



## STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S MID-YEAR REPORT

*Timothy Sensenig, Student Body President*  
*January 2015*

The mission of the Messiah College Student Government Association (SGA) remains “to provide leadership for the student body; to promote spiritual growth; to provide opportunities for students to serve others; to support and recognize quality services and activities; and to represent students before the Administration, Faculty, Board of Trustees, and surrounding community.”

In order to fulfill that mission, the Student Government Association continues to rely on over seventy clubs and organizations—including the six executive organizations on Leadership Council—as well as South Side Café, Student Senate, Peer Review Board, Student Body President’s Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps of Representatives to College Committees. The following report is meant to provide brief highlights from each of the above SGA entities and communicate to the student body and community-at-large the progress and achievements that the student leaders of Messiah College have accomplished in the past semester.

### **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT’S CABINET // Timothy Sensenig, Chair**

Student Body President’s Cabinet retains its purpose to coordinate SGA operations and functions; channel specific SGA issues to the Student Senate and its Committees; and advise and assist the Student Body President in providing unity, leadership, and purpose to the SGA. The Student Body President’s Cabinet meets twice a week.

- *Change to Election Procedures*

On October 2, 2014 the Governance Review Council (consisting of Peer Review Board, Student Senate and Student Body President’s Cabinet and chaired by the Student Body President) amended the Student Body President’s Cabinet election procedures. Rather than holding elections for all seven positions on Cabinet, the Student Body will now elect a President/Vice President pair, who will then make their nominations for the remaining five positions to Student Senate for confirmation. More details regarding the election process can be found in Section 5.4 of the SGA Governance Manual.

- *Public Relations and Marketing*

In an effort to increase visual presence and appeal on campus, the Student Body President’s Cabinet executed several publicity initiatives this semester. First, in July 2014, the Cabinet designed a new logo with assistance from the Office of Marketing and Communications in order to better complement the College’s visual identity protocols. The new logo emphasizes SGA’s connective and supportive nature in the form of a bridge. The seven cables of the bridge also represent the seven core values of SGA. Second, the Cabinet office in Larsen 202 received two major remodels in August 2014: the front glass doors to the office now sport vinyl logo decals and the back blue wall displays a Wordle of SGA principles, as well as three square frames, which will rotate pictures of the previous three Cabinets’ members. Third, in cooperation with the Student Activities Board Graphic Designer, Cabinet produced T-shirts for over 75 SGA members in all six major entities.

- *Donuts and Discussion*  
The Student Body President initiated a new series of breakfast events to which various campus groups were invited. The purpose of the events was to network and “build bridges” between students and College employees over donuts and coffee. The Fall 2014 semester guests were the Department of Safety, the Vice President for Advancement and his cabinet, and the Division of Enrollment Management.
- *Film Viewing and Talk-back Event*  
Inclusive excellence and diversity awareness continue to take precedence for the College and SGA alike. Meant to raise awareness of gender diversity and equality, the Student Body Vice President led a film viewing and discussion event using the documentary *Miss Representation*. The film focuses on how the mainstream media contribute to the underrepresentation and mistreatment of women through the way they present women and gender roles. Approximately 100 students were in attendance at the November 4 event.
- *Modesty*  
Responding to several student and faculty concerns regarding student attire on campus, specifically for fans at sporting events, the Student Body President and the two student representatives to the Community Standards Committee launched exploratory conversations with the captains of the wrestling and men’s swim teams. These focus groups sought student opinion on possible amendments to the College’s attire policy. Conversations and policy drafting are ongoing.
- *Board of Trustees Meetings*  
October 15 through 17 marked the meeting of the Messiah College Board of Trustees. As a means of bridge building and representing students, the Student Body President attended both Board Sessions I and II and the Committee on Education. For a full report of these meetings see “Inside the Board of Trustees” in Volume 95, Edition 6 of the *Swinging Bridge*. Additionally, the Board has invited the Student Body President to attend its February meetings in Naples, Florida for the first time since 1999.
- *Larsen Student Union Stage and Lighting*  
On May 1, 2014, the Student Senate approved several capital expenditures, including a \$36,800 purchase of new sound, lighting and stage equipment for the Larsen Student Union. Student Senate also approved the expansion of this project up to \$55,000, contingent on remaining funds in the capital account after other purchases. In December 2014, the College Sound, Light and Event Coordinator confirmed a total project cost of \$47,312.41. Final installation included stage platforms and legs, lighting trusses and fixtures, an audio console, upstage curtains, a podium and a dedication plaque. Students have noticed the improved lighting and sound at dances, B-Sides and other events.

