



# HLS Student Government

## Annual Report 2019 – 2020

### Academics

- Advocated for LRW reform, including for the hiring of additional instructors, mitigation of the variation in the Climenko Fellow experience, increased frequency of interim assessments and peer-to-peer feedback, among other improvements.
- Conducted a student body-wide survey and canvas to learn student grievances and areas of concern relating to Academic Affairs at HLS.
- Produced a comprehensive report on course evaluations to the administration, demonstrating strong student support for reform of course evaluations, particularly inclusion of a qualitative response question, and met with the administration about implementing these reforms.
- Recommended a more flexible class recording policy to protect students unable to attend for unanticipated reasons.
- Collaborated with BSAs on further improvements to LRW.
- Advocated for the widespread deployment of printers with internal stapling enabled.

### Mental Health

- Secured the release of School's 2017 Mental Health Survey data.
- Drafted student letter to Dean Manning charting a path ahead for mental health surveys.
- Gathered student input on priorities for improved health and wellness, and provided a report to Dean Manning.
- Supported launch of [\*Prioritizing Wellbeing\*](#) video series, which provided curated responses to the questions that cause the most anxiety for 1Ls, to ensure that student mental health needs are addressed, and not stigmatized.

### Advocacy

- Raised student concerns to HLS leadership to support administrator decision-making during the COVID-19 response.
- Demanded HLS response to incident with racist emails.
- Supported student organizers of Disorientation.
- Advocated for greater student access to booking options for HLS rooms.
- Championed the provision of additional free coffee for students.
- Advocated for the creation of a new shield through the HLS Shield Working Group

### **Community Building**

- Advocated for the creation of a new shield through the HLS Shield Working Group.
- Organized HLS's First Custodial & Dining Staff Appreciation Week, which showcased portraits and stories of several members of the staff
- Launched new school-wide events, including:
  - Apple Picking trip
  - Halloween Costume Contest
  - Custodial & Dining Staff Appreciation Week
  - HLS gAme (Ping Pong tournament)
  - Harvard Paw School x 2
- Supported the successful execution of several annual HLS-wide events, including:
  - Orientation
  - Boda Borg
  - 1L Cup
  - HLS Talks x 3
  - Harry Potter Trivia at the Pub
  - Thanksgiving Dinner
  - Halfway Through Harvard
- Advocated for greater student input in the planning of Class Day and Commencement.

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

- Publicized and recruited among student-of-color groups for selection to the Ad Board.
- Successfully partnered with the Admissions Office in setting up and staffing HLS booth for the Leadership Brainery.
- Received preliminary approval for the launch of a Diversity Preview Day in Fall 2020 for students interested in HLS.
- Received preliminary approval for an official Admissions video featuring students of color speaking about their experiences at HLS.

### **Admitted Students & 1L Sections**

- Facilitated a host-matching program for visiting admitted students.
- Supported the planning and execution of team-building exercises for 1L Orientation.
- Revived almost-defunct 1L Section Cup celebrations.
- Increased 2L and 3L Section reunion budget to \$300.
- Championed alumni mentoring through Amicus at first-ever Alumni Mentoring Panel.

### **Resolutions**

- Resolution in favor of HGSU strike authorization.
- Resolution on Religious Liberties Clinic asking school to uphold its nondiscrimination policies.
- Resolution on petition for dining workers.
- Resolution calling for an election day holiday.
- Resolution demanding an improved class recording policy.

- Resolution asking for future election days off.

### **Student Organizations**

- Allocated \$160,000 (the most ever) to HLS Student Organizations.
- Inaugurated the Student Organization Leader breakfast series.
- Approved the following new organizations:
  - Harvard Law School Coram Deo
  - Harvard Law School Descendants
  - Harvard Law School Video Game Association
  - Harvard Law School Film Society
  - Harvard Law School Plaintiffs' Law Association
  - Harvard Law School Armenian Students Association
  - Harvard Law School Rowing Club

### **Internal**

- Revamped Student Government website (in style, organization, clarity, and currency).
- Distributed internal advocacy guides and reference documents to elected representatives.
- Amended Bylaws on release of election vote counts.
- Passed constitutional amendment to codify transition dates.

Princess Daisy Akita & Daniel Egel-Weiss  
Student Body Co-Presidents

### **2019 – 2020 Student Government**

William “Billy” Wright, Chief of Staff  
Sarah Rutherford, Director of Student Orgs  
Hannah Dawson, Director of Comm./3L Rep  
Joey Montgomery, Treasurer  
Vivianna Hanley, Academic Affairs Co-Chair  
Ebony Slaughter-Johnson, Academic Affairs Co-Chair  
Maya Pendergrass, Community Service Chair  
Armani Madison, Diversity & Inclusion Chair  
Josh Martin, Events Chair/2L Rep  
Phebe Hong, Health & Wellness Co-Chair  
Matthew Elkwood, Health & Wellness Co-Chair  
Faith Jackson, Student Affairs Chair  
Katie Bruck, Public Interest Co-Chair  
Megan Jones, Public Interest Co-Chair  
Brooke Davies, HLS Talks Co-Chair  
Zachary Weinstein, HLS Talks Co-Chair

Nick Pellow, 3L Rep  
David Shea, 3L Rep  
Noelle Graham, 2L Rep  
Daniel Sieradzki, 2L Rep  
Mark Haidar, 1L Rep  
September McCarthy, 1L Rep  
Irfan Mahmud, 1L Rep  
Velo-Vincent van Houden, 1L Rep  
Erin Savoie, 1L Rep  
Ivanka Diaz Canzius, 1L Rep  
Kathryn Reed, 1L Rep  
Ryan Gribbin-Burket, Transfer Rep  
Nayara Ferreira Araujo Alves, LL.M Rep  
Daniel O’Farrill Cortes, LL.M Rep  
Jackie Mwangi, S.J.D Rep