JOHNS HOPKINS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Briefing Document: Annual Dinner with President Daniels

DESCRIPTION:

This document provides a summary of all potential subjects that may be discussed with President Daniels at this annual and time-honored tradition. It is the hope of the SGA to engage with the President on all four issues, whether at the dinner, in smaller meetings, or via email exchanges. The SGA has selected the three bolded issues as below as its final discussion topics.

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1. **The Student Center, Civic Engagement, and Shared Governance (pg. 2) - 12 votes**
2. **Public Safety (pg. 6) - 18 votes**
3. **Sexual Assault (pg. 8) - 25 votes**
4. Sustainability and Divestment (pg. 10) - 9 votes

THE STUDENT CENTER & SHARED GOVERNANCE

SGA Presenters: AJ Tsang (Executive Vice President), Mohamed Elgendi (‘20), Isaac Lucas (‘21), Kylie Sharron (‘22), Lauren Paulet (‘21), Kiana Boroumand (‘20)

+Intro of all presenters and parts - AJ

I. SGA’S CURRENT PROGRESS

Student Center

- **MO**
- Student Engagement Plan for Large Donor Fundraising
    - SGA is developing a fully-fledged student engagement plan that will delineate how SGA, student groups, and the student body can work alongside administrators to raise funds or promote fundraising for the student center initiative. The plan will identify specific needs (meeting rooms, performance space) of student groups today, and project for student needs in the next two to three decades.
- *Annual Giving*
    - *SGA is working with Brittany Shaff in Annual Giving to create a crowdfunding page for seniors and young alumni to give to the eventual construction of a student center. Her office is working on drafting an MOU that makes clear that (a) future SGA’s would contribute to the student center effort donors would agree to, recognizing that their funding would only go to the creation of a student center.*
- Year-to-Year Brick Mural Fundraiser
    - To ensure each generation of students feels that they have made a physical and tangible contribution to the student center, the SGA hopes to raise funding for 25 bricks each year. The bricks would be painted with students’ conceptions or hopes for Hopkins; the 25 student painters would be selected after an online competition of brick painting designs. The SGA would collect the 25 bricks each year, and eventually place the bricks into an entryway mural in the student center.
    - The painting of the bricks could be the central part of a festival whereupon students, faculty, staff and administrators come together to celebrate our unified vision of Hopkins and what it can be with a student center.
- Video of Students - **Lauren**
    - The CMC is creating a video to highlight why students want a student center.
- 3D Render Conception
    - SGA is working with the Department of Civil Engineering to host a 3D student center rendering and design competition.
- Peer Institution Visits

    - SGA is conducting another round of peer institution visits - this time to student centers in the Baltimore area, to see how the student center's architecture might benefit from being architecturally open to the Baltimore community, in contrast to the Mattin Center.
- Alumni Letters
    - The SGA is forming an SGA Alumni Advisory Board, with whom it will work on soliciting letters of support for a student center that could be included in a file to potential donors.
- Faculty and Staff Letters
    - The SGA is asking the faculty and staff most sympathetic to mental health and student services causes to write letters of support for a student center that could be included in a file to potential donors.
- Student Group Signatories
    - The SGA is revising its general student center proposal from last spring, and is asking student groups to be signatory to it.

Civic Engagement & Shared Governance

- **Kiana**
- Voter Registration and Participation
    - The SGA Civic Engagement Committee worked with the CSC to ensure students registered to vote and voted in the most recent midterm elections!
- Immigrant Rights
    - The SGA Civic Engagement Committee is working with the Office of International Students and Admissions to increase admissions of undocumented immigrants at Hopkins.
- Referendum [Link to Ballot]
    - SGA is working to engage student voice on eight crucial campus issues, from the formation of a private or community police force, to the construction of a student center and the creation of Wellbeing Champions in each academic department. Over 1,500 students have voted already. Link here:
- Community Council Concept [Presentation] - **AJ**
    - The SGA hopes to create a JHU Community Council in the model of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC Website). The CPUC is lauded by the Princeton community for serving as an opportunity for students, staff, faculty and administrators to have a common platform for the sharing of current activities and discussion of upcoming issues, with 6 public meetings each year. The CPUC acts as a shared governance platform alongside the Princeton administration and Board of Trustees, with each of the CPUC's committees tasked with building policies and practices from the "bottom-up," in consultation with stakeholder groups *before* any actual policies are drafted or implemented.

