Hello Stanford!

Ever since meeting in our freshman dorm, we’ve come together over a shared dedication to public service and social impact. At Stanford, everyone defines impact in a different way, and we are excited to share and celebrate that through the ASSU. To understand how best to do this, we began asking students what they think Stanford needs at the start of Winter Quarter. From there, we’ve learned that we need to fix what’s broken (advising, funding and health) and connect what already exists so that we can build what’s needed to live our impact fully.

**Goals**

While our term is limited to one year, we want to engage in creating lasting change for next year and beyond. To do this, we are making not 1-year, but 3-year strategic plans, based on the following three focus areas outlined from our campaign:

- **Tackle health issues** - mental health, emotional well-being, and sexual assault, because feeling good is the first step to doing good.

- **Promote connection** among students, communities, and events to build a campus-wide shared consciousness.

- **Build opportunities for impact** - a robust pipeline to impact careers, opportunities to celebrate and support custodial and grounds staff, and more ways to combine academics and impact.

You can read the rest of the report to learn more about the specific goals for each of these issues.
**Our Strategy**

Finding the right people to work with was our first priority this quarter. We are happy to report that we have appointed our Executive Cabinet, a group of 20 students, freshmen to PhDs. Each of our focus areas now has a cabinet member as well as an awesome team dedicated to pursuing the initiatives from our campaign. Our team is over 100 people and still growing. If you’re interested in getting involved, please reach out.

This summer, we are working on three goals:

1) Learn from our first month in office. What did we do right, where did we make mistakes? What worked and what did not? These insights, both internal and external, will provide the groundwork for robust, consistent, and impactful work next year.

2) Focus priorities and define goals for each of our issue areas, defining metrics and setting deadlines.

3) Solidify the narrative connecting our priorities. We will be meeting with administrators throughout to work on long-term projects and also build and solidify relationships to support our work going forward.

**Why is this important?**

There is such an incredible energy and breadth of knowledge and resources throughout campus. Now more than ever, we believe it’s time to fulfill Jane Stanford’s words in the founding charter of this school - we are here “to become thereby of greater service to the public.” We have all been called upon to serve the causes in which we believe in, and we see the ASSU Exec, a position rich with a history of change making, as an incredible platform to do so. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and equally excited to continue working! Thank you for making this possible!
I joined the ASSU because I wanted to give back to the energy and environmental community. I think I could add value by helping to coordinate student group work and helping connect student groups with important university administrators. Ultimately, I want to increase student impact and increase awareness of energy and environmental issues.

**Goals**
I have three main goals for next year:

1. Act as a liaison between student groups and university administration and leadership.
2. Facilitate communication and collaboration between energy and sustainability groups on campus.
3. Produce documents to clearly and concisely explain energy and environmental issues on campus.

**Our Strategy**
We want to tackle these goals by building a network of important administrators on campus and helping student groups reach out to these administrators, setting up monthly meetings with the leadership of all the student groups to promote collaboration and greater awareness of community events, and focusing on important issues on campus and creating white papers and other information material to clearly convey complex issues (like divestment or SESI) to students.

**Why is this important?**
Our work will hopefully make energy and environmental issues more accessible to general campus and should empower student groups to have more of an impact and a greater awareness of other areas of the energy and environmental community.
I truly believe that fellowship makes life worth living, and we are blessed at Stanford to be united through common experience to a network of incredible individuals. Students across all grades can benefit by receiving, building, and sharing expertise within their academic areas and gaining exposure to fields outside their chosen path.

Goals
The Advising Squad aims to supplement existing professional services with student-based, informal advising networks and resources. We will compile as many four-plans as possible and build a committee of experts across all majors and interdisciplinary programs at the undergraduate level.

Why this is important?
There is a lot of brainpower at Stanford and those who come before have experience to pass on to incoming students, freshmen, and underclassmen in general. Upperclassmen also have a lot to gain by talking to each other. Our priority will be to improve information-sharing across the Stanford student community.

Events the Team has Participated in:
- Academic office hours at several community centers
- ASSU Exec Pitch Event – strategized with seniors, graduates in government/design space on how best to achieve stated goals
- One on one meetings with juniors and seniors regarding academic advice in general and major-specific
Amelia Dreyer  
*Human Biology*  
2015

I am a proud East Bay representative coming out of Oakland. I have never considered myself a student government person, and have usually gravitated towards social justice work off campus. But I woke up to the fact that for better or worse our Stanford degree carries weight and we should empower all Stanford students to maximize the positive impact of that weight....

