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Undergraduate
Student Government

ENGAGE, INNOVATE, SUSTAIN

2024 Fall Report

Presented by Alyssa Miner

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

In this report, you will find the Eckard & Ramirez administration achievements, legislative priorities, and internal changes throughout the fall semester of 2024. At the beginning of this administration, we used our campaign platform as our starting point to our advocacy and initiative work. With this outline, USG senators and directors worked together to create committee initiatives, this platform can be found on the USG website. Below, you will find seven of our most successful and significant completed initiatives alongside a description of how they impacted the student body. Now that we have achieved the creation and success of these projects, the spring semester will be used as a time to reflect and establish a pathway to sustain these initiatives, while keeping our campaign goals of engaging, innovating, and sustaining the initiatives we have implemented.

At the beginning of our administration, we took time to reflect on our goals and the journey we were embarking on. We were initially faced with changes the University made to the Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP). Shortly after, we received news that the Iowa legislature had passed a bill with a directive for all Regent Universities to modify programs related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). In the summer, the Iowa Supreme court decided to uphold the Heartbeat bill that banned abortion after six weeks in Iowa. As President and Vice President of the student body, we knew that these incidents affected our student's lives and needs. We decided that we would use our leadership roles to speak out about what we felt was the right thing to do. You will notice that the timing and delivery of our responses has drastically improved. This was intentional and a result of reflecting on the slow and indirect statements made at the start of our administration.

As we continue to see increased interest in both USG's elections and social media, we are excited for the student body to engage with USG's work and advocacy. Looking forward, we will begin visiting the state Capitol to advocate for our state agenda with an emphasis on increased mental health funding and decriminalizing fentanyl testing strips. We know that these are important priorities for University of Iowa students, and we believe that we can make progress on these issues at the state level. We will continue to advocate for student's priorities and collaborate with partners at the Capitol to create the change Iowa needs.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the campus partners who regularly support, work, and advise us on our efforts. We greatly appreciate you for being open and receptive to student concerns. To the directors and senators who have been working to complete initiatives since the beginning of our administration, we would like to thank you for your dedication and time. We have seen USG grow professionally and execute detailed initiatives that impact student's lives daily. We would not be able to have the same presence on campus without the over 90 dedicated members in USG. Most importantly, we would like to thank the students for allowing us to grow as leaders. We are eager to continue working towards leaving the University of Iowa better than we found it.

- A&B

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INITIATIVES



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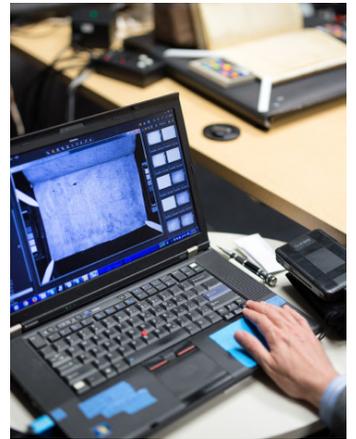
Uber Expansion

The Hawkeye Late Night Voucher Program, originally launched in spring 2024, was expanded in collaboration with Campus Safety and the Division of Student Life to provide greater accessibility for students. Starting in the fall, all students could redeem two \$5 vouchers every day of the week, leading to 3,700 sign-ups throughout the semester. Building on this success, the program will continue to grow in spring 2025, increasing the number of vouchers to five per student. This was a part of the



First Gen Scholarship

The First-Generation Scholarship was established in collaboration with 1stGen@Iowa, a movement and department widely recognized since President Wilson's tenure. The scholarship awarded \$1,000 each to two first-generation students, helping them remain at the university and continue their studies. This initiative was part of the A&B platform.



Free Campus Parking During Finals

In collaboration with Iowa City Downtown, USG purchased 750 parking vouchers for two downtown parking ramps, offering students a total of three free parking hours. This initiative, part of the A&B platform, was designed to reduce stress for students during their study and exam periods.

INITIATIVES

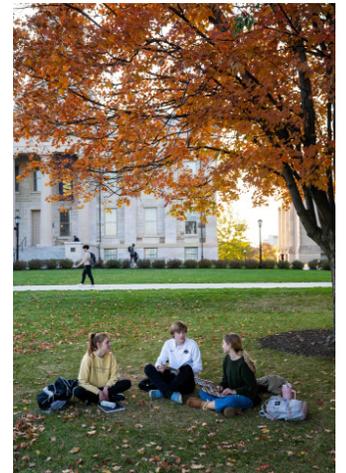


Coat Check

The USG Coat Check, inspired by Dr. Wolfe, offered a free coat check service downtown. The program aimed at harm reduction, ensuring students could get home safely, as many downtown establishments do not provide coat checks. Running for seven days, it targeted cold weather and busy days in the downtown area. The service was fully staffed by students and was part of the A&B platform.

Expansion of Org Tip \$

ORG TIP\$ is a USG-funded and operated program that offers student organizations financial compensation in exchange for having their members attend a series of professional and personal development seminars. This semester, the seminar lineup covered a range of topics, including managing student organization finances, member recruitment and retention, event planning, and a stress/distress management workshop. Turnout for events this semester has been exceptional. We hosted 33 distinct student organizations, engaged with over 100 students, and allocated nearly \$3,000 in funding to support their initiatives. This represents nearly 50% of all student organizations served by RG TIP\$ and 43% of the total funding allocated since the program's inception in fiscal year 2019.



