



2018

PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

The University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) Platform outlines the goals and priorities of the 2018-19 administration. There are six categories that initiatives are organized under: sustainability, justice & equity, health & safety, student life, governmental relations and academic affairs. The platform was created through the assembly of the Platform Creation Task Force, made up of seven student government members on both the executive and legislative branches.

The inspiration for many of these platform items came from all four parties participating in the 2018 UISG election: Student Collective Party, Surge Party, Empower Iowa, and Envision Iowa. Also included are initiatives continued from past administrations, and ideas from current and past UISG members. UISG would like to thank all the members of the Platform Creation Task Force, including Jenna Pokorny, Lauren Phalen, Guowei Qi, Sarah Henry, Colin Lakadat, Kristen Young, and Noah Wick.

Are you a campus partner interested in collaborating on a platform initiative? Please reach out to let us know at uisg@uiowa.edu.

STUDENT LIFE

ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

UISG aims to improve Iowa City's public transportation system by advocating for subsidized student city bus passes, updated bus routes, and extended hours for weekend campus routes. By improving transit, UISG hopes to assist students who are living off campus and/or rely on public transportation.

CELEBRATE STUDENT ARTWORK ON CAMPUS

By collaborating with on-campus partners and local businesses, we will feature student artwork to celebrate student artists and create a space for their work to be accessible to as many students as possible.

ALLOW STUDENTS TO PAY FOR UNIVERSITY PRINTING WITH HAWK DOLLARS

As of now, printing fees for many students are charged directly to their personal University bills. UISG will advocate for students to have the ability to pay for University printing fees with Hawk Dollars.

PROVIDE FREE RENTABLE HAMMOCKS

By working with on-campus partners, UISG will advocate to offer rentable hammocks and other outdoor equipment to students free of charge.

INCREASE FOOD ACCESSIBILITY ON CAMPUS

UISG will help to increase food availability on campus for food-insecure students, both by expanding the Food Pantry's services and by working with University Housing and Dining to allow C-Stores to accept SNAP benefits.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ACADEMIC COMPLAINT FORM

UISG will work to create an academic complaint form for classroom policy violations to report syllabus inconsistencies such as discrepancies in information about textbooks on MyUI, failing to put syllabi on MyUI before early registration, and creating inconsistent class expectations. This form will help alleviate unnecessary academic stressors and create a more equitable learning environment.

ADVERTISE REVIEW SESSION AND MIDTERM LIMIT

By making sure professors advertise the review sessions that are available for their classes and emails are sent out to every student about academic support, we hope to encourage students to take advantage of free academic support resources on a regular basis. We will also make students aware that they are able to appeal to the registrar if they have more than two midterm exams scheduled in one day to help support mental health and academic success.

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR COMMUNICATIONS

We will work with Department Heads, Faculty Senate, and GPSG to encourage faculty members and teaching assistants to hold office hours via video chat. By doing so, we hope to extend the accessibility of office hours by allowing professors and students to meet at more convenient times.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION ADVOCACY AND EXPANSION

Frequent Supplemental Instruction attendance has been shown to increase students' GPA and improve retention rates. We will continue collaboration with Academic Support & Retention on improvements to SI, such as expanding class offerings, increasing the number of SI leaders, and advocating for increased funding to AS&R.

SYLLABI ACCESSIBILITY

We will work with faculty to post syllabi by early registration times on MyUI, as well as work with college curriculum committees to establish more defined accountability measures. Syllabi are a key component to registering for classes--this will help students prepare and budget for their upcoming semesters.

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY

We will collaborate with the University of Iowa libraries, ITS, and other campus partners to increase the usage of electronic course materials, expand course reserves, and encourage instructors to place all textbook and course material orders at the Iowa Hawk Shop. By doing so we hope to make textbooks and other academic resources more accessible and affordable to students.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Through collaboration with Faculty Senate and the Pomerantz Career Center, we will help create learning opportunities for professional development in the classroom, conduct an assessment to target the areas in which students can improve their professional development, and modify the peer mentor program to include internship preparation for a wider variety of majors. These programs will help Hawkeyes find jobs and internships, as well as develop alumni connections that build their resumes and make their education even more worthwhile.

VOLUNTEERING FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT

Volunteering and experiential learning are valuable ways to acquire skills that cannot be attained in the classroom--we will promote this form of learning by creating a 1000 level experiential learning class that provides academic credit for volunteer work. This will allow students to showcase their commitment to volunteering and bettering their community formally on their transcripts.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

We will collaborate with TRIO Student Support Services and the Iowa EDGE Program to create peer mentorship programs, support groups, marketing for academic and financial support resources, and outreach events geared toward the first generation experience. These programs will further support first generation students as they navigate the college experience.

