Dear Stanford,

Since you elected us in April 2014, we have worked hard on a number of projects across five major issue areas, and we’re excited to detail our accomplishments and also share lessons we have learned in this report. We feel particularly gratified by progress achieved in the areas of sexual violence, mental health, and funding reform – collaborating in the process of the Provost’s Committee on Sexual Assault to craft policies and practices for support, education, and adjudication; establishing a Residential Counselors Program aiming to provide drop-in clinical hours in each residence by 2016; and completing the process begun last year to pass comprehensive funding reform in conjunction with the legislative ASSU bodies and many student groups.
In reviewing this experience and its results, we must highlight what a tough year it has been for our community at large. From the #BlackLivesMatter movement, to sexual violence reform, to divestment, to losing two beloved community members... there has been a lot going on. No community has been immune to the resounding tremors of these traumas. People have been hurt. People continue to feel vulnerable. And time and time again, we seem to lack a practice of listening, authentic dialogue, and honest, cross-community engagement that can make productive progress through these moments of strife and pain. We believe Stanford can achieve this, and are hopeful for future progress on this in the coming years.

We are proud of what we, our incredible cabinet members, and ASSU and university partners have accomplished this year, and are humbled by your continuous input and energy. And so much remains to be done, we look forward to the next Executive to build upwards, learning from our mistakes and completing the next few miles on these hard roads to change.

Thank you for letting us serve you!
Elizabeth and Logan
Lessons Learned

Each of these lessons was hard-learned through our experience this past year. At the risk of sounding old and grumpy, we wanted to share them. We hope you can build from these and learn new lessons going forward!

- There is a difference between what is productive and what feels gratifying.
- Take the time to understand each role necessary for lasting change. Play the role you have.
- Focus, focus, focus!
- Do your homework. Check the Daily Archives. It has all happened before, probably more than once. Don’t reinvent the wheel accidentally.
- Practice inclusive empathy. Understand everyone’s constraints. Meet everyone where they are at.
- Remember that it takes a campus! Eliminate ego from all interactions. Acknowledge all other work preceeding you, and appreciate every small step forward.
- Students are temporary. The university is not. Identify their rate of change, push it appropriately, and work always together in partnership. Remember that your one year is a drop in the ocean, and design your strategies with that, not against it.
- In your meetings, take the time to know who everyone is, and why they are there.
- Someone always knows more than you do. Ask for advice every day.
- What you choose not to do can be as critical as what you choose to do.
- Hire your Chief of Staff first, your cabinet second.
- Say thank you!
Our Process

Over our months in office, you - the Stanford community - taught us a lot about process for achieving solutions. We iterated constantly to what we learned in order to achieve the most productive outcomes. While far from comprehensive, it helped us, and we hope it may be valuable for the future.

We want to thank Elisabeth Dee, Conner Crane, Taylor Brown, Elliot Williams, Aaron Zellinger, and Publio Adrianza for their deep thought, patience, and tirelessness in helping us understand and continue to iterate on our solution-creation process. You are brave and brilliant individuals - we are so grateful.

1. **Acknowledge Emotions**
   - The issues we as a campus faced this year caused deep emotions: pain, fear, defensiveness. We can’t, and shouldn’t, erase those. We must, however, acknowledge them through listening, whether that is within communities where trust is already strong, or across experiences. This has been a critical first step for many of our projects.

2. **Build a Shared Consciousness**
   - When people are ready to enter a conversation across experiences, we learned to begin with honest, “uninterrupted talking time” - a few minutes for each individual to share where their mind and heart are at regarding the issue at that time. Powerful understanding and empathy has come from such conversations.

3. **Identify Common Goals**
   - We have come to understand that there is a high-level common goal, even on the most divisive issues. We have found two principles paramount to this phase: assuming good intent of those around you, and saying all you feel. That can pave the way for building on the established shared consciousness to achieve productive goals.

