ASSU Goals

Oct 13, 2018
SSE Board of Directors - Fall Retreat

Shanta Katipamula, ASSU Executive President
ASSU Executive Goals

We stand for diversity and inclusion, housing access and affordability, student health and wellness, sexual violence policies, and graduate-undergraduate partnerships. Within all of our advocacy, we promise to center the voices of POC, queer, trans and gender nonconforming folks, FLI, women, international, and disabled students.

We will do so by insisting that not only should students be at the decision-making table, but a diverse group of students should be intentionally sought out prior to making a decision.

A particular focus for us is engaging with the Design Groups within the LRP process and ensuring that students are informed and able to engage with the Design Groups as well.

In all of our work, we are building out intentional partnerships to lay foundations for the success of future Executives.
ASSU Executive Cabinet Focus Areas

- Disability Advocacy
- Academic Diversity & Freedom
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Community Centers & Diversity
- FLI Advocacy
- Environmental Justice & Sustainability
- Sexual Violence
- Housing Equity
Disability Advocacy

- Expand Disability Studies Curriculum
- Support and organize Disability Awareness Week events
- Advocate for more accessible academics for disabled students
- Reform housing structures to be more accessible
- Create advocacy plan for A-Hub
- Support efforts to host a Disability Studies Conference
Academic Diversity

- Create a minority/underrepresented students recruitment strategy
- Work with individual departments for PhD visit/candidate weekend to identify candidate concerns and ensure acceptance of admissions
- Continue efforts to increase faculty diversity, such as through partnership with Who’s Teaching Us
- Work closely with community centers, staff, and VSOs to identify areas of concern and ways to improve the experiences of students of color and other minority students
- Compile and distribute a resources list for students of color and other minority students
- Continue the Diversity in the Field classes and investigate avenues for expansion
Academic Freedom

- Seek feedback from VSO leadership on current policies and potential avenues to changing practices and policies related to invited speakers
- Work with SAL and ASSU Undergraduate Senate to create best practices and refine funding guidelines
- Formalize a process for adjudicating Fundamental Standard violations by invited speakers
- Ensure revamped Cardinal Conversations committee encompasses diverse student representation
- Respond in a timely and principled manner to any free speech issues throughout the year
Community Centers and Diversity

- Regular CAPS support in Community Centers
- Graduate student outreach and awareness
- Meet quarterly with Community Center staff
- Provide support to the Activist Retreat
- Host a Community Centers Mixer
- Support A-Hub and FLI space
Environmental Justice and Sustainability

- Eradicate the use of Red Solo Cups on campus
- Promote the use of reusables or compostables at all campus eateries
- Work with groups to create more sustainable swag for giveaways
- Create a sustainability module for NSO
Housing Equity

- Staff training on ableism and OAE accommodations
- ResEd staff assist in Row House staff interviews to reduce nepotism
- Better communication with and awareness of Undergraduate Housing Advisory Committee and Graduate Housing Advisory Committee efforts
- Advocate for coterm housing priority increase
Sexual Violence Prevention/Title IX Policy

- Organize around DeVos’s proposed rules and participate in notice and comment
- Redefine sexual assault to follow more closely with student and common understanding of sexual assault
- Eliminate unanimity requirement
- Increase resources and awareness of domestic violence, especially for community members who are not students
Mental Health & Wellness

- PHE pay equity
- Mental health and wellness programming within dorms
- Host a mental health conference
- Support better avenues for long-term, proactive support
FLI Community Outreach and Advocacy

- Build relationships with organizations and offices that support FLI students
- Run FLI Office Hours program
- Coordinate work of ASSU with FLIP
- Support FLI Space creation
- More free and subsidized local transportation options for shopping
Undergraduate Senate Goals

- Increase the *mental health resources* on campus and students’ access to them
- Create an *environment where free speech thrives* and hate speech is addressed and corrected
- Foster an *inclusive Stanford community* that goes beyond just students and faculty, but also staff
- *Respond in a timely fashion* to on-campus student issues as they arise
Graduate Student Council Goals

Mental health/wellness of graduate students

Grad students have a 6x greater risk of suffering from anxiety and/or depression compared to the general populace, and these problems are even more prevalent among women, minority, and LGBTQ+ students. Some of the reasons for this high rate include poor relationships with advisers, the harmful culture of academia, financial stress, and a lack of access to quality mental health services.

We wish to implement mandatory training for advisers in management skills and encouraging improvements to departmental culture by developing better policies for addressing workplace grievances, harassment, and misconduct. We would also like to see Stanford expand its mental health services at CAPS. As part of building a healthier, more supportive campus for all students, we also hope to continue promoting policy changes that improve the diversity and inclusivity of our campus.
Graduate Student Council Goals

Financial Security for Grad Students

The high cost of living and lack of affordable housing in the Bay Area is a major contributor to grad student stress. Even on campus, rising housing costs sometimes outpace the annual increase in stipends, meaning that some students earn less income every year.

We would like to work with the University to set minimum stipend levels and institute guaranteed annual increases in stipend rates. Annual stipend increases must be made to outpace the rising costs of on-campus housing.

The University should invest in future construction projects that maximize the amount of on-campus housing available to graduate students, including graduate students with dependents. We will also continue fighting for affordable child care and child care subsidies for students with dependents.
Q & A

Follow-up questions?
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