Cabinet members in the current ASSU: 71

Hours the Exec worked this quarter: 3,250

Votes cast in favor of the funding reform bill: 2,253

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FEES: You can waive part or all of your Student Activities Fee, which supports the operations of student groups, during the first two weeks of the quarter at waivers.stanford.edu. Waivers will be issued as a credit on your University bill by the seventh week of the quarter.
HI STANFORD!

Hoping everyone enjoyed a restful winter break and that you’re back into the swing of things with winter quarter ramping up this week. Here at the ASSU, we’ve been working tirelessly to make this school year the most productive one yet. Last quarter saw a brand new streamlining of internal ASSU Executive processes that allowed us to make exciting progress within 10 short weeks. In order to keep you informed on that progress, we have compiled the highlights of our work during Fall Quarter. A few things we are really excited about:

• Finalizing our Proposal of Recommendations on sexual assault and leveraging all we have learned from the student body and national experts to facilitate a productive working relationship with the Provost’s committee. Look out for the recommendations from that committee and the Campus Climate Survey later this quarter.

• Passing comprehensive funding reform with 95% approval in our university’s first ever special election. We’re thankful for the unprecedented collaboration between student group leaders, the Senate, and our Exec team to make this happen.

• Receiving a great response, and counting, to our campus-wide mental health survey. Our Mental Health team is now working in conjunction with the administration and Vaden’s leadership to analyze your insights.

• Attracting more than 250 students to Stanford’s first ever Social Impact Career Recruiting Event, kicked off by our panel featuring Ben Rattray, Tim McManus and Heather Kirkpatrick. We were lucky to collaborate with the Haas Center, the CDC, and Stanford PACS to kick off this annual event.

• Launching a series of impactful events to support the appreciation of our grounds and custodial staff and to better connect club leaders to resources and each other through our Connections Team.

• 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.

• Producing student-wide tailgates during fall quarter thanks to our Campus Engagement Team!

Our cabinet has more details to share in the following pages. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your ASSU Exec team. We are in our final quarter now, and we’re excited for what is to come.

As always, please reach out with any questions to president@assu.stanford.edu or share your feedback here.

Happy winter quarter, and Happy 2015!

The ASSU Exec Leadership Team
Elizabeth Woodson - President
Logan Richard - Vice President
Jordan Shapiro - Chief of Staff
“Mental health issues are a leading impediment to academic success among college students....Treatment is effective and available yet because of an unnecessary shame surrounding these issues, mental health is not discussed and too many students are suffering in silence.”

– ActiveMinds

**RESEARCH**
Conducted need finding through informal conversations, town halls, and a school-wide survey of over 1,300 Stanford undergraduate and graduate students.

**COLLABORATION**
Met with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff to present findings and discuss joint initiatives to expand and improve services for students. Participated in nation-wide student leadership discussions on mental health.

**AWARENESS**
Created an infographic clarifying available mental health resources on campus to be distributed during Winter Quarter.

**WINTER QUARTER** we will take the findings from our fall quarter research and work with members at CAPS and Student Affairs to address these issues, specifically by clarifying for students the different use cases of various campus mental health resources, promoting discussion of mental health issues in the student community through campus culture initiatives, encouraging students to get help early and often, and securing funding to expand CAPS resources.
“If we all helped carry the weight of injustice, we could not bear it. And so we would finally stop tolerating what we’ve been content to force others to carry alone.”

– Alexandra Brodsky, Know Your IX Founder

Our task force completed and presented our proposed recommendations for sexual violence policy and education. After meeting with the President, the Provost, and the Provost’s Task Force, we are hopeful that decisions will include and be driven by student voices. We worked to actively engage a variety of students and communities in dialogue about various aspects of sexual assault and relationship abuse by holding moderated town hall meetings at both the Black Community Services Center and the LGBT Community Resource Center. We’ve been working on education initiatives, including an extensive FAQ sheet and a social media campaign, which we hope to release Winter Quarter.
“The problems of the ASSU were created by students, and they can be solved by students. This is our chance for a solution.”