    - We believe the Community Council can help alleviate community concerns about **administrative transparency**, **increase administrators' efficiency and decrease administrators' stress** by providing a common forum to introduce or discuss initiatives with the community, rather than oversaturating the community with too many fora or individual meetings.
- Institutional Entity Memberships and Connections [Database]
    - The SGA has strived to ensure SGA members serve on all possible institutional committees, councils, and advisory boards. At present, SGA members serve on:
        - The Diversity Leadership Council (DLC);
        - The Homewood Council on Inclusive Excellence (HCIE);
        - The KSAS Curriculum Committee;
        - The WSE Curriculum Committee;
        - The Homewood Wellbeing Working Group;
        - The Financial Aid Advisory Board;
        - The Security Advisory Board;
        - The Ethics Board;
        - The Career Center Advisory Board;
        - The Community Living Advisory Board;
    - The SGA has identified students on the following:
        - The Second Commission on Undergraduate Education (CUE2);
    - The SGA is seeking to add SGA members to:
        - The Policy Committee led by Stephen Ruckman;
        - The upcoming Sustainability Leadership Council;
        - The Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC);
        - The Homewood Academic Council (HAC);
            - Or at least, a student voice in the tenure process.
    - The SGA is engaged in active communication or contact with the following entities:
        - The Women Faculty Forum (WFF);
        - The Faculty Assembly;
- Student Group Coalitions, Councils, and Committees
    - The SGA is working to increase community engagement by convening or joining coalitions of student groups in the areas of mental health, sustainability, and civic activism.
- Administrative Processes and Structure Forum or Roundtable
    - The SGA is considering hosting a forum in the spring that helps students understand the administrative structure of JHU (specific to Homewood) and how policy decisions are made.

II. SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES - Kylie

- **Complete:**
    - The student engagement plan (January 2019)
- **Operationalize:**
    - The crowdfunding campaign with Annual Giving (January 2019);
    - The Baltimorean student center site visits (January-March 2019);
    - The 3D Render Competition (February-April 2019);
    - The Spring 2019 Brick Fundraiser (April 2019);
- **Collect:**
    - At least 50 student group signatories (January 2019);
    - At least 20 faculty/staff letters to donors (February 2019);
    - At least 20 alumni letters to donors (March 2019);
- **Test** the Community Council concept with an open forum in Spring 2019.
- **Add** SGA members to the aforementioned institutional entities.
- **Host** the Processes and Structure Forum in Spring 2019.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVES - Kylie

- **Construct the student center!**
- **Operationalize the Community Council.**
- **Ensure SGA participation** on institutional entities is maintained.
- **Engage with Baltimore on TurboVote**, expanding it to include all Baltimorean colleges and high school seniors.

IV. EXPECTED QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS - AJ

- Can President Daniels and Provost Kumar send an email to the student body notifying them of their general efforts to seek funds for a student center?
- Can President Daniels and Provost Kumar delineate their framework for soliciting donors to SGA leadership and Homewood Student Affairs leadership in early Spring 2019?
- **How can students help solicit larger donors/naming donors? What tangibles can we further offer you to show to larger donors who are giving back?**
- What would be effective components of the student engagement plan?
- Can we work with the President's Office to operationalize the 3D Render Competition and Brick Mural Fundraiser?
- Can we have your support on the Community Council concept? Can we work together to convene the Council by March or April?
- What additional policy-making committees or advisory boards could we add SGA members to? Could we have your support in adding students to the ones we mentioned above?
- What are your thoughts on the immigrant rights initiative?

PUBLIC SAFETY

SGA Presenters: Sam Schatmeyer (‘21), Alexander Forlenza (‘22), Pritika Parmar (‘22)

I. SGA’s CURRENT EFFORTS

Our student body believes in the need to protect personal safety. We understand that the University shares this interest. However, many members of the Hopkins community feel that the actions taken by the University conflict with this goal. In particular, the process of creating a private police force has created fear and tension among many students, particularly students of color, international students, female students, LGBTQ students, students with disabilities, and students who have experienced or are likely to experience police brutality.

The student body was shocked by the process by which the private police force was brought forward as a solution to public safety at the University. Last spring’s efforts began without delineating clear implementation processes, without providing a draft MOU or MOU outline and components, and without stakeholder review. The rapid manner in which JHU moved only resulted in backlash and confusion.