#### **STUDENT SENATE // Abigail Daley, Student Body Vice President and Chair**

Student Senate remains the sole representative body to address student concerns. Senate also continues to recommend policy changes to the Student Body President’s Cabinet and College administration, faculty and staff. Student Senate meets once a week on Thursday nights and is open to all current students.

- *Student “Boarding” Safety Forum*  
On September 25, Student Senate hosted the Director of Safety for an open forum on longboarding, skateboarding, bicycling and scooter safety. In addition to Senate’s average 40-student attendance, many non-senator students attended in order to voice their concerns and ask questions. After processing the minutes from the forum, the Student Body President’s Cabinet partnered with the Department of Safety in publishing a memorandum addressing some general safety concerns on

campus. The memo was titled “Awareness Around Campus” and was distributed via mass email on October 14. Also as a result of this collaboration, the Department of Safety posted new signs at both entrances to campus that warn drivers of pedestrian and boarding traffic.

- *Forum with the College Pastor*  
The new Campus Pastor attended Student Senate on November 6. In the midst of reexamining chapel programming, College Ministries sought to gain student perspective on the chapel experience. Students shared both positive and negative experiences regarding chapel and gave recommendations for amending current programs.
- *Ad Hoc Committee to Reexamine Senate Committees*  
Having received a majority vote of confidence from the Governance Review Council on December 11, 2014, the Student Body Vice President launched an in-depth review of Student Senate Committees, including structure and organization, mission and purpose, and membership. The process will last throughout the Spring 2015 semester. To aid in this process, the Vice President called together an ad hoc committee tasked with launching a spring pilot program and making a final recommendation to Governance Review Council in May 2015.

### **PEER REVIEW BOARD // Jessica Teeter, Chair**

The Peer Review Board maintains its mission to hear student cases involving violations of College behavioral standards contained in the Community Covenant and Student Handbook, while deliberating and determining means of disciplining, educating, and restoring students who have committed infractions. The Chair of the Peer Review Board calls meetings on an as-needed basis and all proceedings are confidential.

- *Implementation of the New Disciplinary System*  
Throughout the fall semester, the Chair of the Peer Review Board worked diligently with the Peer Review Board as well as the Associate Dean of Student in implementing the pilot program for the College’s new disciplinary system. Although the Board now hears more appeals rather than sanctioning cases, the Chair remains committed to student voice and peer accountability. On December 11, 2014, the Governance Review Council added new responsibilities to the Chair’s portfolio, requiring the position to now attend extra training in August prior to every academic year.

### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL and EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATIONS // Timothy Sensenig, Chair**

Leadership Council is chaired by the Student Body President and consists of the chief executive officer (or a representative) of the Agape Center, Eyas, Multicultural Council, the Pulse, Student Activities Board (SAB) and the Chaplain Team. Leadership Council serves to foster communication between SGA officers and organizations about SGA operations and College-wide affairs in order to facilitate the effective implementation of SGA purposes and objectives. Leadership Council is required to meet at least three times a year.