4. **Create and Implement Solutions**
   - Finally, the conversation about what can be done to solve the problem is possible!
Pre-Campaign
- Listened to over 1,000 students, 37 faculty and staff asking “What do you think Stanford needs?”
- Defined insights and issues to run on
- Read Stanford’s Founding grant and charter to historically ground our campaign
- Accumulated 500+ hours of preparation work
- Built core campaign team across communities

Campaign and Election
- Focused on grassroots support – received only 1 student group’s endorsement
- Organized 10 person core strategy team, 120 person outreach and mobilizer team
- Solidified our vision: FIX, CONNECT, BUILD
- Won the election on April 12, 2014 with 67% of the student body vote

Spring Quarter
- Hired 25 person cabinet and “toolbelt” within two weeks of being elected
- Jumped into community research on sexual assault
- Elizabeth appointed as Co-Chair of the Provost’s Committee on Sexual Assault
- Made a lot of mistakes, failed early and learned from it
- Started with 20 different cabinet groups, weekly meetings all together, and small bonding events between cabinet members

Summer Quarter
- Elizabeth and Logan worked full time for the whole summer on campus
- Built administrative relationships, restructured operations and processes, focused work from 20 to 5 issue areas
- Worked heavily on sexual assault, creating the Student Proposal of Recommendations, and co-producing the Sexual Assault Resource Guide and new NSO production in partnership with VPSA and other university partners

Watch our campaign videos! [Link](http://www.stanforddaily.com/2014/04/14/woodsonrichard-elected-as-assu-exec/).
Term in Review
2014 – 2015 Academic Year

Autumn Quarter
With the start of the new school year, we simplified our cabinet into 5 distinct areas. We also met daily as an executive leadership team (President, Vice President, Chief of Staff) and required biweekly meetings from each of our cabinet members in addition to weekly cabinet updates.
• Elizabeth and Benjy Mercer-Golden, Sexual Assault Reform team co-director, focus on Provost’s Committee’s work
• Designed and disseminated campus-wide survey on Mental Health and Wellbeing, received over 1600 responses
• Inaugural Social Impact Career Fair takes place
• Campus-wide tailgates for Football Season!
• Funding Reform bill is completed and passes with 95% student approval

Winter Quarter
As our cabinet grew increasingly into their roles, we allowed them to design their own check-in processes unique to their daily needs. Our executive team continued to meet multiple times a week for longer periods of time.
• ID Card project approved by VPSA
• Town Hall planned with VPSA to connect students and CAPS director Ron Albucher
• Community Care Grants established in response to heightened trauma on campus
• Project to Light Scary Path initiated
• Environmental Survey receives over 1200 responses
• Created Equipment Rental System

Spring Quarter
• Release of Provost’s Task Force on Sexual Assault Report of Recommendations
• Finalization of Residential Counselor Program
• PHE Tour Program approved by VPSA
• Mental Health Resource Guide in final steps with the MHW Advisory Board
• Environmental Group Database completed
• Provostial partnership resulting in $10,000 Sexual Assault Education Fund
ASSU Executive Structure

Committees

- Sexual Assault
- Mental Health
- Community
- Impact
- Imperatives

Toolkit

Chief Finance Officers • Chief Technology Officer
Executive Fellows • Graphic Designer

click a team name to be taken directly to that group's page, click ▶️ to return.
Sexual Assault

Accomplishments
We helped redesign Stanford’s efforts on sexual assault and relationship violence policy/adjudication, education and support through our work on the Provost’s Task Force on Sexual Assault (Elizabeth Woodson served as co-chair and Benjy Mercer-Golden participated) and our own ASSU Task Force. Our team spent nearly every day since April 2014 researching and writing recommendations—meeting with hundreds of students (including many “impacted” and “responding” parties in university sexual assault cases), survivors, issue experts, lawyers and scholars to help craft recommendations that would improve the University’s handling of the issue.

In partnership with VPSA and other University partners, co-produced the University Resource Guide on Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence, as well as a new NSO program, “Facing Reality.” (details on the next page)

We created a new funding pool of $10,000 for students to create peer education programs, beginning in the 2015-6 school year. The pool is a joint initiative using funding from the ASSU and Office of the Provost and will be overseen by the SARA office.

Through more than 10 town halls, dozens of small and large group conversations and other public engagement efforts we sponsored, we tried to help shape the campus conversation on sexual assault into a proactive, supportive one, and raise awareness about the issue.

Lessons Learned

The complexity of the issue:
Nearly every conversation we had made us realize some point we had not earlier considered. Many great ideas and important values are difficult to reconcile and can often be contradictory. Addressing sexual assault and relationship violence on a university level involves the orchestration of so many disparate efforts and is an enormous task, no less so than redesigning an incredibly intricate adjudication process and a broken support system.

