

12 December, 2014

Students of the College of Agriculture,

As this semester comes to an end and you prepare for a much needed break from school, we hope that this letter finds you well. While we know that you are all very hard at work finishing up last minute assignments and studying, we would like to take a couple minutes to bring you up to date on the work we have been doing in Purdue Student Government this semester.

First, you may notice that there has been a change in your representation since this spring's elections, as Grace Wildhaber has replaced Sarah Correll as College of Agriculture Senator. Grace was appointed at the beginning of this semester by Ag Council, after a somewhat lengthy application and interview process. This position became available following Senator Correll's acceptance of a truly incredible opportunity to serve an appointment by Governor Pence to the Indiana Higher Education Commission. This commission works to shape and create policies for all of Indiana's public colleges and universities, and we know that Sarah will do a fantastic job to represent Purdue as well as all college students in Indiana.

As part of our responsibilities as your representation on the Student Senate, we both also serve within the Senate Government Relations Committee; Cory serves as chair of this committee. Within this committee we work to affect changes in the policy and practice of local, state, and federal government organizations. In recent years PSG has been incredibly effective in this process, with notable wins such as passage of the Indiana Life Line bill, and continued funding to the Amtrak line that services Lafayette. As in the past, we hope to again be successful in the State House as we look to move legislation that would defer jury duty for college students while they are still in school.

So far this school year, Senate has been able to work on many exciting initiatives to bring student-centered change to campus. We have awarded co-sponsorships totaling nearly \$10,000 to organizations for events such as PUDM, Timmy Global Health, and AAUW's Sarah Kay event. We have passed many student-benefiting recommendations including recommendations: to Citybus to better audit its service to students, to the University to update its free speech policy, to Faculty Senate to reconfigure midterm and night exam logistics and policies, to the state to defer jury duty for college students, as well as many, many other initiatives.

While we are very proud of the work that Senate has accomplished so far, we are that much more excited for several projects that we are just beginning to tackle; many of which will directly affect College of Agriculture students. Some of these upcoming projects include:

- Working to increase access to the Krannert building and its resources, such as computers and 24 hour library access for Ag Economics students whose department is housed there, and other instances where this may be the case around campus.
- Working to provide the opportunity for students who are in departments that are directly related to other departments to register for required courses they need during their assigned registration period, rather than waiting for open registration. In our college, this can be seen with Ag Com students registering for Com classes, Ag Ed students with Ed classes, Ag Econ students with Econ courses, and many others.
- An audit of Citybus service to campus, working to improve dependability, timeliness, and service. One of our main goals for this process is to establish a “reverse loop” that would provide for a bus loop that runs counter-clockwise around campus, opposite of all current routes. This is an ongoing project, and we are currently in negotiations with Citybus and University administration.

As we move into next semester we are very excited to start on these projects and many others. However, while we try to be as proactive as we possibly can in discerning and acting upon your ideas and concerns, we need your continued input and feedback. If you have ideas that you think PSG could help launch, concerns we could fix, or an event that needs co-sponsored, then please reach out to us. Cory can be reached through email at harri140@purdue.edu and Grace at cwildhab@purdue.edu.

Thank you for taking a few moments to read through this letter, and we hope that it will encourage you to reach out to us more or perhaps even consider your own run for Senate in this spring's elections. We wish you the best of luck on your final exams, safe travels, and the happiest of holidays!

Ever grateful, ever true,

Cory Harris & Grace Wildhaber

Senators, College of Agriculture
Purdue Student Government