- *Social Media Initiative*  
Partnering with the Dean of Students, Leadership Council pooled its resources and creativity this fall to pursue a rare task-oriented initiative that sought to increase conversation around social media use on campus. On October 14, the Council launched an open survey to measure social-media related themes among students, including “types of media used,” “reasons for using social media,” “cyberbullying” and “self-esteem.” The survey found that Facebook is the most used social medium on campus, followed by Instagram. The survey also revealed social media affect 93% of students’ self-esteem positively and 79% negatively. On December 1, Leadership Council also hosted a panel event consisting of two student leaders and two student affairs staff. The panel discussed such social media-related topics as “appropriate use,” “faith integration” and “college policy.”

**Agape Center // Matthew Unger, Director of Service Trips and Agape Center Representative**

- *Fall Break Service Trips*  
Participants on the Fall Break Service Trips have shown personal transformations and an increased commitment to service because of their trip experiences. Many of these participants returned to campus and joined the Agape Center's Outreach Teams, which means students are continuing their service at Messiah.
- *Salt & Light Chapels*  
This fall the elective chapel series Salt & Light has seen its highest student turnout in recent years, with approximately 150-180 students at each service.

**Chaplain Team // Jonathan Fuller, Student Body Chaplain and Chair**

- *Kairos*  
The Chaplain Team expresses tremendous excitement about Kairos this fall. The team continues to receive anecdotal affirmation about the intentionality of their planning and witnesses the humbling power of the Spirit moving during those chapels. Kairos averaged approximately 900 attendees per service.
- *Koinonia*  
This fall over 400 individuals have registered for Koinonia small groups. The groups include 31 all-female groups, 14 all-male groups, and four co-ed groups. Koinonia leadership also held a retreat in early October with Scott Evans.
- *Worship Conversations*  
The Chaplain Team initiated discussions with several groups of diverse Christian backgrounds. These groups explored various worship styles and preferences, and culminated in an alternate chapel on November 24 titled "Why Do You Worship Like That?" In this chapel, the Team sought to create a safe space for students from several backgrounds, including Pentecostal, Catholic, and Orthodox, to share how they became a part of their religious tradition and what they value about it. The Chapel also worked to develop mutual understanding and appreciation for various backgrounds.

**Eyas // Elyse Anderson, Chair**

- *First Year Engagement*  
Eyas continues to coordinate efforts that engage first year students and increase first year turn out at Eyas' fall events. During Welcome Week, the student-alumni council delivered M&M candies to first year dorms with short introductory messages. They also partnered with the Student Activities Board to host a booth at the Welcome Week Block Party; they handed out free t-shirts and pizza.
- *First Friday Events*  
Held on the first Friday of the academic year, the First Friday events of 2014 saw robust participation. Three hundred and fifty seniors attended Last First, 300 juniors attended Two S'More Years and 450 sophomores attended Sophomore Mugging at Orchard Hill.
- *Traditions Keeper*  
A Traditions Keeper is a journal template that students would receive during Welcome Week and carry with them throughout their four years at Messiah. They would use it to document a variety of student experiences, and therefore have something tangible by which they can remember their individual and unique time at Messiah. Eyas launched exploratory meetings with a variety of departments on campus, including the Dean of Students' Office and the Office of Marketing and Communication, in order to gather a list of official traditions and receive feedback on the idea.

### **Multicultural Council // Cora Hines, Student Body Vice President of Diversity Affairs and Chair**

- *Global Fusion*  
Multicultural Council welcomed students back to campus on September 4 with cultural beverages, music and dancing. Over 250 students attended this welcome party.
- *Celebrating the Legacy Reception*  
Multicultural Council partnered with the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations to host a reception for alumni of the Council. This October 18 event celebrated the founders of each Multicultural Council organization and hosted the announcement of the Multicultural and International Impact Award.
- *Open Council*  
Over 80 students attended an “open council” alternate chapel event on October 22. Titled “What’s Going on in Ferguson?” the chapel examined initial reports out of Ferguson, Missouri through video clips, discussion, question and answer and a faculty panel. Multicultural Council held a follow up chapel event on December 3 called “What’s Going on In Ferguson Part 2.” Council has also hosted two other events focused on micro-aggression and inclusion on campus.