The possibility of consensus:
The national debate around sexual assault on college campuses is a heated one, and we’d never suggest it isn’t equally contentious on Stanford campus. We have heard valuable concerns from a number of stakeholders who often disagree with each other. But we’ve actually come away from this year optimistic about how people with shared goals—a fair, safe, healthy campus, one free of sexual violence—can come together through compromise and thoughtful, compassionate listening.
The new Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence resource guide
Created in partnership with the VPSA and other University partners.
Project Spotlight
Student Safety

Proposal to Install Streetlamps along the “Scary Path”

Working on the issue of sexual violence encouraged us to think more broadly about tangible steps towards student safety on campus. This idea came directly from students, and the positive response from our University administration has been rewarding. The project is still in progress, under the direction of Alexis Kallen.

The path from the Kappa Alpha fraternity house to the 680 residence, often referred to by students as “scary path”, extends approximately .6 miles. Currently, this path is surrounded by trees and is very dark at night. Streetlights to light this path would further secure the safety of university students on campus ... Lighting this pathway will directly benefit students residing in Jerry, the Enchanted Broccoli Forest, Narnia, and Kappa Alpha (more than 220 students), as well as students travelling the path for social purposes.

Excerpt from the ASSU Exec Proposal
Mental Health

Accomplishments

We conducted dozens of student interviews, research on peer institution programs, and a survey of over 1,600 Stanford students on mental health to clearly identify the most significant needs and craft the solutions described below in collaboration with administrators. An extensive report will be released at the end of the quarter.

Student coordinators have been selected for the rollout of the Residential Counselors Program, a four quarter-long joint initiative by VPSA, CAPS, and ASSU Exec to pilot relationships between CAPS counselors and select residences. If successful, VPSA has agreed to provide financial support for the expansion of the program to all interested residences and increase CAPS capacity as necessary to do so for the 2016-17 school year.

To improve awareness and accessibility, incoming freshmen will be given tours of CAPS by their PHEs as a part of NSO.

We are completing revisions of a comprehensive flowchart directing students towards supportive and preventive resources such as wellness courses, iThrive events, and The Bridge that will be distributed through PHEs in the Fall.

New student ID card designs are coming. (details on the next page)

Lessons Learned

Thorough research of programs at peer institutions and student body surveying is vital to make informed recommendations.

When approaching large problems such as mental health, it is important to establish tangible goals with clear step-by-step implementation.

Collaboration with administrators can be very fruitful when approached with humility, understanding, and long-term perspective.
New ID cards are coming. Starting in the Fall, the Undergraduate and Graduate Residence Dean lines, CAPS 24/7 line, and Confidential Sexual Assault Counseling numbers will be printed on the backs of all student ID cards.
Project Spotlight
Mental Health Campus Survey

Mental Health Survey Highlights

**Awareness**

49 percent of respondents were aware that CAPS has a 24/7 line

83 percent of respondents said they desired more resources to deal with stress

79 percent of respondents said they desired more resources to deal with depression/anxiety

**Satisfaction**

33% A third of respondents said they used CAPS at some point in their Stanford careers

66% About two-thirds of CAPS users found that they benefited from doing so
Emotional Wellbeing

Accomplishments

1 The *Release.Restart.Review* anthology, a book of art and writing about the common experiences of facing and living with our emotions, was released to the entire school last quarter and was extremely well-received. *The Stanford Daily*, the *Palo Alto Weekly News*, and *TheMighty.com* have showcased the work, extending the conversation of collegiate mental health beyond the Stanford bubble.

2 The *Release.Restart.Rework* workshop series featured artists in spoken word and visual art who taught their craft to students, sharing how artistic expression can serve as an outlet for emotional distress in a variety of ways.

3 Wellness Leaders meetings held over the course of the year forged connections between wellness-oriented groups on campus to streamline and centralize wellbeing-related efforts, increase attendance, and minimize repetition.

Lessons Learned

The volume of submissions for *Release.Restart.Review* alerted to our team that Stanford artists are looking for outlets to showcase their work, and that an incredibly rich body of art has been created as emotional release by students on campus. We hope that students will be encouraged **not only to express emotional health issues through a variety of media** but also to **showcase this art** in order to generate healthy conversations about the issues Stanford students face.