PROMOTE THE INCLUSIVITY OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

We will reshape programs like Success at Iowa, OnIowa, and Transfer Student Orientation to include more transfer student resources, as well as advocate for more scholarships, a housing portal, and more comprehensive recruitment for transfer students. These programs will establish a new level of inclusivity for transfer students in their transitions to life at the University of Iowa

EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL STUDY SPACES

We will conduct a study space audit to identify poor study spaces and help us better understand the study habits and preferences of all students when advising the construction of future study spaces. This will help accommodate the University's growing student population and the increased desire for private study areas.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROJECTS

UISG will advocate for the increase of collaboration with philanthropic student organizations. By increasing efforts to support these organizations, both the University of Iowa and its surrounding communities will benefit from the hard work philanthropic organizations do.

CREATE A COMMON-SPACE PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS TO CREATE CAMPUS-WIDE PETITIONS FOR CHANGE

We will create an online platform that will allow students to create, sign, and send in petitions regarding the issues that are closest to them in their lives on campus. This opportunity will allow students to have a place to go when they want to express their concerns and create real change.

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO GIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT CAMPUS LIFE

UISG will create semesterly feedback surveys, work closely with Resident Assistants, and provide opportunities to give anonymous feedback which will allow students to share their concerns with their student representatives. This initiative allows UISG to become more inclusive and more conscious of the entire undergraduate population.

CREATE A TOWN HALL SETTING TO TALK WITH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA OFFICIALS

It is difficult to open a dialogue with several different departments within the University. The Town Hall setting will invite people from major University of Iowa departments such as Housing and Dining, ITS, and more in order for these departments to hear the comments and concerns of students.

ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

We will work to improve the process of finding and obtaining a student job through online student employment resources as well as advocate for the reevaluation of student job requirements and restrictions. With increasing cost of tuition, it is more important than ever to ensure that students can continue to afford college.

ENCOURAGE UNIVERSITY CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ACTIVELY DISCUSS SUBJECTS SURROUNDING BIAS, DISCRIMINATION, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND OTHER LARGE ISSUES COLLEGE STUDENTS FACE

UISG will encourage clubs and organizations to be proactive and engaged with their members when discussing these topics. This allows all students to obtain a better understanding of these subjects and learn how to deal with situations involving these subjects.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

INCREASE THE COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY BETWEEN STUDENTS AND UISG

Live streaming senate meetings will allow all students to see what is being worked on and gives them the opportunity to comment on the subjects being discussed. In addition, we would like to promote outreach in the residence halls and cultural houses to encourage general communication between UISG officials and the student body.

IMPROVE HAWKTOOLS

In collaboration with ITS, UISG will work to improve HawkTools by keeping the application up to date as well as adding more features to give students access to the resources they need to be successful. Adding tools to help locate mental health resources, providing a comprehensive campus event calendar, and giving access to other important resources gives students an easy-to-access tool to aid them with their lives on campus.

AFFORDABILITY EFFORTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

We will work to create a comprehensive list of the available student discounts in the Iowa City and surrounding areas. This will help students save money when shopping at local businesses.

CONSTITUENCY ROUNDTABLES

UISG Constituency senators will host monthly roundtables with their respective constituents at cultural centers, resource centers, or other available locations for the community to discuss issues they face. Through this initiative, UISG will provide another outlet for constituents to have their voices heard.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

STUDENT ADVOCACY

UISG will work hard to expand our advocacy on the local, state, and federal level on important issues including mental health, medical amnesty, homeless student support, affordable tuition and more. Specifically at the state level, we will also advocate for state funding for mental health and services for survivors of sexual assault, expanded work-study programs, and increased financial support for the University.

ADVOCATING FOR SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

UISG will continue to advocate for increased accessibility to safe and affordable housing with background checks for property management that have unsupervised access to apartment units, expanding the street lighting on and off campus, and partnering with community housing advocacy groups to provide better housing for students. UISG will also create an off-campus renters guide that will collect information regarding apartment quality in order to keep students informed before they sign a lease.

AFFORDABLE TUITION

With rising tuition, UISG recognizes the need for students to have predictability with how much their education will cost. We will continue to expand our advocacy to the administration and Board of Regents for a reasonable, predictable, multi-year tuition plan. We will also advocate at the state level for the creation of a state-based tuition grant program to reduce the burden placed on students, as well as create a tuition education video.

VOTER REGISTRATION

UISG will continue to expand our outreach by hiring fellows, partnering with politically minded student organizations and offices around campus, and creating OnIowa! programming to register as many students to vote as possible. By making students more aware of voting information, we hope to increase civic engagement on campus and get more people involved with their representatives.

