

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016-2017

Dear HLS Community,

Thank you for helping to make this year so successful. Below, we list some of Student Government's accomplishments from the past year. Virtually every item on this list was made possible by a student who brought an issue to our attention and then worked with us to improve it.

Together, we were able to make a substantial difference. We saved an estimated \$30,000-\$45,000 for admitted students through our ASW Peer Housing Program. We reformed the printing system, which students overwhelmingly reported was an improvement. We secured improvements in Title IX trainings during orientation. For these reforms and everything else in this report, we couldn't have done it without you.

This year, we set out to make Student Government a medium for students to reform campus policies and have a voice in the way their school is run. We hope that we have vindicated the trust you placed in us.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Nino Monea & Robin Ladd  
Student Body President and Vice President 2016-17

## CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### Pilot ASW Peer Housing Project Saved Students \$30,000-45,000

We designed, organized, and implemented the first ever ASW Peer Housing Program. Under the program, admitted students can reduce lodging costs by staying with current students while visiting campus.

**4.6/5**

★★★★☆  
Overall rating of 4.4/5 from admitted student participants

### Played an Active Role in the HLS Dean Search

After soliciting student feedback, student leaders met with President Drew Faust to discuss the most important qualities and priorities for the new dean. The top student priorities are:

- 1 Responsiveness to student concerns
- 2 Reforming the law school curriculum
- 3 Commitment to diversity
- 4 Support for public interest careers
- 5 Transparency

Student Government also passed resolution that contained questions for dean candidates to answer regarding those student priorities, and got it ratified through the Harvard Graduate Council.

### Second Annual Teaching and Advising Award

Student Government's Teaching and Advising Award is an annual, highly competitive accolade for the purpose of recognizing exemplary instruction and mentorship among the faculty. This year's winners were:

- Mark Wu  
Susannah Barton Tobin  
I. Glenn Cohen  
Patricia Whiting

### HLS 300 Project

<http://hls300.org/>

In honor of the law school's bicentennial, the HLS 300 Project was the spirit of HLS's mission statement to "educate leaders who contribute to the advancement of justice and the wellbeing of society." The project highlights inspiring HLS alumni, pressing legal challenges facing society, and vocational goals of current students. It will be active throughout the next year as well.

## POLICY REFORMS ACHIEVED

### Secured Hark Improvements

The Student Affairs Committee regularly met with the Hark staff throughout the year to launch new initiatives. These include:

- OPEN** Earlier opening time for Pub Grille
- Rotating breakfast options
- Greater selection of drinks in The Pub

### Achieved Hemenway Gym Reforms

Members of the Women's Association and Student Government met with the Athletics Department to improve the experience of women in the gym. These improvements include:

- Shifts to the first floor weight room
- Adding a "Women and Weights" class to the rotation
- Providing one-on-one and small group weight area training sessions

### Calculators for the Library

Responding directly to student concerns, we got the library to agree to provide calculators at the circulation desk for exams. They have already become popular checkout items.

### New Title IX Training

Secured improvements in Title IX training during orientation, and currently working to improve the level of diversity in orientation.

### Responded to Hate Propaganda

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee coordinated the drafting of a joint student government/affinity group statement in response to hate propaganda in the fall directed at affinity group listservs.

And we fixed that the WCC Student Org Lounge door used to make!

## STRENGTHENING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Student Funding Board Distributed over \$100,000

The Student Funding Board distributed over \$100,000 to student organizations to fund everything from lunch talks to conferences. This year, Student Government also increased funding for student organizations.

**\$100K**



### Approved Six New Student Organizations

Several new student organizations were approved after demonstrating long-term viability and the fulfillment of an unmet need on campus. The approval process was led by the Director of Student Organizations. New organizations include:

- 1 Joint JD/MPP Student Association
- 2 West Coast Law Students Association
- 3 Reproductive Justice Initiative
- 4 Students for Life
- 5 Space Exploration and Admiralty Law Students Association
- 6 Business and Human Rights Society

### Passed Resolution Supporting Childcare Reimbursement

Student organizations are currently not allowed to spend their own money to reimburse for childcare. Student Government unanimously passed a resolution calling on the University to change this policy, and won the support of the Harvard Graduate Council as well.

## ADVOCATING FOR REFORM

### Policy Reports

To preserve the efforts of students on reforms that have not yet been realized, we produced several policy reports analyzing key issues at HLS. All are available on our website.

<https://orgs.law.harvard.edu/studentgovernment/about-us/policy-reports/>

- Lunch Buffer
- Socioeconomic Diversity
- Politics at HLS
- Mandatory Semester Survey
- Measuring Alumni Employment

### Held Dozens of Meetings with Administrators

Student Government members held dozens of meetings with administrators throughout the year to advocate for policy changes. Some of the offices we've met with included:

**Registrar:** streamline course registration and improve academic advising

**Faculty Hiring Committee:** give students a voice in faculty hiring decisions

**Office of Clinical & Pro Bono Programs:** create an Elected Office Clinic and Pro Bono Days

**Dean of Students' Office:** improve parental leave, nursing rooms, and Title IX policies

**Dean Minow:** doing more to address gender-based grade disparities, recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, and extending the lunch period

### Joined Harvard Graduate Council in Condemning Federal Muslim Ban



## COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

<p><b>Super Bowl party open to all students</b></p>	<p><b>Salute to Students to celebrate the end of classes</b></p>	<p><b>Letter to a Law Student Interested in Social Justice</b></p>
<p><b>Fifteen professor lunches (all booked solid)</b></p>	<p><b>Public Interest Scavenger Hunt, which raised over \$10,000 thanks to hundreds of students</b></p>	<p><b>Organized a build day with Habitat for Humanity</b></p>

## IMPROVED STUDENT GOVERNMENT

### Record Numbers for Student Government

During the fall semester, we had 78 members of Student Government who were either elected officials, appointed officials, or members of one of our committees.