After our visual arts workshop, attendees shared work they had created while thinking about a particularly emotional time in the past year. All the paintings looked vastly different, but as the artists explained the work, several common themes emerged. It served as an incredible reminder that there are many issues that all Stanford students face, and we all respond to and express these issues in different ways, but **all it takes is a chance to share our stories in our own ways to foster understanding amongst students.**
This year, our campus suffered from many challenging issues. Some issues did not correspond to our expertise or focus of the year, and so we addressed these concerns through the broader lens of mental health and wellbeing through times of stress. The result, generated from student ideas, was the Community Care Grant Program, offering students the chance to apply for $50 or $100 unrestricted grants to spend on something that they felt would bring relief to their communities. A few examples:

- Dorm dates where members of a dorm get paired up to go get coffee or froyo to get to know each other better
- Dorm creation day filled with making art to be hung up around the dorm
- Snacks and boba to share during group meetings
- Buy note-card making supplies for members of a student group to write letters to each other
- Buy candles and meditation supplies to transform a closet space into a ‘Relaxation Room’
Athletic Mental Health

Accomplishments

ASSU’s Athletic Mental Health group, Cardinal RHED (Resilience, Health, and Emotional Development), had a strong first year, even garnering attention from the NCAA as a uniquely student-athlete-run organization.

In addition to sitting down and meeting with over 200 members of the athletic community and learning their take on issues, several Cardinal RHED members helped with the hiring process of the first Director of Sports Nutrition, and soon will be helping to do the same with the a new psychologist position- the first of its kind in Stanford Athletics.

Finally, their speaker series “Stanford Outside the Lines: Diverse Perspectives on Sports” is in full swing this spring on Mondays 7:30-8:30pm in Kissick Auditorium.

Lessons Learned

Listen to all sides and perspectives

Be persistent with goals and things worth fighting for

Be patient and understanding throughout the process of bringing together many people on a common goal. ▶

Molly McNamara | Drew Coagarea | Alyssa Lombardo | Ashley Westhem | Devon Cajuste
Clemence Couteau | Cameron Miller Conrad Kaminski | Christian Brown | Charlotte Ward | Danielle Katz
Elliott Bullock | Garrett Schaner | Hannah Levy | Jaye Buchbinder | Jessica Tonn | Kaitlin Schaberg
Katie Toothman | Kristina Vaculik | Lauren Donovan | Connor Kuremsky | Meredith Fischer | Megan Lacy
Malika Waschmann | Ruth Narode | Nancy Miles | Jessica Plaza | Rachel Duam | Sophie Chase
Stefan Nastic | Taylor Rice | Valarie Allman | Justin Brinkley | Daniel Tublin
Energy & Environment

Accomplishments

1. **Established a public “Database of Institutional Knowledge”** for energy and environmental student groups to pass along important knowledge to next year’s leadership.

2. **Surveyed the student body on energy and environmental interest.** The survey, also available on the “Database of Institutional Knowledge” can be used to tailor future club activities and advertising to generate greater student involvement.

3. **Brought together the SSS Biodiversity Subgroup and the Office of the University Architect** to get student input into future landscaping and planning. SSS will be involved in the planning of the Stanford Arboretum.

Lessons Learned

**Many student groups are unaware of available resources.** This committee serves as a liaison between student groups and administrators, and helped to make sure student groups were aware of important resources.

Numbers

**More than 1,200 Students** responded to our Energy and Environmental interest survey. ▶

Emma Hutchinson | Charlie Jiang | Amanda Zerbe | Jon Bradshaw | Keyur Mehta | Maria Doerr | Akshai Baskaran
Funding

Accomplishments

1. **Passing Funding Reform** in the First Special Election!

2. Creating a **Funding Reform Guide** that outlines the New Funding Process

3. **Collaborating throughout the year** with ASSU Exec, ASSU Senate, Student Group Leaders, SAL Staff, and ASSU Financial Managers

Lessons Learned

*The top lesson we learned was making sure to engage with students and administrators at every level of the decision making process.*

- **95.63%** of votes cast were in favor of the bill.
- **30.9%** of the Stanford undergraduate population voted on the bill.
- **2,356** Total votes were cast in the election on funding reform.

Sarah Takimoto | Chris Mathy | Eric Wilson
Connections

Accomplishments

Organizing **events and workshops with over 100 student groups** to encourage collaboration and build a stronger, more connected community.

Working with Student Activities and Leadership to **design and implement new policies** for student groups.

**Connecting and advising groups** working to spread awareness of events happening on campus.

Lessons Learned

**Often the most amazing outcomes emerge just from getting the right people in the same room.** Student leaders have a tremendous amount of experience under their belt, and creating a space for knowledge sharing and collaboration can lead to exciting and unexpected outcomes.

**It’s important to recognize the historical and present role of ASSU in events happening on campus,** and approach each new group and stakeholder with humility and a focus on listening rather than telling. ▶
Worker Appreciation

Accomplishments

1. Hosted a student-worker cupcake social in Manz dining.

2. Hosted a screening of the documentary *The Philosopher Kings* and a discussion around relationships between students and workers on campus.