**Goals**

I am hoping my team will have genuine conversations with people all over campus. I want to solicit honest feedback and get some great insights and ideas from the people who the ASSU serves. I want my team to have at least 1,000 conversations over the course of next year.

**Our Strategy**

Committees in the ASSU will request that my team head out to all corners of campus to ask and chat about certain issue areas. Please don’t be alarmed if curious and friendly strangers approach you out of nowhere to chat! Four conversations per person on the team (10 of us) = 40 x 10 weeks = 400 conversations x 3 quarters = 1,200 conversations over the year!

**Why is this important?**

The ASSU needs to be connected to what is actually going on with students. The ASSU has the potential to be an awesome tool for students. I am sick of it being irrelevant, we have the opportunity to make it relevant.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**

- Meetings with D.school leaders to discuss conversation strategies
- D.school workshop

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **Number of Team Members:** 10
- **Majors Represented:** Human Biology
- **Classes Represented:** 2015 2017
- **Administrators & Faculty Met with:** 3
- **Number of Students Talked to:** 10
Strengthening the pathway to social impact careers is something about which I care deeply, and I love having the chance to work on this issue closely with a group of students who also care. Furthermore, I believe Elizabeth and Logan are two inspiring, passionate leaders, and they were one of the biggest reasons that inspired me to apply for ASSU Exec Cabinet.

### Goals
We want to create tangible events that start a conversation about social impact careers. We want these discussions to become a regular part of the Stanford dialogue.

### Our Strategy
We want to actively make connections with faculty and staff in the CDC, Haas, and PACS (which we have already done) in order to make partnerships that will produce tangible events. We also have started engaging with student groups (such as SENSA) that are engaged in social impact in order to create programming that is targeted to students that will be invested in these events.

### Why is this important?
Social impact is something that I believe most students care about, in one way or another. We want to ensure that they will be able to pursue their social impact goals and want to make this process as easy as possible!

### Events the Team has Participated in:
- Multiple Haas events
- Meeting with CDC, PACS, and Haas
As a freshman, I have spent a year in a state of permanent surprise at the diversity of interests and initiatives at Stanford. We all value these differences as a great strength of our university community, and I joined the ASSU because I’d love to be a part of building an even stronger sense of community based on the diversity of interests and experience not only among our students and faculty, but also among our wonderful staff.

Goals
As an Action Squad, we hope to extend the understanding of the Stanford community to include the staff who work to make our Stanford experience possible.

Our Strategy
We hope to host discussions with staff to encourage students to reach out and get to know the people who work around them, and to strengthen programs such as Habla and Tutoring for Community to build relationships between workers and students across campus.

Why is this important?
The Stanford staff work to make the dream we’re living possible. As students, it is our responsibility to show our appreciation in every day interactions and in developing our understanding of the issues that affect the Stanford community not only in an academic setting, but also on a very local level.

Events the Team has Participated in:
• Students and Labor Alliance meetings
• Buena Vista Mobile Home Community demonstration
I come from a tiny island in Massachusetts, but have had the opportunity to travel and live all over the world. However I have yet to find another place that has as high a concentration of passion, ideas, and handwork as Stanford. I joined ASSU because I want to help make Stanford a place where the people that hold those passions, ideas, and work ethic can collaborate, learn from each other, and make an impact on the world.

Goals
We want to create a campus that is better connected. This means better connecting students to each other, to student groups, and to events. It also means helping to create proactive conversations and finding common ground in areas where there is conflict. We will be working to connect students at all points in their Stanford career, from NSO to grad school.

Our Strategy
We are working with SAL and NSO coordinators as well as grad student transition coordinators to create better access to and understanding of student groups on campus from the very beginning. We will also be working with student groups to foster connections through organized meet-ups and collaborative event planning sessions. In areas where there have traditionally been conflict we will be working with groups and communities to start conversations and find common ground. Lastly, we are working on gaining a thorough understanding of how and where students want to learn about events and will be working to improve campus resources in this area.

Why is this important?
The amazing wealth of people, ideas, resources and communities we have here on campus is one of Stanford’s greatest assets. However the real magic comes when these people and communities are able to connect in order to share ideas and utilize resources. Connection and collaboration are the bedrock of innovation and change.