INITIATIVES

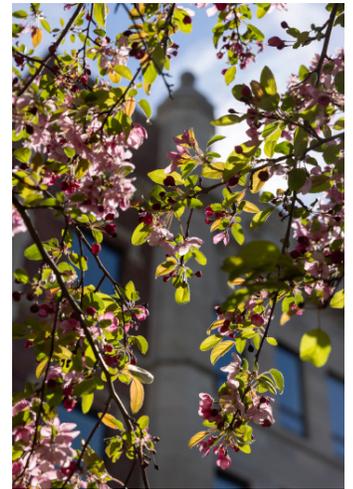


Plan B

After the Iowa Supreme Court upheld the Heartbeat Bill, we contacted One-Step, the manufacturer of Plan B, for resources students could utilize. The company generously donated over 600 pills to USG, which we then donated to the Emma Goldman Clinic as a free resource for students.

Wellness Vending Machine

The wellness vending machine initiative was completed in the summer of 2024, providing students with a convenient resource in the IMU. The machine offers essential items, including first aid kits, hand sanitizer, condoms, and Birdie alarms.



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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Continue advocacy for an increase in funding of about \$150,000 for the University of Iowa mental health resources on campus in response to rapid increases in demand of mental health services.
- Outline the significance of the Iowa River to the communities it serves and advocate for the state to prioritize its cleanup and conservation.
- Decriminalize fentanyl test strips to ensure our students on campus and residents in the state of Iowa are safe from compromised drugs.
- Ensure students have access to affordable housing in predominantly student neighborhoods by advocating for a reform in statewide zoning that will enable cities to build more multifamily housing.

INTERNAL ACHIEVEMENTS

USG hosted a total of **23** events this year, **12** of which were partnerships with other organizations. October was our most active month, with **8** events held during that time.

FUNDING

156,940.26

Total student org funding

99

Student organizations funded so far this year

\$575.42

Avg. allocations per request in FY25

\$195,382.16

Remaining SABAC for the rest of FY25

FUNDING

Top 3 Funded Student Orgs

11.4k

Mock Trial

8.8k

Society of Automotive
Engineers

9k

Social Dance Club

Other Projects Funded

\$15,000 - Provided to better support the Student Life Emergency Fund

\$2,500 - Provided for the annual Taste of Iowa City Vouchers

\$1,526.81 - Expanded the number of Library Charger stations

\$4,000.00 - Funded stipends for 4 additional Certified Peer Educators (CPE) for the Women's Resource and Action Center to expand Violence Prevention training

\$3,630.80 - Helped provide funding for 1,000 new Birdie Alarms to combat instances of sexual violence and misconduct on campus

\$2,000.00 - Provided support to the creation of the Bridge to Success scholarship.

\$3,000.00 - Funded 750 parking vouchers for students to use during dead-week/Finals week to ease stress during the busy academic season.



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

ACHIEVEMENTS

USG Established a streamlined statement writing process to ensure clarity and timeliness. The new process defines how we draft statements and the criteria for deciding when statements are necessary.

Senate Application Process (Formerly the Fall Nominations Process)

USG improved the Fall Nominations Process to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and equity. Key updates included a revised timeline with earlier notifications, reducing last-minute notices and improving application clarity. We introduced a nomination guide detailing eligibility, submission expectations, and evaluation criteria to make the process more transparent and inclusive.

To broaden participation, we expanded outreach efforts via email, social media, and in-person sessions, with a focus on underrepresented groups. A standardized review process was implemented to ensure fairness, and feedback was collected to drive continuous improvement. These changes promote a more transparent, inclusive, and effective nominations process.





SENATE

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- For the first time in over 10 years, every seat in the student senate has been filled, including all of the constituency senator positions.
- Debated and passed 28 pieces of legislation, including 26 bills and 2 resolutions.
- Facilitated the execution of open access presentations from 15 campus partners, including the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Hawk the Vote, the Women's Resource and Action Center, the Office of Student Financial Aid, the Graduate and Professional Student Government, Basic Needs at Iowa, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Alcohol Harm Reduction, University Counseling Services, the International Student Advisory Board and other Division of Student Life representatives.
- Planned and executed the Senate Fall Retreat to onboard 28 first-year senators, including 5 Constituency Senators and 23 At-Large Senators
- Something about chair meetings/chairs in general
- Navigated dynamics between chairs and executives, and facilitated discussions to help create more effective and respectful work relationships.
- Created effective systems to track initiative progress, including the creation of a detailed initiative tracking worksheet and strategies for committee chairs to communicate progress with their Senators and higher up leadership.
- Reviewed and updated the Senate Code of Conduct
- Updated Navigating USG guide
- Facilitated recruitment of Native American, First Generation, and Latinx Constituency Senators.
- Pinpointed and resolved inconsistencies found within the USG Constitution and Bylaws

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REPORT END

For questions, comments, or concerns please
contact us at ui-usg@uiowa.edu.