3. Worked with R&DE to develop strategies for building relationships between workers and students in dining halls.

Lessons Learned

*Students and workers alike are excited to build relationships with each other,* they just sometimes lack arenas or tools to make it happen.

*Changes in campus culture happen slowly, and the small day-to-day interactions can have a big impact.*

*Conversations are powerful.* *It has been great to see the small ways in which students and workers reach out to each other and broaden the conversation about these relationships.*

Miriam Natvig | Andrea Hale | Christian Leal | Sophie Clarck | Maria Victoria Diaz-Gonzalez | Katie Rose Pickthorn Joseff
Social Impact

Accomplishments

We planned the Social Impact Networking and Recruiting Event in October, which was a huge success with over 200 students and 50 organizations attending.

We kicked off the Frosh Service Liaison program in partnership with the Haas Center to create links between the freshmen class and social impact initiatives on campus.

Lessons Learned

*It is essential to build strong relationships with students and administrators alike.* We can’t do anything unless we work together! And while working with others, it is important to be flexible in setting goals and in creating sustainable partnerships.

*Leadership development is essential.* In an organization that is known for its lack of continuity and cohesion, we have learned that we need to do what we can to ensure that initiatives continue into the future. This can best be done by identifying, training, and trusting younger leaders.

Monica Dey | Salil Dudnai
Advising

Accomplishments

1. We collaborated with the Stanford Society of Women Engineers and SBSW to compile four-year plans and built a database of over 27 student contacts across majors and interdisciplinary programs.

2. Published common questions and answers documents for social sciences, natural sciences, and computer science.

3. Represented the Executive branch to select members for the Nominations Commission, which is well on its way to filling university committees this quarter.

Lessons Learned

It’s been extremely inspiring to see how willing upperclassmen are to sharing their experience and insight with underclassmen interested in similar academic areas - it might be worth formalizing this peer-to-peer knowledge sharing as part of the Stanford advising experience in the years ahead!
Fun

Accomplishments

1. Throwing **four successful tailgates** during the football season to bring together our Stanford family and show support for our team.

2. Hosting a **Bubble Soccer Tournament** open to all undergraduate students.

3. Forming a **committee in partnership with Vice Provost Boardman** with the goal of finding short-term and long-term solutions to tensions around **noise** and ensuring that a vibrant, safe student social life exists on campus. It is composed of students and pertinent University staff from ResEd, Student Life, Event Services, OAPE, SUDPS, and the Office of the General Counsel.

4. Introducing the **new ASSU Equipment Rental System**. Every undergraduate VSO will be able to rent audio and visual equipment from the ASSU for free and reduce the financial burden placed upon student groups trying to plan events. Please contact our new Equipment Manager, Tom Blackwood, at tblacky@sse.stanford.edu for questions, concerns, or equipment requests.

Lessons Learned

*We get by with a little help from our friends.*

*Never, ever underestimate the importance of fun.*

*Try to always stay focused on the objectives that are possible and the positive – and on having fun outside of everything that’s going on in our campus.*
Informing the student body and achieving transparency is always a challenge for the ASSU. This is a sampling of tools we used to maintain consistent communication.

- State of the Union address
- Quarterly Reports of Progress
- End of year presentation and celebration (LINK)
- Bi-weekly and monthly meetings with Administrators
- Dorm announcements
- Bi-weekly update emails with ASSU Exec and campus news
- Consistent town halls and listening spaces for students and administrators
Madeleine Lippey, Communications Fellow

In addition to managing ASSU’s social email accounts and helping put together the emails you’ve seen all year, my top accomplishment was working to help organize the Freshman Social Impact Liaison program, bridging organizations like the Haas Center, the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, and the Career Development Center with incoming service enthusiasts.

Chandler Mores, Operations Fellow

My top accomplishment was heading the Community Care Grants, in which I created a form, tabulated responses, and made decisions about giving grants to student groups on campus. We had over 30 responses from student groups who applied for a Community Care Grant, and it was so rewarding to hear about the amazing things the student groups did to create relief and happiness!

Camilla Franklin, Graphic Designer

My hope is that by creating clean and appealing designs for the biweekly emails, flyers, and executive updates (including the one you are currently reading) I have been able to help make the ASSU Executive’s tireless work more accessible and available to the general student body.

Matthew Baiza and Alexis Kallen, Constituent Relationship Managers
THANK YOU, STANFORD COMMUNITY
for your support throughout the year