



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
STUDENT
GOVERNMENT

SUMMER REPORT

2019/2020

PREPARED BY
COLIN LAKADAT - CABINET DIRECTOR

WHERE WE ARE NOW

After 100 years of an organized Student Government, here is where we are.

As the University of Iowa Student Government approaches its first centennial, our one mission has always stayed the same-- to empower and represent the students at the University of Iowa. This year we hope to build better opportunities for students to come by focusing on fiscal, environmental, and social sustainability. In order to institutionalize our efforts so that they exist for years to come, a close care to these three sustainable pillars is necessary. This year, we hope to continue our outreach efforts by creating programming and events that allow students to give UISG honest feedback about how they believe campus could be improved for everyone. We believe that the best way to improve the lives of students is to not only hear what they say, but also turn it into action.

This year we intend to make the internal structural changes to UISG so that UISG has the stage set for an even more successful next 100 years. As is the goal of most University departments, we hope that we can help students have a positive experience at this university so that they can graduate in order to go on and do great things in the world.



Colin Lakadat
Cabinet Director



UISG TOP 10

Our top 10 accomplishments from Summer 2019

1 ABTS

Continuing our efforts to connect the BIG network, Iowa hosted the Summer 2019 Association of Big 10 Students Conference. Delegates from all 14 BIG Universities voted on legislation and resolutions.



2 Legislative Road Trip

Visiting legislators across the state of Iowa helps us get a head start in advocating for policies that help students thrive. We hope to push for Medical Amnesty and a mandatory Move-In Checklist this legislative session.

3 HawkIdeas



HawkIdeas.uiowa.edu is a petition website for students. This site allows students to share ideas on how to improve campus life.

4 Textbook Donations

Continuing this program, UISG has had it's most successful program yet-- donating a valued \$20,000 of books back into local libraries, university facilities, and to students.



5 P3 Involvement

Having a student voice at the table for this huge undertaking ensures that students know and are involved throughout the process. Sustainability is a key aspect of the proposed deal and a real concern students have as we turn towards the future.

UISG TOP 10

Our top 10 accomplishments from Summer 2019

6 A Fresh Look

Renovations to the UISG office make the space a much more welcoming and open location to students to visit.



7 Presidential Summit

In Washington D.C, former UISG President, Hira Mustafa was named 2018-2019 Student Body President of the Year.

8 Webpage Make Over

With help from our Communications Team, UISG now has a much more dynamic and resourceful website. We hope to make our website a hub for student resources on and off of campus.

9 Strengthening Bonds

Many of our cabinet members spent the summer creating relationships with campus partners. Cultural Centers, SOBO, and the Dean of Students Office are just a few of the partners UISG has worked with thus far.

10 2019-2020 Platform

After careful and thoughtful planning, the UISG 2019-2020 platform is complete. The full platform is listed later in this report.



OPERATIONAL BUDGET

Each year, UISG allocates approximately \$180,000 into an Operational Budget. Below is a breakdown of how that money is allocated for the 2019-2020 term.

UISG FY 19 Operational Budget: All portions of the Operational Budget aside from the 'Programming' section contain initiative funding, stipend funding, and internal functionality funding.

Note from the Finance Team:

This summer has been a productive one for the UISG Finance Team! We have been working on comprehensive reforms to the funding guidelines and introducing new policies surrounding Sponsored Student Organizations (SSOs). The Finance Team is also introducing financial reports which will be viewable during the Director of Finance's office hours. We will also be introducing office hours on-demand where student organizations can request a member of the Finance Team to attend their meeting. This year our goal is to be as transparent as possible and we would love to hear from you if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!

Director of Finance - Adam Burghduff || Adam-Burghduff@uiowa.edu

Deputy Director of Finance - Brooke Stout || Brooke-Stout@uiowa.edu

SABAC Committee Chair - Zoe Hamstreet || Zoe-Hamstreet@uiowa.edu

For full information about UISG's Operational Budget, please see uisg.uiowa.edu for a full line item breakdown including programming, stipend payments, and legislative/judicial budgets.

