Sexual Violence- Miranda and Madelynn

SGA will be calling for more severe punishments in response to sexual assault and rape on campus. While there were 275 cases of sexual misconduct reported to OIE last year, there was one expulsion. One. Part of the reason for this is that OIE fails to address all of the cases brought to them, because of a lack of resources, personnel or evidence, which we will be addressing in the following paragraph. But of the 80 cases that were addressed and closed, only one resulted in expulsion. Respondents faced other punishments in many cases, ranging from suspension to mandated counseling. This data makes it clear that sexual assault and rape are not regarded as a serious offense by the university. Nor are they seen as sufficient grounds to expel or even suspend an individual. The fact that respondents with strong evidence against them, respondents who investigators concluded were more than fifty percent likely to have committed acts of sexual violence, are given no more than a slap on the wrist sends a strong message to survivors that their experience do not matter, that sexual violence does not matter, and that the university will not protect their right to study here with the equal opportunity assured them by the federal law Title Nine. It is the Vice Provost of OIE who determines punishments in response to closed cases. We demand more transparency from her about how she makes these decisions, and why she the regularly allow sexual predators to remain on campus.

Furthermore, we demand a net gain of seven full time employees in OIE: five investigators and two employees under the Vice Provost of Institutional Equity. OIE failed to investigate 62% of cases brought to them in 2017, and half the cases brought to OIE have yet to be closed, which shows how overburdened the staff is. Two common reasons for OIE's extending its investigations were, "extensive documentation review" and "investigator caseload," both issues which will be remedied by employing more investigators. Furthermore, we will demand a net gain of two employees under the Vice Provost of Institutional Equity, performing auxiliary tasks for the Vice Provost. We fully acknowledge that OIE has grown in the past years, but it is not growing at the pace necessary in order to meet the needs of survivors.

Furthermore, student testimonies in the Johns Hopkins Newsletter, as well as anecdotes from friends, acquaintances and students who reached out to us, lead us to believe that OIE does not treat survivors with sensitivity or respect. Therefore, SGA will ask OIE to disclose the trauma training that its staff, investigators, and Resolution Panels receive. Furthermore, we will ask for a full disclosure of the disabilities training that OIE staff receives, in order to understand why they treat survivors with disabilities, such as autism, without proper consideration towards any special accommodations they need. We will demand that OIE respect the training that they receive by conducting an additional review at the end of the year, in which they will reflect on how cases involving students with disabilities are handled.

We also recognize the need for sexual assault and response to pay special attention to the unique challenges that survivors with disabilities, survivors in the LGBTQI community, and survivors from marginalized minority groups face. One in three female college students with disabilities have been sexually assaulted (National Council on Disability 2018 Report), more than 90% of people with developmental disabilities will be sexually assaulted over their lifetime, 50% of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual assault 10 or more times (Schwartz and Valenti-Hein), and 83% of women with disabilities experience sexual assault at at least one point in their life (Disability Justice). With regards to LGBTQI individuals, 44 percent of lesbians and 61 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35 percent of heterosexual women, according to the Human Rights Campaign. The same source states that 22 percent of bisexual women have been raped by an intimate partner, compared to 9 percent of heterosexual women.

Omar (Sustainability, Sports funding rule, to-go boxes at FFC)

1. Pouring Rights at JHU
2. To-go boxes at FFC late night
3. Sustainability Coalition Town Hall

For PDF:

The Pouring Rights contract that Hopkins has with Pepsi will be expiring June 2019. Pouring rights basically just describes what company (and its subsidiaries) have the privilege of selling large quantities of beverages to an organization. Pepsi contributes not only vast quantities of plastic waste to the environment, but it and their subsidiaries (like Nestle) have been accused of human and animal rights violations, including child labor, mass deforestation for the production of palm oil, and land rights violations. With the ending of this contract, the students (as stakeholders to this university) have the opportunity to find different vendors that can provide sustainable, healthier and ethical drink options for patrons of the University. An ad-hoc group has been formed consisting of representatives from different sustainability focused groups on campus, with the goal of finding a better partner for the pouring rights contract, without a substantial change to price, quality, or availability.

In other news, I am in contact with administration regarding two other concerns brought to our attention in the survey; rules about sports clubs funding and to-go boxes at the FFC. Also, the Sustainability Coalition will be hosting our fall semester Town Hall on the 10th of November, 2018. This will be an opportunity for the student body to discuss important environmental issues such as environmental degradation, personal contributions to climate change, water quality and access, fossil fuel divestment, among other topics. Given the recent IPCC and Living Planet Report from the WWF discussing how much humans have decimated both the Earth's climate as well as wildlife populations, I highly urge the junior class to be cognizant of environmental issues and how they have already become a multi-faceted, global challenge.

Kiana Boroumand:

- Civic Engagement -

Midterm Elections

Most of our attention on the civic engagement side of SGA has been on the upcoming midterm elections. SGA has been involved with several initiatives on campus to increase voter education and turnout. In these past few weeks, we've registered several new voters on TurboVote and have been collecting and mailing absentee ballots. On Friday, October 26th, we held the Absentee Ballot Drop-Off Party in conjunction with the Center for Social Concern, IDEAL, Blue Jays Vote, and the Sigma Sigma chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

On Tuesday, November 6th, the university will also be offering free shuttle services to our local polling station. These shuttles depart from MSE Library every fifteen minutes, starting at 11:00 AM and going until 2.

As the midterm elections wrap up, the civic engagement committee will return to Hopkins-specific initiatives. Please let us know what you'd like us to work on and what we can do to increase civic engagement within the student body. In the meantime, happy voting!