Events the Team has Participated in:
- Activist Retreat
- SHPRC/ LGBT CRC Events
- Take Back the Night
- “Lessons in Life” with BASES
- Admit Weekend Activities Fair
- Anscombe vs. GSC constitutional council case
My interest in working on mental health issues as part of ASSU stems from witnessing the crippling effects of mental illness among friends and family. Like many of us at Stanford, I have seen mental health issues severely interfere with students’ ability to thrive in the community.

And yet, I find that mental health is an oft forgotten topic of discussion among the student body. Thus, as part of ASSU, I hope to increase dialogue, awareness, and resources in regards to mental health at Stanford.

**Goals**

In the upcoming year, we will be working on four primary initiatives:

1. Piloting a dorm counseling program in which medical students will serve as counselor in dorms.
2. Building a web portal to provide better information about mental health services to the student body.
3. Holding a multi-media art event in conjunction with the emotional well-being team aimed to raise awareness of mental health issues at Stanford.
4. Working with CAPs to improve access and quality of care for students.

**Our Strategy**

We will accomplish these goals by first, building and maintaining a strong and effective team and second, staying focused on specific actionable items to move forward in each of the four goals. This second point is particularly critical as we hope to make significant headway on each project every week.

**Why is this important?**

On a general level, mental health is one of the key factors in preventing students from thriving at Stanford. Our belief is that all four of the planned goals outlined above will contribute to mitigating the effects of mental illness on campus. Our work with CAPs, the mental health website, and piloting the dorm counseling program will improve access to mental health services and the art event we are hosting will serve to increase awareness of mental health issues on campus.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**

- Bridge Advisory Board Meeting
- Next to Normal
- Groundbreaking of Contemplation Center
Having founded a support group for kids suffering from OCD in high school, volunteered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and led Stanford Peace of Mind (SPoM) for the past two years, I have a deep commitment to destigmatizing mental illness and improving student mental health. I joined the ASSU to have access to the resource base necessary to lead a team of like-minded individuals to realize my vision for improvement of the mental health environment at Stanford through a combination of campus-wide events, systematic improvement of campus mental health treatment systems, and creative and artistic initiatives.

**Goals**

1. Identify key issues regarding students’ experience receiving mental health treatment on campus and work with campus leaders to implement changes in initial consultations, feedback processes, and/or availability of care.

2. Engage with artistic communities on campus to encourage community exploration of mental health issues through different media.

3. Foster open campus-wide dialogue regarding the academic, emotional, and personal struggles of undergraduate life.

**Our Strategy**

1. Anonymously survey students with experiences with on-campus treatment about their experiences and use this to guide discussions regarding reform of initial consultations, feedback, and availability of care.

2. Arrange a class to share the practice of mental illness experience exploration through art as developed by Ryoko Hamaguchi with student artists, create a series of student portraits contrasting outward expressions of self with internal challenges and realities, exhibit them publicly in White Plaza culminating in an Art After Dark-style expo featuring mental illness-themed spoken word performances, and donate portraits to CAPS for waiting room display.

3. Organize an in-person version of The Resilient Project (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/resilience), a campus-wide event featuring campus leaders such as Mehran Sahami, Vice Provost Etchemendy, and Tobias Wolfe speaking about overcoming personal, professional, and emotional challenges.

**Why is this important?**

At some point, all of us students experience struggles with mental health at Stanford. It is important that our community offers effective resources, genuine support, and ample room for discussion of the range of challenges that are also a part of the Stanford experience.
I’m a Human Biology major with an Area of Concentration in Athletic Mental Health, and a 3-season varsity athlete running cross country, winter track and spring track. Mental Health was something I knew little about before coming to Stanford. Stemming from illness, injury, a family member with cancer, and difficulty adjusting to college, all aspects of my life were affected when I struggled with depression and disordered eating my freshman year of college. Everything slipped—my grades, my running, my health, my friendships, but most importantly, my sense of self-worth. I became increasingly aware of how prominent this issue of athletic mental health was not only here at Stanford, but nationally. When Elizabeth approached me about being on the cabinet, I was excited at the prospect of continuing to do the work I was already doing, but within the context of a dynamic team of people in ASSU.

**Goals**

We are not only interested in increasing sports performance and the functionality of teams, but most importantly, we want to enhance the overall well-being of the student athlete. Our team is broken down into 6 action squads: Overall Thriving, Emotional Support and Resilience, Injury, Sports Nutrition, Collegiate Transition, and Team Development.

