purpose of it remains the same: to increase the transparency of the Senate. By keeping you, the students whom we serve, informed, the Senate continually hopes to foster greater school spirit and participation in the Rockhurst community.

This semester the Senate has focused much of its attention on responding to ideas brought to us by our fellow students. A little over one year ago, some Greek organizations and athletic teams came to the Senate with concerns about the Social Event Policy. After hosting an open Town Hall on the policy and discussing potential changes with the administration, the Senate passed a list of recommendations to amend the policy. I am pleased to inform you that the Social Event Policy has been updated according to many of the concerns brought by students, and the updated policy will go into effect in the fall of 2017.

The Senate brought The Buzz news app from USA Today this past year. Due to low app engagement and a desire to provide the Rockhurst community with a more substantial news outlet, the Senate has decided to forgo our contract with USA Today. Instead, we will be contracting with the New York Times and the Kansas City Star, and both print and desktop/mobile

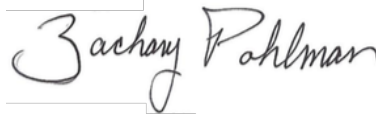
access will be available to Rockhurst students.

Other exciting accomplishments of the Senate include: co-sponsoring a Rockhurst basketball game, helping bring in Carlotta Walls LaNier of the Little Rock Nine, obtaining a microwave for the Arrupe lobby, approving the charters of three new student organizations, and assisting with the sexual assault and diversity climate surveys.

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.

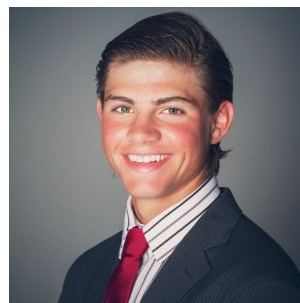
Have a fantastic summer, hawks! The Senate looks forward to hitting the ground running when we return in the fall.

Rock on,



Zachary Pohlman

Rockhurst University Student Senate President



# Issues We Addressed

## Social Event Policy Updated

In the fall of 2016, a number of students and student organizations brought concerns to the Student Senate about the University Social Event Policy. Student Senate heard those concerns and has since worked closely with administrators to amend the policy to ensure equal enforcement and realistic expectations for compliance from student organizations. Senate is glad to announce that an amended policy has passed through Student Senate, Student Welfare Committee, and has been signed by Fr. Curran. The policy will go into effect in the fall of 2017, and ample opportunities to learn of the changes will be made available.

## Rockhurst Recycling Resolution

After collecting survey data that showed Rockhurst students would like more opportunities to recycle, and in accordance with our core value *Finding God in All Things*, the Senate has passed a Rockhurst Recycling Resolution. Beginning in the fall of 2017, every residence hall room will be stocked with a recycling bin so that students have simpler access to recycle paper, cardboard, and aluminum. We hope you join us in promoting awareness and participation in this initiative.

## Microwave in Arrupe

Both undergraduate and graduate students had expressed to the Senate a need for a microwave in Arrupe Hall, a popular location on campus. Student Senate responded by working with Physical Plant to make that happen. The Senate is glad to have helped satisfy a need on campus, and we ask that all those who use the microwave are respectful of others by making sure that they leave it cleaner than they found it.

## New Student Organizations

The Student Senate has approved the charter of the following student organizations: Running Club, Love Your Melon, Rockhurst Coalition of Board, Card, and Video Gaming. Welcome to the registered student organization community!

## New York Times Comes to Rockhurst

After one year with USA Today's "The Buzz" mobile app, the Senate has voted to leave USA Today in favor of a paper subscription to the New York Times and a continued subscription to the KC Star. The user data for The Buzz was far below what the Senate felt to be an optimal use of student activity funds. The New York Times subscription also comes with 50 online or mobile logins per day. Students will have access to a wide variety of news outlets and platforms beginning in fall of 2017!

# 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

- New outdoor volleyball net and new outdoor basketball nets
- Recycling bins for every residence hall room
- New furniture for the Rock Room

## Student Organizations Receiving Funding

Active Minds	Alpha Delta Gamma	Alpha Sigma Alpha
American Chemical Society	Christian Life Communities	Dance Team
Delta Sigma Pi	Economics Club	Hopkins Skip and Run
Orientation	Phi Delta Epsilon	Respect Life
SAAC	SEEK	Sentinel
Sigma Delta Pi	Student Activities Board (SAB)	Student Alumni Association
Student Senate	Theta Phi Alpha	Unity
VOICES for Justice		

# Looking Ahead

## **Active Minds' Mental Health Statement**

The Student Senate passed a resolution, in conjunction with Active Minds, to include a mental health statement in freshman seminar syllabi and the transfer orientation program. Active Minds and Senate continue to work with administrators to determine the most effective way to present resources available to those who may be affected by mental health issues.

## **Plaza District Street Signage**

A proposal is being worked on to include "Rockhurst University" on street signs in the Plaza District. The Office of Public Relations and Marketing is in contact with the City Manager of Kansas City, and Senate will keep the Rockhurst population updated of any progress made.

## **Continued Inclusion Efforts**

The Student Senate is once again thrilled to present its Oath of Inclusion at 2017 New Student Orientation. Further, the Inclusion Climate Survey, conducted by Rankin and Associates, will be emailed to students in October, and the Senate encourages high participation in this formative survey.

## **Dates**

The annual calendar meeting for Registered Student Organizations will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Arrupe 114 at 4 pm. The dates for Student Senate's fall activities will be made available after that meeting.