

Annual Report

2013-2014



Division of Student Affairs



WELCOME!

The Student Government Association is proud to have served the students of the University of West Florida during the 2013-2014 academic year. Every year SGA members strive to better student life at the University of West Florida by carrying out their Vision of leading with integrity to build trust, promote pride and ensure a united voice for all students. We want students to come to SGA first with any suggestions, ideas, or concerns. SGA continues to uphold its main values of accessibility, accountability, inclusiveness, integrity, and pride. SGA representatives replied to all student comments and followed up on unanswered questions heard at town halls and other events. Promoting pride has been SGA's most important goal in the past year. As UWF grows in prestige and recognition, we have been working to showcase our current traditions and to create new ones that will endure for years to come. SGA implemented "Write It Out Wednesdays" to encourage students to express any of the concerns they had with the University. At orientation, there was an emphasis on school spirit and on the sentiment that you are an "Argo For Life" beginning freshman year. Great strides were made to promote Argo Pride. to advance Argo pride.

Sincerely,
Christopher Hill, Student Body President 2013-2014
Ethan Friedland, Student Body President 2013-2014



Executive Board:

President: Chris Hill
Vice President: Sherell Wood
Chief of Staff: Carlos Sosa
Senate President: Jordan Self
Treasurer: Tyler Martin
Director of Student Life: Diego Santiago
Director of Communications: Nora Trotman
Director of Governmental Affairs: Ethan Friedland

Staff:

Assistant Dean of Students: Robin Zimmern
Office Administrator: Katherine Clark
A&S Budget Coordinator: Angela Schiller
Graduate Assistants: Courtney Miller and Janice Welch

Freshmen Committee Chair: Taja Harris
Student Outreach Chair: Katherine Singletary
University Outreach Chair: Daniel McBurney
Budget & Allocations Chair: Christopher Thrasher
Rules & Statutes Chair: Anhar Ibrahim

Collaborative Events:

- SGA provided each incoming freshman a UWF Traditions Book through partnership with the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and Student Transition Programs,
- Organized Blizzard Bash with University Commons and Student Involvement (UCSI), Recreation, and Athletics,
- Hosted a baseball tailgate with Campus Activities Board (CAB),
- Coordinated Argopalooza and T-Shirt Swap along with Athletics and UCSI,
- Co-sponsored a tailgate before a men's basketball game with Athletics, SAA, and UCSI,
- Served on the planning committee for Leadership Gauntlet alongside Housing and Residence Life, UCSI, and Recreation,
- Facilitated a voter registration drive through partnership with Escambia County Elections,
- And supported the Argo Pantry through membership on the Advisory Board and initial funds in partnership with the Dean of Students.



Awards

- SGA Wall of Fame Recipient: Jordan Self
- SGA Senator of the Year: Mariel Crawford
- SGA Cabinet Member of the Year: Allyse Rolle-Polk
- Presidential Award: Chris Thrasher
- SGA Freshmen Committee Member of the Year: Taja Harris
- Dr. Linda O. Dye Leadership Award: Nora Trotman
- William M. Healey Award and UWF's Outstanding Student Leader Award: Tyler Martin
- Deborah L. Ford Emerging Leader Award: Elizabeth Wright

SGA Programs:

Green Fee Projects:

SGA reached out to the campus community requesting proposals that promote energy efficiency and increase renewable energy utilization. An adhoc committee was then created with SGA and the Student Environmental Action Society (SEAS) representatives who reviewed and selected proposals. This year's funded proposals included a campus bike program, solar dock charging picnic tables, and lighting projects for the Commons Great Hall and Field House.

Hard Hat Rally:

SGA partnered with the Florida Student Association (FSA), UWF University Administration, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Builders, Contractors of Florida, and others to support a renewed investment in our academic facilities and infrastructure. The event included a push for the Florida State University System 3-2-1 Plan, a much needed \$321 million for facility construction.

Write It Out Wednesday:

As a way to continue to keep a pulse on important issues for students around campus, every month SGA hosted Write It Out Wednesday. Students were able to express their thoughts, issues, and ideas to an open ended question on a variety of campus topics including dining services, parking, and UWF football. The responses were collected and given to the Student Outreach Committee for further action.

University Outreach Committee:

Chair: Daniel McBurney

Committee Members: Rodney Arias, Michelle Bennett, Alexa Carter, Brittany Denny, and Darius Perkins

The University Outreach Committee this year continued promoting the UWF Academic Honor Code. Collaborating with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the committee hosted an Academic Integrity Week September 9-13, 2013 which provided awareness to students about academic honesty. The Committee connected students with their academic colleges through hosting Academic Town Halls for each college. The Deans provided an overview of their academic programs and upcoming initiatives followed by an open forum for students to ask questions.