2013-2014 had 19 members, 2014-2015 had 21 members, and 2015-2016 had 56 members. The elected and appointed leadership is majority women and majority people of color.



### New Bylaws

In the fall, we passed new bylaws to better serve the organization. The bylaws were adopted unanimously by the Student Council.

Created the Public Interest Committee to strengthen the public interest community on campus, improve policies affecting public interest careers, and foster a spirit of public service among students.

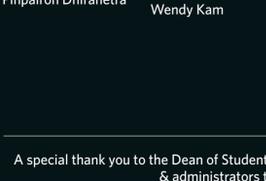
- 1 Endorsing the the HUDS strike
- 2 Supporting a bar prep reimbursement program for public interest students
- 3 Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 4 Supporting the creation of an addiction law journal at HLS.

## REFORMING THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AT HLS

### Reformed the Printing System

We replaced the old HLS printing system, which often suffered from jams, delays, and software hiccups. The revamped system allows you to release your documents from anywhere on campus!

In a poll of the Student Body, three-quarters of students who were familiar with the old system thought that the new system was an improvement.



### Class Recordings on Election Day

On an election day, classes were recorded so that students were free to engage in related activities such as voting, helping out at polling stations, or volunteering for a campaign, without fear of falling behind in their classes.

### Online Course Syllabi

We secured student access to course syllabi online in advance of class registration, and view a new online syllabi archive.

### Extending Library Hours

Succeeded in getting the library to agree to extend the hours during finals and the Law Review competition. This provides students with a quiet, consistent place to study.

## RESHAPING CAMPUS

### Accessible Computers

We obtained new desks for the WCC computers to make them wheelchair compatible.

### Public Fridge

Working with other students, a new public fridge was added to the Student Org Lounge in the WCC to reduce food waste. Extra food from events can be stored there for anyone to take.

### New features at the Library

After students raised concerns, we got the library to agree to offer calculators for checkout for classes that require them, and to install more standing desks for students to use while studying.

### Table Tennis @ the Pub

Student Government purchased a table tennis converter top for the pool table in the Pub. Students now have more entertainment options in the Pub.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

<p><b>Cosponsored Self-Care Workshop with HALT &amp; OSAPR</b></p>	<p><b>Organized 2nd Student Leadership Summit</b></p>	<p><b>Health &amp; Wellness Committee hosted Title IX Office Hours</b></p>
<p><b>Record-breaking fundraising for Thanksgiving Charity Dinner</b></p>	<p><b>Hundreds attended our Halloween Party</b></p>	<p><b>Grad Student Unionization Town Hall with BSA</b></p>

## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to our team, without whom, these accomplishments would not have been possible.

**Director of Student Organizations:** Adrian Perkins

**Treasurer:** Jerry Ting

### HLS Student Government Members 2016-2017

**Director of Communications:** Maseeh Moradi



### Diversity & Inclusion

**Chairs:**  
Cam Clark & Carl Wiersum  
Stanley Nweke-Eze  
Joseph De Jesus  
Emmah Knisa  
Senge Wabuke  
Alexander Andresian  
Shreya Ramesh  
Sana Warraich  
Anika Khan  
Roy Sengupta  
Pamela Amaechi

### Student Orgs & Journals

**Chair:**  
Adrian Perkins  
Lane Kauder  
Sam Spearman  
William Smith  
Samuel Sagartz  
Jane Jeong  
Rick Houghton

### Health & Wellness

**Chair:**  
Katherine Leung  
Josh Silver  
Haydn Forrest  
Cameron Pritchett  
Elyssa Spitzer  
Denise Louise  
Nakiyaga Babirye  
Maddie Reddick  
Nehaa Chaudhari

### Public Interest

**Chair:**  
Pete Davis  
Dani Chediak  
Sabrina Gharb Lee  
Maseeh Moradi  
Candace Hensley  
Wai Teng  
Joanne Leong  
Jared Lax  
Anna Khalfauqi  
Grace Esi Sackey  
Amanda First

### Events

**Chairs:**  
Shivani Agarwal & Jazzmin Carr  
Erika K. Solanki  
Melissa Mikail  
Helga Gudmundsdottir  
Samantha Henderson  
Pinpairoh Dhiranetra

### Community Service

**Chair:**  
Kelly Earle  
Anna Gee  
Grace Truong  
Fatima AlQubaisi  
Mathieu Kogmann  
Wendy Kam

### Student Affairs

**Chair:**  
Natalie Vernon  
Monica Kwok  
Kerry Richards  
Tyra J. Walker  
Aaron Wilke  
Aarin Wiltse  
Jeahn Favors  
Leilani Doktor  
Regina Powers  
Ahmed Sadik  
Sarah Benzidi

### Academic Affairs

**Chair:**  
Raj Salhotra  
Paul Kominers  
Shilomo Ickovitz  
David Heckman  
Feji Lawoyin  
Julio Rivera Rios  
Oriol Valentí Vidal  
Joseph Gallardo  
Dennis Dillon  
Mario Nguyen

A special thank you to the Dean of Students Office and to all of the other students, staff, faculty, & administrators that we worked with this year.