2019-2020 PLATFORM

Over the summer, the UISG 2019-2020 Platform was finalized. Below you can find each section of the platform separated by pages.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Bolster academic support on campus

- Expand Supplemental Instruction, residence hall tutoring, and writing center offerings, especially for upper level classes and underrepresented areas of study
- Improve training and accessibility for SDS related academic support systems

Work with the Honors Program to improve accessibility

- Collect feedback from current and former honors students to identify struggles in the completion of these programs
- Launch a marketing campaign about the Honors program to improve involvement and opportunities to all students
- Recommend National Coalition Building Institute training for Honors staff
- Request more affordable Experiential Learning options for the Honors Program

Promote resources related to academic success

- Launch an annual scholarship fair in conjunction with the Office of Financial Aid and Financial Literacy services
- Promote existing academic resources through UISG social media, specifically those pertaining to the library

Make the graduation process more accessible and affordable

- Collaborate with the Clothing Closet to provide graduation gown loans to graduates
- Facilitate a donation drive for used graduation gowns after graduation
- Request inclusion of accessibility information in all advertisements for and information about commencement ceremonies

Continue to make textbooks and educational materials more affordable

- Support Open Educational Resource (OER) initiatives at Iowa, such as the Course Reserves program and OpenHawks
- Initiate the institutionalization and expansion of UISG's Textbook Donation Drive

Improve academic absence policies

- Recommend the inclusion of mental health related guidelines in the University's excused absence policies

Promote international and transfer student inclusivity

- Recommend the addition of interpreters at International, Transfer, and First-Year Student Orientation for common foreign languages spoken at the University of Iowa
- Work with UIVA to improve the veteran student experience at orientation

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Better support student organization events

- Require UISG members to attend a certain number of student organization events each semester
- Create a form that allows student organizations to request promotion of events and programs on UISG social media

Increase accessibility to UISG

- Create monthly President and Vice President update videos on Instagram
- Institutionalize a public comment period for students to speak at senate meetings
- Mandate a portion of UISG members to share the Facebook livestream and encourage viewers to submit questions and comments
- Advertise the online anonymous issue form and meeting minutes through social media and the texting service
- Create and utilize the UISG texting service for important events and offer incentives for signing up (mugs, reusable straws, reusable grocery bags, etc.)
- Extend invites to groups and individuals when topics of discussion are relevant to their work
- Send UISG representatives to student organization meetings upon request through the form we create and send to student orgs
- Distribute promotional material about UISG at events like Onlowa! and Transfer Student Orientation
- Integrate information about UISG into future Success@lowa programming

Communicate funding possibilities to student organizations more intentionally

- Institutionalize and improve Fall and Spring Treasurer Trainings
- Create more social media content to raise awareness about UISG funding and UISG funded events
- Establish a universal funding request form that includes funding from all possible contributors, including ARH, CSIL, and UISG

Improve relationship between UISG and student-athletes

- Explore more partnership opportunities with the Iowa Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Work with CSIL to improve the AfterClass system

- Encourage student organizations to advertise events more consistently in AfterClass through funding applications
- Advertise AfterClass more intentionally, especially through social media by putting every UISG event on AfterClass

JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Increase representation within UISG

- Work with multicultural organizations and cultural centers to expand recruitment efforts into underrepresented student populations
- Incorporate social justice education in UISG retreat and education
- Hold monthly meetings with all constituency senators to bring marginalized communities' needs to the center of UISG's focus
- Improve the UISG constituency senator election process through better marketing tactics to gain more student interest, working with the cultural center coordinators and student staff to promote the positions, and allowing for more information sessions about the positions

Build stronger relationships with cultural centers

- Gather student input on the future of the cultural centers and cultural corridor project
- Work towards requesting for the addition of a resource center for students with disabilities
- Host constituency senator office hours in cultural centers

Expand UISG social justice education across campus

- Utilize UISG social media to spread awareness about social justice topics
- Institutionalize UISG NCBI Training and advertise the program more effectively through the Student Leader Training Incentive Program
- Explore universal design training for Health & Safety Committee members

Partner with the student-athlete community to improve LGBTQ+ inclusion efforts

- Request athletic staff and coaches to participate in the LGBTQ Safe Zone Project

Facilitate more effective communication between international students and UISG

- Establish a UISG profile on WeChat and encourage international students to follow the profile during orientation
- Collaborate with OASIS to increase awareness of UISG
- Work with ISSS to improve UISG involvement in International Student Orientation

Make campus more accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing community

- Advocate for more hearing loop-equipped venues for events on campus
 - Institutionalize closed captioning on UISG publications
 - Advocate for closed captioning and other accessibility measures on university materials
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JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Improve campus accessibility