The Committee organized the annual process of nominating and awarding Distinguished Teaching Awards and Distinguished Staff Awards on behalf of SGA.

SGA Distinguished Teaching Award Winners: Dr. Eric Bostwick, Accounting and Finance; Dr. Jossy Uvah, Mathematics and Statistics; Dr. Jamie Snyder, Criminal Justice; and Mr. Jonathan Means, Philosophy.

SGA Distinguished Staff Winners: Keaton West, Student Transition Program; Dr. Ben Stubbs, Student Involvement; Mica Harrell, Wellness Services; and Alesia Ross, Alumni Services.

Rules and Statutes Committee

Chair: Anhar Ibrahim

Committee Members: Cody Hartzog, Cory Hinsch, and Kimberly Stoker

Throughout the year, this Committee worked diligently to ensure compliance of all legislation with the SGA Statues and Constitutions. The Committee also created a Sweeping Bill that enhanced the overall organization and effectiveness of the SGA Statues.

Student Outreach Committee:

Chair: Kate Singletary

Committee Members: Neftalie Agenord, Alexis Causey, Brandon McCaffery, Darwin Robinson, Sarah Shepherd, and Devonte Wilson

The Student Outreach Committee addressed student concerns around campus. The Committee conducted campus-wide surveys and recieved 1,030 student responses to topics including tailgating, admissions, transportation, and SGA effectiveness.

The survey data was analyzed and provided to various university department stakeholders with SGA recommendations.

Budget & Allocations Committee:

Chair: Christopher Thrasher

Committee Members: Ty Bennett, Cody Childress, Mariel Crawford, and Elizabeth Wright

The SGA Budget and Allocations Committee allocated \$3,628,913 to student organizations and university departments through the annual Activity and Service Fee budget process. The Committee also allocated \$29,437.98 in Travel Grants and \$32,813.00 in Project Grants to students. In addition the Committee created rubrics for grant allocations to align their allocation process to the UWF Strategic Plan.

Cabinet:

Chief of Staff: Carlos Sosa

Director of Communications: Nora Trotman

Director of Governmental Affairs: Ethan Friedland

Director of Student Life: Deigo Santiago

Members of the Cabinet participated in monthly Florida Student Association (FSA) meetings with students from across the state. This year the Cabinet created a week long “Argo Pride” initiative in March including days to Wear Your Pride, Chalk Your Pride, Lobby Your Pride, and Paint Your Pride.

During Lobby Your Pride, students from all Florida Universities participated in an annual Rally in Tally event, hosted by the Florida Student Association (FSA). All Florida state universities met in Tallahassee to lobby for issues facing higher education. At the Paint Your Pride event, 20 student organizations created ceiling titles that were hung in the University Commons breezeway.

Through partnership with Escambia County Elections SGA hosted a voter registration drive in February to encourage students to become politically active. This year, Cabinet members provided monthly calendars called Argo Atlas to the campus community informing them of upcoming events.



Freshman Committee:

Chair: Taja Harris

Committee Members: Alexandria Berkowitz, Jessica Broadnax, Shannon Brunot, Hakeem Douglas, Kelsey Fry, Phillip Imperial, Abrian Miller, Allee Millsap, Winston Riley, Latasha Thomas, and Robert Vinson

The SGA Freshmen Committee is a group of dedicated student leaders that were selected to participate in the year long development series to prepare students for future leadership roles in SGA. The committee continued an annual tradition of planning and hosting the Oxfam Hunger Banquet during the spring term as their community service project. The event promoted awareness of world hunger.

Also, the Freshman Committee aided in university retention efforts by provided feedback and funding for the I Want You Back Campaign from the Office of Retention Initiatives.

Vision

The University of West Florida Student Government Association will lead with integrity to build trust, promote pride and ensure a united voice for all.

Goals

Accountability

SGA strives to lead with the spirit of our constitution and statutes by maintaining awareness of the student voice and constantly assessing our organization.

Inclusiveness

SGA strives to promote the development of an environment in which every student has an equal opportunity to share their unique interests and values within a welcoming community.

Integrity

SGA strives to provide responsible leadership by evaluating its actions through the application of ethical principles.

Pride

SGA strives to support and enhance student life by promoting a sense of spirit and tradition, helping to ensure that students become true Argonauts.

Visibility

SGA strives to promote transparency and accessibility by marketing SGA events, increasing voter turnout and gaining the trust of every student.

GO ARGOS!



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