BOARD OF REGENTS VISIT DAY

Continuing this tradition from last year, UISG will host several members of the Board of Regents on campus where they can learn about the resources and students of the University. Because the Board of Regents plays such an integral role in our University, we hope to continue to better our relationship with them moving forward.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

PROMOTE THE STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

UISG will work to ensure that students are aware of the rights and privileges given to them by this bill. By doing so, we hope to increase the amount of students who take advantage of these resources designed to promote student success during their time here at the University.

STUDENT TENANTS ASSOCIATION

The Tenants Association will advocate for students renting in and around the Iowa City area and inform them of their rights as tenants to ensure fair treatment under the law. This can include advocacy for including specific unit numbers on leases, eliminating lease gaps, recovering security deposits, and increased rental permits to houses around campus. Students will have an additional resource along with Student Legal Services to improve off-campus living and relations with landlords.

INCREASING OFF-CAMPUS SUPPORT

UISG will establish programs like Lease Gap Housing and the Neighborhood Ambassador Program that aim to support students living off-campus. UISG recognizes the unique struggles these student often face, and through these initiatives we hope to expand the resources available for these students to turn to.

HEALTH & SAFETY

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- UISG will ensure that sexual assault awareness and victim support are present on our campus. Through bolstering our support for sexual assault prevention programs such as TIPS (Student Leader Training Incentive Program), WRAC's peer advocacy, and RVAP's peer education program, we hope to educate and promote safety on our campus. We will increase awareness of initiatives aimed at sexual assault awareness and incentivize attendance of sexual assault workshops.
- UISG will advocate for a centralized website that outlines all resources on and off-campus for survivors of sexual assault that detail confidential and non-confidential resources and has step-by-step information on how to get help from resources such as the WRAC, RVAP, and UI campus police.
- UISG will improve nighttime lighting on campus and put emergency and safety phone numbers on the back of Iowa One Cards--such as phone numbers for the University Iowa Police and NiteRide--to ensure all Hawks get home safe.

MENTAL HEALTH

- UISG will expand programs aimed at students suffering from addiction and substance abuse - such as the Collegiate Recovery Program.
- UISG will continue to advocate for and promote mental health on campus through the expansion of University Counseling Services. We will work with UCS to embed counselors in much more accessible locations, such as the individual colleges, cultural houses, and residence halls, as well as advocate for UCS to use online platforms such as Skype or Zoom to hold online appointments when in-person appointments don't work with a student's or a counselor's schedule.

HEALTH & SAFETY

LGBTQ+ ISSUES

UISG will advocate for LGBTQ+ students by expanding health services aimed at LGBTQ+ students, by increasing LGBTQ+ competent counselors available at the University, advocating for free clinical health services, such as STI testing to at-risk populations on campus who don't have insurance plans, and by advocating that University Health and Wellness expands training to current doctors on transgender-specific healthcare.

ACCESSIBILITY OF FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

UISG will assess the quantity and quality of feminine hygiene products in buildings on campus and work with partners such as the WRAC, UIH&D, and Student Health and Wellness to explore options for stocking bathrooms on and off campus with feminine hygiene products.

SIDEWALK & ROAD SAFETY

UISG will work both with Campus Planning and City Council to make sure that students are safe walking around campus. We advocate to improve sidewalk and crosswalk accessibility for students who use wheelchairs, and expand crosswalk marking and signage around campus.

JUSTICE & EQUITY

HOST A WOMXN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

By collaborating with various campus partners such as the Center for Diversity and Enrichment and the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, UISG will host a conference for womxn of color. This conference will be aimed to address the unique experiences and challenges womxn from marginalized identities face at Iowa.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN RA TRAINING

We hope to establish a relationship with University Housing and Dining (Residence Education) to promote further cultural competency training with Resident Assistants. Cultural competency will improve support available for students, overall inclusivity and relationships within residence hall communities.

INCREASE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UISG will improve communication between Student Disability Services to strengthen outreach to, and advocacy for, students with disabilities. UISG will assist in allocating and supporting the creation and improvement of various resources for students with disabilities. Some of these resources include accessible gym equipment, SDS note taking services, and holding construction workers accountable when creating obstacles for these students.