At present, the student body has the view that the University seeks a private police force as the only solution to public safety. Nevertheless, the exact size, scope, and functions of the private police force have still not been made clear. However, the town hall meetings in which students and community members could question the implementation and functionality of this hypothetical police force have helped.

Above all, the SGA asks why the University started with a solution, rather than a process. The SGA believes it would have been more effective for the University to have started with a “blank-slate” study (as is now being conducted by Vice President Melissa Hyatt) to identify community-driven solutions to public safety, rather than develop a proposal such as the private police force, without prior public discussion.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. **Enfranchisement**: How will students be involved with the creation and accountability of the police force? If created, we hope to have representation on those committees that would create the standards for discrimination and training.
2. **Accountability**: We would like to be part of the review process of complaints against the private police force (both in the setup of a complaint system as a check on the police force, and in the process of reviewing complaints to prevent against bias.)
3. **Community Engagement:** If the private police force is created, we would like to introduce community meetings similar to the UPenn model in which members of the Hopkins community can share their concerns in a public forum, or perhaps through the previously proposed Community Council.

III. EXPECTED QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS

1. **Is it fundamentally necessary to create an *armed* police force?** The prospect of guns on a college campus is a terrifying idea to many, and it can exacerbate fears of discrimination in historically targeted and stigmatized groups.
2. **What would be the relationship between the Baltimore City Police and our private police force?** The Baltimore City Police Department has long had poor relations with the Baltimore community, and we do not want to exacerbate such tensions.
3. **What jurisdictional boundaries would the University seek between its police force and the BPD in local communities?** In what areas would the private police have power outside of Homewood campus, such as in Charles Village or in neighborhoods surrounding the medical campus? And, given its history in Baltimore, could such boundaries detriment Hopkins' relations with these neighborhoods?
4. **How would we be fund a private police force, and how would it affect our ability to use funds in other areas like student life, research, financial aid, etc…?**

SEXUAL ASSAULT

SGA Presenters: Miranda Bannister ('20), Madelynn Wellons ('20)

I. SGA's CURRENT PROGRESS

- Office of Institutional Equity
    - The SGA Civic Engagement Committee is the process of meeting with various staff members in the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) to better understand the issue of sexual assault on the Hopkins campus, and to determine how to best to respond to the 2017 OIE Report.
- SGA Policy Research & Development Commission
    - Following the release of the OIE Report on 2017 Statistics, the Policy Resource and Development Commission (PRDC) has been working on analyzing and composing a write-up in response to the OIE Report

II. SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

Little work has been done in regards to sexual assault prevention and response. SGA is striving to address this in the future; Senators Bannister and Wellons have been in conversations with various campus stakeholders (OIE, SARU, FSL, and others) to better understand the issues with the reporting and prevention processes, and will soon be taking further action in regards to these issues.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS

- **SGA will be calling for more severe repercussions for those who have committed sexual assault and rape on campus.**
    - While there were 275 cases of sexual misconduct reported to OIE in 2017, few respondents were expelled or removed from the space of those whom they harmed. Respondents in many cases faced alternative punishments, ranging from suspension to mandated counseling. This indicates to survivors that sexual assault and rape are not regarded as serious offenses by JHU, and that JHU does not regard sexual assault or rape as sufficient grounds to expel or even suspend an individual in most cases.
    - That respondents with strong evidence against them (respondents whose 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 negates the experience of survivors, diminishes the harms of sexual violence, and suggests that the university will not protect their right to study here with the equal opportunity assured to them by Title IX.
    - Repercussions in closed cases are determined by a review board. SGA seeks more transparency about the guidelines and trainings that determine how each review

board determines repercussions, and why frequent sexual predators are permitted to remain on campus.

- **The SGA implores President Daniels to direct his administration to add a net gain of seven full time employees in OIE: five investigators and two employees under the Vice Provost of Institutional Equity.**
    - The staff of OIE are overburdened. OIE failed to investigate 62% of cases brought to them in 2017, and half the cases brought to OIE have yet to be closed. Two common reasons for OIE's extending of investigations were "extensive documentation review" and "investigator caseload." Both issues can 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. Though OIE has grown in the past years, it has not grown at a rate necessary in order to meet the needs of survivors.
- Student testimonies in the Johns Hopkins News-Letter, as well as anecdotes collected from students who reached out to SGA members, lead SGA to question whether OIE treats survivors with sufficient sensitivity or respect. **Therefore, SGA will ask OIE to disclose the trauma training that its staff, investigators, and Resolution Panels receive.**
- **SGA furthermore asks 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.

