



112th Senate Committee on Civic Engagement

Date: 10/27/2024

Time: 12:00-12:25pm

Location: Zoom

Present: Angela Xiong (Committee Chair), Ethan Edelstein, Prisha Agrawal, Lucy Landry, Sumire Sumi

Absent (Excused):

Absent (Unexcused): Yonatanne Desta, Cynthia Hidalgo-Sanchez

Visitors: Brendon Davis (Science Policy and Diplomacy Group), Lauren Hesse (Science Policy and Diplomacy Group)

Meeting began at 12:03pm.

- Brendon Davis
 - VP of Science Policy for the Science Policy and Diplomacy Group
 - Discussion of the past work of the group
 - Annual Hill Day - advocacy in DC for different projects (COVID ended this, but it was revived last year)
 - STEM student immigration
 - Alternative protein farming choices
 - Women's health research (led by Lauren Hesse)
 - Writing projects, workshops
 - Handouts and emails to congressional offices
 - Traditionally run by graduate students and postdocs
 - How could we incorporate undergraduate students more?
 - Give SGA the roadmap and help plan with the Hill Day?
 - Choosing general initiatives applicable to undergrads to create a larger Hill Day?
- Lauren Hesse
 - Shared WHRA Hill Day One Pager

- Everything works fast on the Hill
 - Staffers and congressional offices are busy all the time and meetings are short; attention must be fought for
- One way to do this is to make it personal to gain attention
 - “Everyone has had a woman in their life that has been overlooked...”
 - Starting conversations organically, then opening it up to policy recommendations
 - Offices may tell you that some things that cannot be changed
 - We must send lots of emails and hope that they have availability on the same days
 - Willing to share their funding processes
- Brendon Davis - Does the committee have a vision for what to advocate for?
 - Angela Xiong - National advocacy day, Maryland general assembly
 - Health policy, science policy
 - More bipartisan, students are interested in these fields at Hopkins
 - Interested in exploring the intersection of science and policy
 - SGA can provide some funding
 - This year the committee would like to work Hesse and Davis
 - More volunteers would be needed for our own full, independent advocacy day, so this may not be possible this year
- Brendon Davis - Recommends that the committee choose a specific initiative
 - For example, this year’s Hill Day will focus on language appropriations
 - Lauren Hesse - one or two of the committee/SGA members should work on each of the initiatives we choose
- Angela Xiong - what does planning for Hill Day look like?
 - Brendon Davis - big groups meetings with all three initiatives once a month
 - Big training session closer to Hill Day
 - Smaller, more frequent group meetings for individual initiatives
 - Lauren Hesse - discussion on group activities, embassy visits
- Brendon Davis - help with the budget can be given, would be great to get more people involved
- Prisha Agrawal - Let’s open this up to SGA as a volunteering opportunity; see who would want to help especially since this is such a small committee
- Brendon Davis - Hill Day is a large commitment
 - Research, writing, and preparation goes into this
 - Those interested must keep dates open in march
 - A big commitment, but it's worth it
 - Most meetings will be on Zoom until the large training day
 - This is because many people from different campuses will be joining
- Davis and Hesse will continue to keep in touch with and update Angela Xiong

Meeting ended at 12:25pm.