– John Lancaster Finley ’16, Elizabeth Woodson ’15, Logan Richard ’15

Funding Reform Proposal Executive Summary

THE FUNDING REFORM BILL PASSED IN A SPECIAL ELECTION:

2,356
Total votes were cast in the election on funding reform.

95.63%
of votes cast were in favor of the bill.

30.9%
of the Stanford undergraduate population voted on the bill.

WINTER QUARTER the Funding Reform Committee will be focused on implementing the new funding system, making sure the student body is educated and informed, and initiating and maintaining communication between ASSU, the Administration, and the Stanford Community.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

READ THE BILL
“I just find it impossible to sit on the stage of Maples Pavilion and say we can’t innovate technically, that we can’t come up with new solutions to problems that are better, cheaper, cleaner. I strongly believe that our ability to solve climate change from a technical standpoint absolutely exists.”

– Tom Steyer, President of NextGen Climate and Member of Stanford’s Board of Trustees

COLLABORATION

Worked with the Office of Sustainability to discuss important areas of student interest to be incorporated into the new Sustainable.Stanford.edu website.

ENGAGEMENT

Worked with GAIA and the Office of Sustainability along with other student groups to organize the Keys to Sustainability fair on November 13th, 2014. More than 20 student clubs, academic departments, and campus institutes talked about grants, internships, majors, sustainability clubs and leadership opportunities available at Stanford.

COMMUNITY

Laid the groundwork for improvements to the energy curriculum and community. We will continue to engage with the Precourt Institute for Energy to discuss ways to improve student resources and classes.

WINTER QUARTER

We will be working with the Precourt Institute for Energy to generate student-driven recommendations for creating a more cohesive and structured undergraduate energy curriculum. We will also work to survey student interest in energy and environmental issues to find alternative ways to engage with the student body on these important issues.
ENTHUSIASM

We are building an exciting new team that will be ready to get to work on major initiatives for the rest of the year!

PARTNERSHIP

We brought together the Haas Center for Public Service, the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, and the Career Development Center to produce the first Stanford Social Impact Recruiting and Networking Event, held at the Faculty Club. The event attracted 50+ organizations and 250+ students.

COLLABORATION

We are working with various university partners and student groups to consolidate efforts around social impact programming on campus.

WINTER QUARTER

we are working on a few major initiatives: a broad, campus-wide survey to gauge interest in social impact programming and tools, new events targeting social impact careers and networking opportunities, and a renewed freshmen social impact liaison program.

CONTACT US

Monica Dey or Salil Dudani
COLLABORATION

We started off the year with an event that brought together student and administrative leaders from several mental health or emotional wellbeing affiliated groups on campus. In attendance were representatives from the Bridge, BeWell, the Resilience Project, Wellness Ed, iThrive, Vaden, Happiness Collective, the Emotional Wellbeing Team, the Mental Health Team, and others. These groups were given the chance to explain their initiatives currently in place, brainstorm new events or initiatives, brainstorm new ways to collaborate across group divides, and exchange contact information.

EXPRESSION

This quarter, we solidified our plan for our year-long arts initiative. We compiled an artistic journal featuring student art that was created in the face of some emotional struggle or to express tension. These 100-page paperback anthologies will be available for sale for the rest of the year. We have lined up a series of workshops where students will explain how they use different forms of art, from spoken word to painting, to express emotional issues and will then teach attendees how to do so themselves. This upcoming quarter, we will finalize the details of our spring quarter showcase where works by these and other artists will be on display to the school and where a mental health speak-out will occur, allowing free and candid dialogue about issues that are not otherwise present in daily conversations at Stanford.

