

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 created in 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, projecting 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** Pub Grille: Earlier opening time for Pub Grille
- Rotating breakfast options
- Greater selection of drinks in The Pub

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.

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

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.

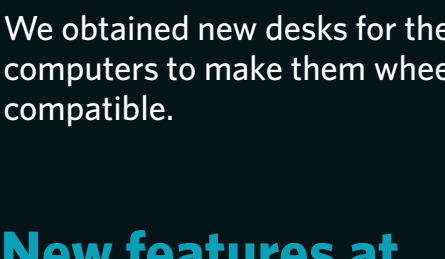
And we fixed that the WCC Student Org Lounge door used to make!

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



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.

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

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

Research

Our Committees compiled research on the following topics to improve our understanding and allow us to more effectively advocate for reforms

Maternity and paternity leave policies of the law school

Clinical employment patterns at peer institutions to gain comparative data in order to improve HLS's treatment of clinical faculty.

Past visiting professors who offer HLS valuable diversity in areas such as race, sex, scholarship, and course offerings.

Title IX training given to students

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

Muslim Ban

COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

- Super Bowl party open to all students**
- Letter to a Law Student Interested in Social Justice**

- Salute to Students to celebrate the end of classes**
- Organized a build day with Habitat for Humanity**

- Fifteen professor lunches (all booked solid)**
- Public Interest Scavenger Hunt, which raised over \$10,000 thanks to hundreds of students**

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.

78 members
Fall 2016

Speaking with the Voice of the Student Body through Student Resolutions

In order to represent the opinion of the Student Body on important issues affecting our school and community, we passed several formal Student Resolutions this semester. Resolutions included:

- 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.

3/4 of students found improvement.

Criminal Procedure: Investigations

We worked with the administration to ensure there will be a Criminal Procedure: Investigations course in Spring 2017. The class will be taught by Tracey MacLinn, a professor from Boston University Law School.

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.

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.

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.

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

- Cosponsored Self-Care Workshop with HALT & OSAPR**
- Organized 2nd Student Leadership Summit**
- Health & Wellness Committee hosted Title IX Office Hours**

- Record-breaking fundraising for Thanksgiving Charity Dinner**
- Hundreds attended our Halloween Party**
- Grad Student Unionization Town Hall with BSA**

MEMBERSHIP

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

HLS Student Government Members 2016-2017

Director of Student Organizations: Adrian Perkins
Treasurer: Jerry Ting
Director of Communications: Maseeh Moradi

Health & Wellness

Chair: Katherine Leung
Josh Silver
Haydi 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 Khalafau
Grace Esi Sackey
Amanda First

Events

Chairs: Shivi Aggarwal & 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 Wilkerson
Leilani Doktor
Regina Powers
Ahmed Sadik
Sarah Benzidi

Academic Affairs

Chair: Raj Salhotra
Paul Kominers
Shilomo Ickovitz
David Heckman
Feiyi 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.