**Our Strategy**

Each action squad has been brainstorming and is expected to design and implement a project with the goal that one year from now, each action squad will have created at least one new service or product. We are using the mediums of social media, workshops, speaker series, books, mentor programs, etc. to accomplish this. In addition to providing resources, we hope to increase empathetic understanding between coaches, administrators, and teammates to create a helpful and proactive environment.

**Why is this important?**

Why this is important: Our goal is not to merely improve sports performance. The stress of student life for anyone is difficult, but our goal is to help student athletes manage the unique stressors they deal with so that they can function at their fullest. These stresses include balancing academics with traveling, the issue of identity and injury, the transitions in and out of college, communicating better with coaches and athletic trainers, encouraging holistic eating over disordered eating, and more. Alleviating some of these concerns means greater productivity in the classroom as well as in competition, but most importantly, it means they are living in a more safe, healthy state of mind.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**

- STAAT Panel
- Cardenal RHED Meeting
I've done a lot of work with the ASSU’s Financial system in the past and I was heavily involved in the SAFE reform efforts, so I felt the need to actually do something about funding reform so that we can take steps in the right direction to mend what I perceive to be a very flawed system.

**Goals**
Next year I hope to work primarily with SAL an SSE to figure out the best ways to change the culture of students groups and perspectives on funding. I think that’s integral to setting up the ASSU (appropriations committee) to assess less requests. Understanding and education on the system and on alternative funding sources is key to cutting back on ASSU spending and on helping SSE be most effective in terms of the services they offer to students.

**Our Strategy**
Our team will be working with SAL peer advisors, administrative staff and SSE to reform Financial Officer and incoming leadership training. Furthermore, we are creating infographics and electronic resources to help student groups navigate mygroups, better understand alternative funding sources, and alter the understanding of ASSU’s role in funding. So far we’ve completed step one of our action plan by analyzing data results and talking to a number of student leaders.

**Why is this important?**
Students should care about funding because it has a tremendous impact on their Stanford experience. Funding is the engine that keeps student groups running and allows Stanford to have awesome programs, concerts, cultural experiences and more! It’s important for everyone to stay engaged because these reforms and new resources will have everything to do with the kinds of opportunities they have outside of the classroom.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**
- Meeting with SSE & Incoming Appropriations Committee
- Senate Meetings
- QueST Funding Workshop
- SAL Peer Advising Office Hours
- The Stanford Fund Orientation
I’ve considered myself a feminist for a long time and have become increasingly alarmed about the pervasiveness of sexual violence in our society. I spent last summer working for Senator Dianne Feinstein, learning as much as I could about Federal initiatives to respond to sexual violence on college campuses. At a university level, I think sexual assault is the biggest civil rights issue of our time; I think we are in a historical moment of unprecedented motivation for reform, and so the possibilities seem bright. As I thought about being a practitioner of social justice—putting the values I believe in into practice—I thought this was the issue that I’m both passionate about and the most convinced we can make significant progress in over the next year.

Goals
Our team is taking a two-pronged approach: we’re simultaneously pushing for institutional reform and a shift in campus culture. At an institutional level, the vision is this: we believe Stanford should and can be the leading university when it comes to its prevention and response measures surrounding sexual violence. We’re pushing for three main goals: judicial reform (including expulsion as the standard sanction for assailants), an expansion of resources (we would like to see SARA staff increased to 4-5 within the next year) and expanded mandatory education.

Our Strategy
We’re going to constructively engage with the administration over policy reform, proposing a comprehensive list of changes and initiatives we would like to see implemented by mid-summer and then working with them over the next year on them.

The other chief goal is changing campus culture, which is harder to define. The main way to change campus culture is to educate students about these issues and give them extensive training around active standards of consent. These discussions have to begin before they even arrive on campus, then during New Student Orientation, and throughout their time at Stanford. We’re going to coordinate with groups like the Women’s Community Center, the Sexual Assault and Relationship Abuse (SARA) office and Men Against Assault Now (MAAN) to sponsor all kinds of programming: speakers, discussions, events, rallies. We’re pushing hard for expanded programming during NSO; we’re pushing hard to increase student staff training around these issues.

Why is this important?
Sexual violence is the most critical social justice issue facing college campuses today. Stanford is a wonderful place, but not immune to this. We all have a responsibility to make sure our community is safe and healthy.

Events the Team has Participated in:
• 50-Person Town Hall
• Helped Organize the Rally in White Plaza on June 5th
I’m very interested in education, particularly in computer science - I’ve been a section leader, led an ASB trip, and lead Girls Teaching Girls To Code.