Diversity and Inclusion

One of my personal initiatives for this year is to make Hopkins a more diverse and inclusive campus. Beyond my civic engagement efforts, I have been working closely with Amnesty International USA to advocate for refugee rights through our SGA. Most recently, I have written a resolution on supporting refugees and refugee resettlement within the Hopkins and Baltimore communities. Of course, there is more to diversity and inclusion than this one issue, and, as the year progresses, I will continue working on different policy initiatives for our student body. Additionally, if your student group is involved in civic engagement/diversity and inclusion efforts and would like to pass a bill through SGA to receive funding, please let me know! As a member of the finance committee, I love helping student groups receive the funding that they need. This semester so far, we've provided funding for events such as IDEAL's Hear and Now Program.

Mohamed

Sentence:
I'm working on getting us a Student Center, and it'll be lit! I'm also working on improving OIS services and getting an Immigration Lawyer to serve international students. Finally, I'm on the Student Advisory Committee for Security and will do my best to ensure that all student feel genuinely safe on campus and throughout their Hopkins experience.

PDF:
Student Center:

We reached our first of hopefully many victories during an SGA dinner with the JHU administration, when Provost Sunil Kumar gave a speech in which he stated that the administration recognizes how important building a Student Center is for our student body and for mental health on campus. He said it is now a top priority for the university. I will start working with administration to figure out funding, design, etc. and to achieve this goal.

This is a huge victory for the entire student body. Our voices have been heard, and real change is in the works. Our generation of Hopkins students should be proud at having paved the road for future generations of students, who will reap the benefits in years to come.

I honestly consider this as a Mental Health and Wellness initiative, as the main driving force behind the Student Center initiative is improving mental health and finding a place to destress on campus to improve our Hopkins experience.

International Students:
Our university does not have an Immigration Lawyer for our international students. I, along with many international students, firmly believe that this is a necessary student service to have, as international students can use all of the information they can get, and not everyone can afford a lawyer. Therefore, it is a goal of mine this year to work on getting the university to provide an Immigration Lawyer to serve international students and to improve OIS services in general.

Private Police Force / Student Safety:
As a member of the Student Advisory Committee for Security, I will be working on optimizing student safety on campus while not violating any of our safe spaces. I believe that it is imperative that students feel safe on campus, so I will be doing my best to ensure that.

"SGA's Health, Safety, and Sustainability (HSS) Committee recognizes that female hygiene products are a necessity and not a luxury item for women. Our Menstruation Products Initiative recognizes that feminine hygiene products are a necessity and not a luxury item. Through a partnership with Wings JHU, we hope to provide these products in certain women and all-gender restrooms.

In addition, HSS is working with the Ralph O'Connor Recreation Center and the Student Center for Health & Wellness to develop the Healthy Hopkins Initiative, a program offering students two free personal training sessions and access to nutritional counseling sessions. Through this program, we seek to make students more comfortable in the Rec Center and more aware of opportunities—such as free group fitness classes—to be more active. An email with further information and details on how to sign up will be sent out shortly!

Last, but certainly not least, we will continue to advocate for greater mental health resources on campus. For first time appointments since July 2018, you can walk into the counseling center and be seen that day, instead of waiting for an appointment."

"**SGA will be calling for more severe punishments in response to sexual assault and rape on campus. While there were 275 cases of sexual misconduct reported to OIE last year, there was one expulsion.** One. Part of the reason for this is that OIE fails to address all of the cases brought to them, because of a lack of resources, personnel or evidence, which we will be addressing in the following paragraph. But of the 80 cases that were addressed and closed, only one resulted in expulsion. Respondents faced other punishments in many cases, ranging from suspension to mandated counseling. This data makes it clear that sexual assault and rape are not regarded as a serious offense by the university. Nor are they seen as sufficient grounds to expel or even suspend an individual. The fact that respondents with strong evidence against them, respondents who investigators concluded were more than fifty percent likely to have committed acts of sexual violence, are given no more than a slap on the wrist **sends a strong message to survivors that their experiences do not matter, that sexual violence does not matter, and that the university will not protect their right to study here with the equal opportunity assured them by the federal law Title Nine.** It is the Vice Provost of OIE who determines punishments in response to closed cases. We demand more transparency from her about how she makes these decisions, and why she the regularly allow sexual predators to remain on campus.

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-Freshmen year's top 5 goals and priorities:

1) Make Laundry Cheaper/Free>Hit the Great Wall of Bureaucracy
2) Hopkins Gear Discounts>Nobody took it on.
3) Late Night FFC To Go Boxes>Hit the Great Wall of Bureaucracy
4) Make Printing Cheaper/Free>Hit the Great Wall of Bureaucracy

5) Re-Cover Grades for Next Year's Freshmen>Hit the Great Wall of Bureaucracy

-Last year's top 5 goals and priorities:

1) Break Hopkins Bubble>Passport
2) Better Mental Health Access>Counseling Center Open Hours, APTT Brody Room, Mental Health Student Group Coalition, Roundtable/Stomp the Stigma
3) Increased Campus Pride/School Spirit>Nobody took it on.
4) Raise Awareness about Sexual Violence and Support for Survivors>Didn't do enough outside some co-sponsorships.
5) Better Financial Literarcy>Nobody took it on.

Student Group Support

Regarding the 10-day event scheduling policy, I've talked with the Student Leadership and Involvement Office. Apparently, the policy was enacted as a one size fits all to address the concerns of staff stakeholders like risk management, security, and audiovisual support, among others. The sentiment from many of these groups is that 10 days is too little to plan. All in all, without significant non-anecdotal student input this policy is unlikely to change any time soon. If you have specific concerns, please tell us.

Regarding student group funding, we are very aware of the delays in funding that happened this year. The Dean of Student Life Office, which allocates funds, is under new leadership and the folks responsible for rolling out the budgets are only three months into their jobs. We will be patient, but we will not be complicit. Again, if you have specific concerns, please tell us.