- Streamline a process for submitting accessibility concerns
- Create a marketing campaign on how to report accessibility complaints
- Request to form a centralized form on MyUI for students to report their needed accommodations, pronouns, etc.
- Institutionalize a campus accessibility audit with students involved
- Attend meetings, workshops, etc. that revolve around the IMU restructuring project, as often as possible, as an effort to maintain heavily involved in making sure the reconstructing meets the needs of ALL students

Expand resources for and outreach to students with disabilities

- Continue working towards the movement of the Student Disability Services office, keeping USSDA in the loop
- Create marketing materials around SDS resources, targeted especially at international students
- Make requests for an embedded mental health counselor in the SDS office

Advocate for more gender-neutral restrooms

- Better utilize and advertise the University's map of gender-neutral restrooms on campus
 - Advocate for the addition of more accessible gender-neutral restrooms on campus and in Iowa City
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SUSTAINABILITY

Increase access to composting on and off campus

- Create centralized compost drop-off locations on and off campus
- Reduce contamination in compost bins with education, marketing, and clearly identified
- Better market the residence hall composting program to RAs and first-year students by including more information about the program during move in, On Iowa! Week.

Partner with Residence Education to expand sustainability efforts

- Advocate for more sustainable "bulletin board" practices
- Host a sustainability workshop during RA training
- Provide more sustainability hall events in dorms, work with organizations outside UISG to provide this.

Expand Fraternity & Sorority Life sustainability

- Propose a bylaw that would require a chapter sustainability chair, if numbers allow
- Host workshops on how to run more sustainable philanthropy events
- Advertise the UISG Green Initiatives Fund more heavily
- Expand composting in sorority and fraternity houses

Increase the number of native plants on campus

- Work with Facilities Management and other campus partners to maintain and institutionalize the creation of natural prairie gardens.
- Continue to aid the UI gardeners in creating a garden close to campus, bringing availability to all students
- Advocate for more sustainable fertilization practices

Promote sustainable purchasing

- Collaborate with Fair Trade at Iowa to improve purchasing practices both internally and university-wide
- Highlight sustainable and ethical vendors on the Approved University Vendor list
- Host a student day at the farmers market to promote local purchasing as well as educate students on local, sustainable, fresh produce.

Expand sustainability education

- Create marketing around sustainable lifestyle choices in dorms such as reducing single use waste, water usage etc
- Advocate for a sustainability or "systems thinking" general education requirement

SUSTAINABILITY

Improve access to recycling on and off campus

- Ensure landlords are providing recycling bins at off-campus housing locations, work with city to bring multi material recycling to off campus housing.
- Educate off campus residents about recycling and composting options available to them

Reduce single-use materials on campus

- Reduce the amount of single-use plastics/other waste produced on campus, including Styrofoam containers, plastic straws, and plastic utensils
 - Increase number of water bottle fillers on campus
 - Collaborate with student organizations and incentivize zero-waste/low-waste events with the Green Initiatives Fund
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FUNDING AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Increase transparency between UISG and its constituents

- Send out monthly newsletters to the undergraduate student body
- Provide monthly financial reports on the UISG website
- Bolster communication efforts through social media to promote resources and any open positions in the organization

Update the UISG website

- Optimize the UISG website in order to make our content more accessible and presentable
- Provide more consistent updates of UISG initiatives and funding
- Post a comprehensive event calendar on the UISG website, to include multicultural, student organization, FSL, academic, and other events
- Provide more information regarding the role of UISG on campus and in student lives

Make UISG information and legislation more accessible to students

- Upload upcoming legislation to UISG website, with an option for public comment
 - Provide relevant, up-to-date contact information of UISG members and encourage student commentary and inquiry on all things UISG
 - Create regular progress reports to outline initiatives and funding updates
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STUDENT LIFE

Improve student feedback mechanisms

- Rollout the new HawkIdeas website for students to provide feedback

Improve transportation marketing and accessibility

- Create marketing and educational campaign for currently available transportation services, including the Iowa City/Coralville busses, Nite Ride, Airport Shuttle, and CAMBUS
- Market the Iowa Bus mobile application to increase usage
- Contact Parking & Transportation to advocate for the addition of a Finkbine Golf Course CAMBUS stop
- Advertise the existence of student discounts for city bus passes and special promotions for routes
- Contact Public Safety and request an extension of Nite Ride hours to close the transportation gap between 5:00 am and 6:30 am