WINTER QUARTER

We will kickstart our Release.Restart initiative. We will make the journal available for free online download or hardcopy purchase this quarter, and we will run the panel workshops over the course of this quarter. Furthermore, we will begin the logistical work for our spring showcase event and recruit artists for it. Finally, we are looking into the idea of creating an Innovation Tournament on campus, challenging students with the task of creating a tangible product to improve emotional wellbeing on campus.

“A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference”

– A.A. Milne (as Eeyore)
“The workers here are the friends we didn’t have to look for, the support we never have to question, and part of the family that we are trying to find. Thank them, as we are always sure to thank our friends and our mentors, because the place that Stanford is, and the people we hope to become, are not possible without them.”

– Maria Diaz-Gonzales, quoted from The Stanford Daily

**REFLECTION**

The Worker Appreciation team hosted a screening of the documentary The Philosopher Kings, which features the stories of janitors at elite universities. Following the screening, there was a discussion about student-worker relationships at Stanford and what we as students can and should do to strengthen these relationships.

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**OUTREACH**

Students living in a dorm likely meet the custodian or custodians in their dorm quite often, but sometimes find it difficult to start a conversation, or maybe don’t even know their name. Our team has been working with RAs across campus to increase student-worker interactions in dorms.

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**CONNECTION**

Our team has been working on establishing connections with R&DE and ResEd to foster cooperation and develop campus-wide initiatives that have the potential to create a long term impact on the culture of worker appreciation at Stanford.

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**WINTER QUARTER** we are focusing on building and strengthening student-worker interactions in dorms and in dining halls. The Worker Appreciation committee is working with RAs and R&DE to organize events and create spaces that invite students to start conversations and build relationships with workers across campus. In the meantime, make a mental note to recognize the work done by custodians, dining hall workers, grounds workers and others; take a minute to say thank you on your way out from lunch and learn the names of workers you run into every day.
“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person”

– Mother Teresa

PREPARATORY
This quarter, we created several documents that introduce the student body to specific academic areas.

SERVICE
We collaborated with ASSU Senate to select members for the 2014-15 Nominations Commission, which will appoint representatives to University Committees in the coming two quarters.

PROACTIVE
We set up mechanisms (on our website and through emails) by which additional academic and career advice can be transmitted in future quarters.

WINTER QUARTER the Advising Team hopes to build more common questions documents to ultimately cover all fields in the Stanford academic landscape. In addition, we’ll be training the NomCom members so that they are prepared to select for University Committees in the Spring. We would also love to have more upperclassmen volunteer to share their experiences and expertise in a given academic field. Check out the “Academic Expert Database” tab on our webpage to learn more.
We held networking and collaboration events that reached over 50 student group leaders. The events led to greater collaboration and knowledge sharing between groups.

We worked with a number of groups to improve event sharing at Stanford and connected them to each other.

We have been working to increase communication across all student groups to facilitate less redundancy and conflict in event planning.

“What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.”

– Kurt Vonnegut

WINTER QUARTER we will be continuing these conversations and holding more focused student group leader summits for specific focuses. We will also be working with SAL to get student leader feedback and work on ways to implement group membership policies.

Sarah Johnson
SPIRIT

We threw 4 successful tailgates during the football season to bring together our Stanford family and show support for our team. They saw record numbers in attendance. The tailgates couldn’t have been put on without the help of the IFC, ISC, SCN, and the Senior Class of 2015.

REFORM

With the help of the Graduate Student Council, we drafted and entered a bill into the ASSU Senate to create an Equipment Rental System for the undergraduate student body. The bill provides every undergraduate VSO with the ability to rent equipment (i.e. speakers, microphones, etc.) from the ASSU for free and reduce the financial burden placed upon student groups trying to plan events. We are delighted to say that the bill did pass through Senate and that the Rental system will be up and running soon!

WINTER QUARTER

We hope to implement the equipment rental system and continue to bring the student body fun events. We want to put on more tailgates this quarter to support our winter sports teams and create some new campus-wide events for everyone to enjoy.

CONTACT US

Molefi Cooper or Everett Watson