SUSTAINABILITY & DIVESTMENT

SGA Presenters: Sam Mollin (‘21)

I. SGA’S CURRENT PROGRESS

- Composting
    - SGA is working with housing to create an implementation timeline for the introduction of in-room composting bins in the Homewood and Bradford apartments for next semester, with hopes of expanding to Charles Commons, Wolman, and McCoy next year. SGA has worked with the Office of Sustainability to expand outdoor compost bin presence.
- Pouring Rights Contract
    - JHU currently holds an exclusive pouring rights contract with Pepsi and its subsidiaries. SGA members are working with other stakeholders to determine priorities for any new RFP contract, including the possibility of eliminating single-use plastic water bottles from being sold on campus
- Divestment Resolution
    - In 2017, SGA passed a resolution affirming our support for complete fossil fuel divestment.
- Referendum
    - SGA is currently holding a referendum on whether the university should pursue complete instead of partial fossil fuel divestment to gauge student opinion; results of the referendum will be binding and become the stance of the SGA

II. SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

- **Reduce Carbon Emissions**
    - The goal of the SGA is to ensure we continue to make progress on our climate action plan. The goal of the university under the plan is to reach 51% carbon emission reductions under the plan. We have currently reached roughly 35% reductions, but much of that is attributed to the local grid’s switch to natural gas. The university’s own actions can only claim to have reduced emissions by roughly 4%, meaning significantly more progress will have to be made to reach the 2025 goal.
    - Progress has become especially urgent with the new International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change. We know that the university has a few key initiatives planned, including creating a Sustainability Leadership Council, and hiring a new sustainability director. We would like to know more about the hiring process, what you hope that the new sustainability director will achieve, any other sustainability initiatives that are planned, and whether any consideration has been given to purchasing renewable energy for the University’s power supply, and how that conversation has proceeded thus far.

- **Reduce Waste**
    - Dining makes sure to use 100% compostable packaging (except for sushi), which is an important way to reduce waste and encourage full-cycle consumption. Bon Appetit has taken steps to help, including banning plastic straws. We hope to help the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Homewood Recycling to continue to educate the student body on which trash goes into which bin, and reduce the amount of waste that goes to the incinerator.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

- **Consider revising the climate action plan** to include more ambitious targets and metrics.
- **Reach a zero or very low waste** campus.
- **Expand the Office of Sustainability** with more staff and a prominent place on the Homewood campus (and considering creating a unique Office of Sustainability for each campus).
- **Have the Board of Trustees take a second vote on complete fossil fuel divestment**, as recommended by PIAAC, during the 2019-2020 winter meeting.
- **Divest!**
    - Partial divestment is not enough. We are still invested in the companies that have been actively lobbying the US government and governments across the world against common sense climate change regulations; we should be using our voice as a leader in public health to denounce the political actions of these companies that have caused us to defer solving climate change for so long.
    - Soley divesting from companies that make 35% or more of their profits from coal, has done little to advance divestment, given JHU's investment portfolio. Every other type of fossil fuel company is still receiving our financial support, and many coal companies still do too.
    - The PIAAC report found that complete and total fossil fuel divestment would cause no financial harm to the university. In fact, the PIAAC report found that total and complete fossil fuel divestment by Johns Hopkins would provide the institution many benefits. Those include a sort of novel experiment, in which we would become the largest endowment of our kind to completely divest. The report noted that Hopkins has already taken so many actions around climate change, and being the first to take a big step on divestment would provide an opportunity for leadership on the issue. The PIAAC report mentioned that this could cause collective action nation-wide, and that full divestment would lay the groundwork for future change.

IV. EXPECTED QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS

- We hope to know:

- Why complete fossil fuel divestment did not pass the Board of Trustees;
- Your stance on complete fossil fuel divestment, as recommended by the PIAAC report;
- What issues that Board of Trustees members may have had with complete divestment, and how the student body's effort could be reworked to do better at the Board's next vote;
- If there exist any conflicts of interest with individual Board of Trustee members and the fossil fuel industry;
- If there are any financial reasons, not including those related to the endowment, for which complete divestment was not pursued; and
- Any other actions the University has taken in response to divestment activism, other than partial divestment.