### **The Pulse // Lauren Piccioni, Student Director**

- *Welcome Week*  
This year the Pulse covered more Welcome Week events than ever before. The media hub also focused on visibility and reach, including a booth outside South Side Café during the Friday night Block Party.
- *Homecoming Weekend*  
The Pulse reported and/or photographed approximately 95% of Homecoming events this past October 17 and 18. This is the first time the organization has been present at almost every Homecoming activity.
- *Antares Rocket Launch*  
Out of 300 applicants, the Pulse’s Social Media Manager was one of the fifty media representatives selected to attend NASA’s Antares Rocket Launch on October 28. The Pulse was also the only college media organization on site to witness the rocket’s explosion six seconds after takeoff.

### **Student Activities Board (SAB) // Alexa Kern, President**

- *“Oh, Honey” at B-sides*  
The band “Oh, Honey” put on a performance that had students dancing and singing along with their music. At one point they even played a few acoustic songs in the crowd in front the stage. The event brought in approximately 400 people, which is one of the largest B-Sides’ audiences in SAB history.
- *Student Talent First Fridays*  
First Fridays are new to SAB this year. The inaugural First Friday of the semester witnessed about 150 students in attendance. The event included multiple musical acts, artwork displayed throughout the venue, brown paper tablecloths for students to make their own art, and free ice cream served by South Side Café.
- *Redesign of SAB Logos*  
This semester SAB focused on strategic planning for the future and reforming outdated traditions. One reformation the Board achieved was the re-branding of the individual executive logos. The SAB

Graphic Designer's goal was to capture each SAB position in a simple but meaningful logo.

### **SOUTH SIDE CAFÉ // Brittney Radford, Student Manager**

As an SGA venture and subsidiary, the goal of South Side Café is to enhance community development at Messiah College by hosting club events and providing “hangout” space for students. Secondary goals of the Café include assisting in the educational process by giving practical, real-life training to students who are interested in entrepreneurship or business.

- *Event Hosting*  
South Side Café has seen an increase in club events this year. Among others, SAB First Fridays and President Phipps' Belated Birthday Party have made the space an active location for socializing.
- *Menu Options*  
The Café has doubled its menu options this fall. It now also offers seasonal products and is working to expand its hot beverage menu.
- *Long-term Strategic Planning*  
In light of ongoing concerns about the long-term financial stability of South Side Café, the Student Body President's Cabinet has partnered with the South Side Café Student Manager in considering alternative long-term strategies for the south complex facility. These plans range from restructuring of the café's management and governance to a change in product. Projects are also being considered that would require remodeling the space and students can expect more details in February or March of 2015.

### **DIPLOMATIC CORPS to COLLEGE COMMITTEES // Timothy Sensenig, Coordinator**

The Student Body President continues to appoint students to twenty-eight College governing and operational committees and coordinate efforts among these student representatives, who are collectively known as the “Diplomatic Corps” to College Committees.

- *Training and Scheduling*  
In Spring 2014, the Governance Review Council moved the appointment of Student Representatives to College Committees from the fall semester to the spring semester prior to these students' term in office. Moving the appointments earlier in the year has allowed for more training and better scheduling of Committee meetings across campus. On Friday, August 29 over 30 of the 36 diplomats attended a three-hour training session with the Provost, Dean of Students, SILP Director and Student Body President. The session focused on different facets of College governance and principles of representation.
- *Dining Services Liaison*  
During the Spring 2014 appointment process, the Student Body President-elect created a new position to strengthen the communication between the Student Body and Dining Services. For its first year, two students occupy the position. The student representatives held an open forum at Student Senate on October 16 to receive student perspective on topics such as the meal plan and menu options. On November 20, the student representatives also sent out an open survey to the Student Body collecting data and opinion from students with food allergies and alternative diet needs.

Any questions, comments or concerns regarding this mid-year report may be sent to [SGA@messiah.edu](mailto:SGA@messiah.edu).

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