CREATE A DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

We will establish a space where representatives of multicultural student organizations will be able to interact with student senators. Through increased communication and strengthening of relationships, UISG will work to better understand ways to advocate for and be inclusive to multicultural communities

IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH CULTURAL CENTERS

UISG will work to increase partnership with the cultural and resource centers on campus, as well as continue to support and refine various academic and mentoring programs available in each center. By increasing involvement in the cultural centers, UISG aims promote the academic success of the constituencies served by the cultural and resource centers.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

UISG plans to collaborate with the International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) to create programming aimed at strengthening relationships within the international student community and improve networking with international student alumni. By doing so, UISG hopes to help international students navigate campus, find resources, and connect with other students.

JUSTICE & EQUITY

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE CULTURAL CORRIDOR

UISG will support plans to build the cultural corridor and advocate for a Cultural House common-space to host larger events so students still have a space to connect with their common identities.

DIVERSIFY FOOD OPTIONS ON CAMPUS

UISG will advocate to improve and diversify food options throughout campus. By working with University Housing & Dining, UISG will continue to advocate for the expansion of meal choices to create a more inclusive dining experience.

TRANSLATED TUITION FINANCIAL GUIDES

Expand the translation of concise financial guides to include additional languages. UISG will fund translated materials for new languages, traditionally not available, but are represented by large immigrant communities in our area. These include but are not limited to: French, Somali, Sudanese Arabic, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Yoruba.

PROMOTE CAMPUS TOURS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

UISG plans to make it more accessible for student's families who wish to visit the University of Iowa to get a campus tour in another language. By better advertising this service, UISG hopes to make orientation services more inclusive to all visiting families and incoming students.

SUSTAINABILITY

CAMPUS BIKE SHARE

UISG will work on collaborating and ensuring student accessibility for the future City of Iowa City bike share program. Through this program, members of the University of Iowa and Iowa City community will be able to check out and use a bike throughout the community. This program will allow anyone that doesn't have bike to be able to use one and cover the last bit of an individual's commute.

ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING BY THE UNIVERSITY

As a large institution with great influence over the future of our students and state, it is vital that the University of Iowa makes sustainable purchasing decisions. UISG will ensure that sustainability is consistently on the minds of those making purchasing decisions for the University.

CAMPUS COMPOSTING

By continuing to expand residence hall composting programs, UISG will give Iowa students the chance to learn about composting and sustainable living while giving them an opportunity to lessen their impact on the environment. This expansion includes further-developing composting in Iowa residence halls, educating the University of Iowa community on what and why to compost, and providing more receptacles for compostable materials used on campus.

COMPUTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

UISG will work to implement a program on campus computers that turns them off when they haven't been used for a certain amount of time. This will reduce the energy used by the University of Iowa and give members of the community a chance to make sustainable decisions and use computers that are already on

EXPAND RECYCLED MATERIAL OFFERINGS

Because the University of Iowa offers so many on-campus options for to-go food for students, we also produce a lot of waste in non-reusable and non-recyclable containers. UISG will work with University Housing and Dining and off-campus food providers to offer more recyclable, compostable, and reusable packaging with their to-go foods. This will simultaneously decrease campus waste and allow students to continue to enjoy food on campus without increasing their trash production.

SUSTAINABILITY

REPLACE BURGE PAPER CUPS WITH COMPOSTABLE OR REUSABLE CUPS

Instead of using plastic or paper cups that are thrown away after every use, UISG will advocate for University of Housing and Dining to provide waffle batter in its Market Places in a reusable container, effectively reducing the University's waste.

WATER BOTTLE FILLERS IN RESIDENCE HALLS

To encourage and simplify the use of reusable water bottles, UISG will work to place reusable water fillers in more campus buildings and residence halls.

PLANT NATURAL PRAIRIE AND FLOOD-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING ON CAMPUS AND NEAR THE IOWA RIVER

UISG will work with campus partners to plant natural prairie on campus, specifically including flood-resistant landscaping near the Iowa River. Native prairie, plants native to Iowa soil and climate, help encourage beneficial birds, wildlife, and insects to live in the environment, manage rainwater, improve soil quality, and reduce landscape maintenance requirements while improving the quality and appearance of the landscape. Additionally, by focusing on landscaping near the river, we can work together to protect the University of Iowa campus from flood damage.

NEW SUSTAINABILITY GOALS BEYOND 2020

Because the University of Iowa's current Sustainability Goals are for the year 2020, conversation around our goals past that year are taking place now, and UISG will ensure that the student voice contributes to that planning. By ensuring that we are involved in developing our university's goals past 2020, we will guarantee that University of Iowa students have a say in the future of their university and their planet.

VENDING MISERS

Because vending machines constantly use power when they're not being used, they waste energy and money that could be used for purposes that are better for students at Iowa. By using vending misers, a product that reduces the amount of energy used by operating vending machines, UISG will reduce the University's energy use and save students money.