

## Student Government Association

University Council Report • February 18, 2015

- New semester, new opportunities
  - The SGA hit the ground running this semester to accomplish our remaining platform goals.
- Executive Platform Progress
  - Providing preparatory services for graduate readiness exams
    - Looking into multiple options for providing a reduced-cost, on-campus service
    - Looking to collect used prep books to then give to students who might not be able to afford the cost of new books
  - Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Program
    - We have partnered with appropriate offices on campus to assess the feasibility of developing an IPSE program at the University.
    - The Student Government Association, the Institute on Human Development and Disability and the J.W. Fanning Institute are hosting a preview event on Thursday March 19 to introduce the concept of an IPSE program to the greater campus community.
      - The preview event will take place in the Tate Reception Hall from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are invited. We will hear from program coordinators, program participants and the parents of these students from different programs around the southeast.
  - Open Dialogue
    - This year the SGA re-launched Open Dialogue events to foster healthy communication on sensitive campus topics.
    - We have four events remaining and encourage any interested persons to come.
      - The next Open Dialogue will take place on Thursday Feb. 26, in the MLC Reading Room. The topic for discussion is “All Types of Love”
    - Follow our social media accounts to ensure you are notified about other Open Dialogue events.
  - Reforming SGA
    - Our Student Life revision process has completed and we will vote on the newly proposed system at our next Senate, February 24.
- Other recent initiatives
  - Shout Week
    - Conducted a second Shout Week to gage student sentiments regarding the SGA and campus as a whole.
  - January Open Dialogue
    - Hosted an Open Dialogue in response to national events that happened last semester regarding inclusivity in our own campus culture.
  - LGBT 101

- Ambassadors from the LGBT Resource Center hosted an Ally Workshop for individuals in SGA to learn about the experience of LGBT students on campus.
- Upcoming advocacy events
  - Dawgs at the Dome (DATD): Thursday Feb. 19
    - At DATD we will meet with state representatives to discuss state policies affecting the student experience. Please reach out to us with any concerns you would like discussed.
  - SEC in D.C.: March 20 – March 25
    - On March 20, a group of our executive officers will travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with federal representatives. Similar to Dawgs at the Dome, we will discuss federal policies that are influence our daily experience as students.
      - Currently we are researching and brainstorming the policy points we plan to discuss. Please reach out to us with any suggestions.
- Elections
  - Election season is upon us!
    - The filing deadline for executive tickets was last Wednesday (Feb. 11), and the filing deadline for senate candidates is today (Feb. 18).
  - Campaigning will take place the week of March 22, and polls will be open from 8 a.m. on Wednesday March 25 through 5 p.m. on Thursday March 26.
- General Information
  - We host a 30-minute “Open Forum” before every senate/committee meeting.
    - These meetings take place on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
    - All students are invited to come share their concerns with the SGA
  - We’re not lame ducks yet!
    - Though we are nearing the end of our term, we still have time to affect change. Don’t hesitate to contact us with ideas and concerns!