

STUDENT SENATE YEAR END REPORT – Seth Wingerter

Student Senate set out this year to make a difference on campus, specifically by making our facilities and Senate more accessible to all identities. Though it was not an easy year, President Tiara Floyd showed strength in the face of adversity and systemic barriers and was a fantastic advocate for change. With her leadership and work from many other integral members, we are nonetheless proud of the progress we were able to make.

The center for Sexual & Gender Diversity found a new home outside of the OMA, the Student Senate Office, and the SILC offices on the fourth floor of the Union. The project is still slated to continue despite COVID-19, and we are confident that all funding will be found. Student Senate took significant other strides for student mental health and accessibility. We achieved rides from campus to Bert Nash for students in mental health crises, we achieved OER course flagging for students seeking open access textbooks when selecting classes, and we were able to grant a 25% allocation increase to CAPS to give them increased bandwidth to serve students. We are confident that all of these will help students in the future. Additionally, the Mobility Ad Hoc Committee led by Apramay Mishra, Seth Wingerter, and Martin Vasquez, completed 24-page report, with assistance from University Senate President Suzanne Valdez and Staff Senate President Robert Waller and other members of the University community. We hope that this report will result in a Chancellor's Task Force on Social Mobility that can evaluate and implement our recommendations.

Unfortunately, our plans were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis this spring. The proposed Student Engagement Center in the basement of the Burge Union has been cancelled due to revenue shortfalls for the Union. However, we are happy to report that the \$100,000 in previous funding for the center has been repurposed for the usage of a relief fund for Union student workers, and the \$60,000 in current funding is earmarked for a potential graduate student lounge in the Union. Similar to the Student Engagement Center, the rec expansion committee led by Zach Thomason produced great work, but the work was not realized given the pandemic. Isabella Southwick led the effort on the first annual WiSTEM (Women in STEM) day. Nearly 200 participants registered but it ultimately fell victim to the crisis as well.

Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, we are very proud of the student leaders who pushed and advocated for student regarding the extended Credit/No Credit deadline. KU had one of the more restrictive policies in the region, and now it has been expanded to give students the ability to make the best choice possible. Further, we highly commend Provost Bichelmeyer for meeting with us on such a late notice and earnestly heeding our concerns. This was just one example of her genuinely caring about students on campus, which is what we all eagerly hoped for as she came on campus.