

Dear Fellow Students,

Year after year, the Associated Student Government (ASG) hears the same complaint, "You don't do anything." After one quarter, we are able to confidently invalidate that accusation. You can find us in the ASG office past midnight on most nights, but that doesn't tell you enough. Below you will find a summary of what we were actually doing in there, including both what we have done to help build a stronger organization and what we are doing to improve life at Northwestern. As you review our projects, please keep in mind that student services like the Chicago Express don't just pop up overnight because the ASG wanted them badly enough; they happened as a result of ongoing efforts and interactions with the administration. Accomplishment should be defined both by the visible success at the moment, and also by sustained work over months and years.

ASG OCHE

After a year of planning and meeting with administrators, we have finally been able to set up ASG Off-Campus Housing Evaluations (OCHE), local housing evaluations available to students looking to live off-campus. Students are currently being asked to evaluate their off-campus housing. Those reviews will be anonymously placed in a database that will serve as a resource for students that are apartment-hunting for next year. We hope that the program will get landlords to work harder to improve their facilities this year as well. Check out the site at <http://asg.northwestern.edu/services/asgoche>

RideShare

It makes little sense for each student to pay \$40 to get to the airport whenever the quarter begins and ends. We have been working on organizing a discounted airport shuttle that comes to campus and is available to students during popular travel times, but we still have several administrative hoops to jump through in order to make that happen. In the meantime, we've provided you with a list of all the different ways that you can get to the airport along with RideShare, an online system that facilitates cab-sharing.

ASGPAL

The process of selecting a major can be challenging. We created the ASG Peer Academic Link to facilitate that process. We are currently collecting student reviews, but soon students will be able to gain insight into different majors through their peers' experiences. Check out the site at <http://asg.northwestern.edu/asgpal>.

ASG URD

The ASG Undergraduate Research Database is the one-stop shop for all the undergraduate research opportunities provided at and/or through Northwestern University. This database contains research opportunities for all six undergraduate schools, Undergraduate Research Grants, Office of Fellowships, and Study Abroad. Check out the site at <https://asg.northwestern.edu/asgurd/>

Chicago Express

For the past year, ASG has been working to establish a Saturday intercampus shuttle, and this year, the shuttle began to run. During fall and winter quarters, the shuttle will operate on a trial basis. If it is utilized regularly, the Chicago Express will become a permanent fixture. Find the shuttle schedule at www.univsvcs.northwestern.edu/shuttles

NUDecides

We worked with Student Affairs and the Multicultural Center to create NUDecides, a nonpartisan committee dedicated to promoting informed voting for the 2008 presidential election. The program registered over 1000 students, the highest proportion of any student body in the country, and organized a series of informative programming.

Fall Activities Fair

An all-time record of nearly 230 student groups and clubs set-up booths at this year's activities fair, and over 2000 students attended to check them out. This year, we made a unique addition to the well-loved fair: a performance area on the ground floor of Norris where students could see the performance groups in action.

Community Picnic

We kicked off the school year by hosting a community picnic that allowed members of the Evanston community, Northwestern students and Northwestern administrators to meet and discuss their expectations for one another.

Vice President and HR Director Pilot Positions

In order to increase our organization's efficiency, we established Vice President and Director of Operations as pilot positions to trial this year. We have selected students to fill the positions and look forward to reviewing the differences the new Executive Members have made to the organization.

Off-Campus Housing Guide

Throughout last quarter and winter break, we have been working on a resource guide to help students as they look to rent their first apartments or houses. The guide is finished and will be distributed online and in person during the first weeks of winter quarter.

Academic Advising Fair

On November 5th, we hosted a fair that allowed students to come meet with advisors from all the different schools and programs on campus. Students were able to get answers to all their questions and network with university figures.

Video Lectures

For the past year, we have been working on implementing technology that would allow lectures to be recorded. NUIT has already instituted video capture technology on the NU Chicago campus. Over the next few months, we will continue lobbying the administration to fund NUIT so that they can install video capture technology in smart classrooms on the Evanston campus. If we are unable to secure funding, we will strive to implement audio capture as a first step. Regardless of the success of those initiatives, within the next few months we should have an iTunesU page with academic and special event content available to students.

My Little Purple Book

We understand how difficult it is to market student group events, and we have heard your criticisms of NULink. That's why we created mylittlepurplebook.com, a student-friendly event guide and listserv. Visit the site online and sign-up for the listserv at www.mylittlepurplebook.com.

reNU Week

In order to promote a healthy finals week, we organized free meditation sessions and exercise classes to help reduce your stress.

Rosenthal Amendment

We proposed a bill that would increase the accountability of Senators by requiring that Senators host forums and regularly communicate with their constituents. The bill was passed in Senate and will be taking effect at the beginning of winter quarter. While many of the Senators this year already hold themselves accountable, this bill allowed a promise to be made for future Senators as well.

oNe Northwestern Project

We created an ad-hoc committee dedicated to building a new Northwestern tradition- one that celebrates our Northwestern identity. We spent fall quarter establishing the committee, building a collaborative effort with student leaders across campus. We have sought funding and support from administrators and have planned a series of unique, large-scale events. You will see oNe Northwestern in action throughout winter quarter.

Minority Enrollment Committee

During fall quarter, we established a Minority Enrollment Committee aimed at increasing minority enrollment at Northwestern. In early December, we brought 72 Chicago Public School students from the US Empowered Program for an overnight visit to NU so that they could learn more about Northwestern and interact with student mentors. We also started working on a College Preparation Guide for minority/low-income students that will prepare them for the college application process and college life. We will continue to work on the guide next quarter.

Little Instructions for Life at NU

We don't want any student to graduate without experiencing everything that Northwestern has to offer. That's why we created and gifted new students with a Little Instructions poster that could serve as an informal "to-do at Northwestern" list.

In the Know

In order to keep students informed, we created In the Know, a brief and fun summary of what happens in Senate each week. It's sent out to administrators along with all the Senators so that they can pass it on to their constituents.

Big Bite Nite

On Sunday, October 28th, we hosted a student-wide event in downtown Evanston. Students were invited to taste food from 28 participating Evanston restaurants. With over 1500 attendees, the event was a huge success with unprecedented attendance.

We hope that this overview has helped you see what we have been working on in the ASG office last quarter. We are doing much more and this only serves as an interim update on **some** of our initiatives. Keeping in mind the costs of pursuing any project, we'd love to hear your feedback along with what you would like to see prioritized during the upcoming quarter. Feel free to contact your senator to address your comments and concerns, and you're always welcome to attend Senate every Wednesday at 7PM in the Norris Northwestern room or contact any of us at any time!

Sincerely,

The ASG Executive Board