I think ASSU has a lot of potential to improve the Stanford experience, but ASSU has also historically had a lot of inefficiencies. I love, love, love efficiency, and I hope I can help fix that!

**Goals**
- Create a series of “technology best practices” for student organizations to avoid duplicating work in creating websites, launching ticketing systems, etc.
- Make the ASSU website a useful resource
- Support other action squads by creating information portals (for mental health, energy, advising, etc.), improving the events calendar, and making the service internships/fellowships database more user-friendly

**Our Strategy**
We are partnering with existing campus departments/groups, as well as building our own tools. We want to avoid duplicating existing systems whenever possible, and make sure that everything that we do create is easily maintainable for the future.

**Why is this important?**
Almost every student organization has technology needs, even if it’s just a simple website. Rather than separately finding someone with web skills, anyone should be able to follow a simple tutorial to get a Stanford domain, set up a website, and start using it!

Perhaps the more difficult part is the content. Stanford has a vast array of resources, and there’s a lot of information out there - the hardest part is finding it. We intend to focus on the organization of the information hubs we create, to make them most useful to the student population.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**
- Registrar/ Student Forum
- ASSU Senate Meeting

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**TECHNOLOGY**

**Jessie Duan**
**MCS**
**2015**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Number of Team Members:** 5

**Majors Represented:**
- Political Science
- Computer Science
- MCS

**Administrators & Faculty Met with:** 3

**Number of Students Talked to:** 20
I am a rising senior at Stanford, who has worked in the Stanford Athletic Department and at the Black Community Services Center. I really love sports and planning events, so I thought joining the ASSU in this capacity was the perfect job for me. I really wanted to help out with the ASSU tailgates for sporting events and help create fun programming options for the entire student body to enjoy.

**Goals**
Our goals for the upcoming year are to both improve current all-campus events and create new, exciting events that will engage the entire Stanford community. We want to provide outlets for Stanford students to meet new students around campus and have fun with the friends they already have.

**Our Strategy**
We plan to accomplish our goals for the upcoming year with several strategies. First, we are going to survey the student body and see what events they would like to see at Stanford. Then, we want to meet with other student groups on campus to see how we can collaborate and make Stanford events bigger and better. Finally, we will narrow down our list of events to those that are the best and most plausible, and plan them for the upcoming year.

**Why is this important?**
This cabinet is all about the student body and what fun events that they would like to see at Stanford. We want to create events that can both compliment and expand on the existing programming. We know that the student body wants more events where they can hangout with friends and blow off steam. Thus, we are here to make those events and make a happier Stanford.
I am getting my PhD in Sociology where I study issues related to stigma, as well as how people become involved in service work or activism. I received my own undergraduate degree in 2011 so also bring the background from a different university and their system of both student governance and health care. I’m personally interested in the areas of mental health and wellbeing, and believe I have the skills and resources to contribute to both a broad perspective and deep understanding.

**Goals**

Expand the safety net of mental health resources available to undergraduates. Increase awareness and knowledge of the existing campus programs related to emotional/mental health and wellbeing. Diminish the stigma related to mental health issues and psychological care. Address and fix issues students have expressed with accessing mental health care through the formal channels, especially CAPS at Vaden. Create new programs as needed to address specific issues related to emotional wellbeing and happiness.

**Our Strategy**

First step will be reach out and research to clearly establish what already exists on campus and how other groups, organizations, and administrators view the issues pertaining to mental health and emotional wellbeing on campus. This will also involve building up relationships and informational channels which can then be used to press for issues related to reform of the existing system. How we address campus issues will depend in part on what we discover. Initially: We hope to create a user-based, interactive website to point students or parents towards available resources on campus. Furthermore we hope to establish a counseling system that utilizes Stanford Medical Students to provide initial level care in accessible locations, such as undergraduate dorms.

**Why is this important?**

Few things are more important to student success than mental health. Despite widespread problems among the student body, suffering from mental illness, needing additional support for mental health or emotional wellbeing, or utilizing the existing resources is under-discussed and often stigmatized. This is especially problematic and complex among specific subsets of the student population such as student athletes. If we fail to address these issues they will not only continue to hamper student progress and health, but likely become more serious - as stigma and images of proper behavior tend to replicate themselves and become more ingrained in thoughts and behaviors.

**Events the Team has Participated in:**

- Meetings with Administrators, advisers, campus organizations and student/alumni leaders.
- Longitudinal study of the Class of 2017
Thank you and have a great summer!
We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.