Increase food accessibility and alleviate food insecurity

- Meet with Housing and Dining to outline steps necessary to incorporate more allergen-free options and better markings of allergens, especially gluten, in the Marketplaces
- Work with University Housing & Dining to offer food that is accessible during holidays that restrict diet, such as Passover, Lent, and Ramadan.
- Draft a proposal for Dining to make pop-up events educational and celebratory of different cultural traditions
- Connect catering services with local food rescue programs to reduce food waste on campus via student organizations

Expand the Presence of Student Art on Campus

- Solicit artwork from students to decorate campus, including on benches, structures, and walls

Increase Opportunities for Non-alcoholic Nighttime Events

- Increase marketing support for Rec After Dark programming
- Track progress and provide marketing support for CAB for Late Night events downtown
- Seek additional funding sources to incentivize student organizations to host alcohol-free events that occur on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights

Market the external services funded by UISG

- Market resources such as the Professional Clothing Closet, Community (Crisis) Center, Student Legal Services, etc.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Create better off-campus living resources for students

- Continue developing the UISG Renter's Guide in order to clearly communicate realistic housing expectations from common apartment and leasing companies
- Work with Student Legal Services to better communicate renters' rights to students
- Advocate various strategies to ensure an adequate supply of safe and affordable housing in the City, including, but not limited to, infill development, densification of land within the Rental Impact Area, increasing the amount of affordable housing, and holding landlords accountable for the proper maintenance of their units
- Improve the promotion of the Neighborhood Ambassador program and better communicate its services to the student body

Encourage civic engagement among the student body

- Support the development and expansion of the Civic Engagement Center
- Facilitate engagement between 2020 U.S. Presidential campaigns and the student body in order to maximize student participation in the 2020 caucuses
- Collaborate with student organizations across campus to register students to vote and communicate with their legislators
- Advocate for the inclusion expiration dates on IowaOne cards to allow their use as voter identification documents

Increase student participation in the caucus system

- Create a Commit to Caucus campaign to encourage students to understand and participate in caucusing in 2020

Advocate for student issues at the campus, city, state, and federal levels

- Continue current UISG legislative advocacy efforts for increased state appropriations, a required move-in checklist, and statewide medical amnesty.
- Go beyond campus sustainability efforts by advocating for legislative policies surrounding renewable energy and waste reduction that will help make the state of Iowa more sustainable
- Invite students across campus to attend regular UISG trips to the Iowa Capitol
- Collaborate with University of Northern Iowa and Iowa State University to increase unity and effectiveness in advocacy at the state level

Expand the Johnson County Community ID program

- Advertise and promote to students the benefits and uses of the Community ID Program to the University of Iowa population, especially for out-of-state and international students

Engage with legislators and the Iowa Board of Regents

- Invite and host legislators and members of the Iowa Board of Regents on visits to campus
- Organize town halls and open forums for students to allow students to directly voice their concerns with and members of the Iowa Assembly and Iowa Board of Regents.
- Host letter-writing workshops to empower students to write letters to their representatives.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Improve response mechanisms for sexual assault and disclosure

- Request better training of professors, RAs, faculty, staff, and students on how to respond to sexual assault reporting
- Publish a sexual assault disclosure response protocol to accompany in-person training
- Create a media campaign aimed at sexual assault prevention education

Increase mental health awareness and resources on campus

- Coordinate the addition of athlete-focused group counseling opportunities
- Implement the Green Bandana Project on campus
- Advocate for the requirement of staff and faculty to participate in Kognito training
- Create a social media campaign about recognizing potential mental health issues and accessing available resources

Provide better access to affordable wellness products on campus

- Advocate for higher-quality and more accessible menstrual products on campus
- Increase access to and awareness of over-the-counter medication available through Student Health and Wellness
- Advertise locations of wellness products on and off campus

Increase safe transportation on and off campus

- Institutionalize regular lighting audits on and off campus and work with the University and the city of Iowa City to address noted issues
- Work with students and Facilities Management to determine where crosswalks should be installed on campus and around Iowa City in order to make campus safer, more accessible, and more efficient for students
- Improve and promote safe and accessible transportation services available to student

Continue expanding health resources specific to the LGBTQ+ community

- Push for more specialization in LGBTQ+ specific needs in campus clinics
 - Create a comprehensive guide to finding LGBTQ+ healthcare in the Iowa City area
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END OF REPORT

Thank you for reading!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact UISG's Cabinet Director Colin Lakadat at:

COLIN-LAKADAT@UIOWA.EDU

