

FORWARD  
MARYLAND



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MARYLAND ON**

# **COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH**

**PROPOSAL BY**

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## REBRANDING SGA

There are many students who have different opinions of SGA. Some students are not exactly aware of what SGA does, students with negative opinions of SGA, or students who have never heard of SGA. This is our chance to change that! First, we will create an SGA newsletter that will periodically be released biweekly or monthly. We hope to include bills SGA is currently working on, bills that SGA has recently passed with clear explanations of who will be affected and what they will do, as well as simplified summaries of past and future meeting agendas to make SGA meetings accessible to everyone. Secondly, we will update the SGA website to include more detailed information about committees and what projects they are currently working on. Next, we will increase our social media presence by having SGA members post relevant information on the happenings of SGA at a set time to ensure maximum exposure and engagement. Further, we hope to create an Instagram/Twitter series where SGA will highlight specific student leaders and student groups each week while also advertising any upcoming events that they are hosting. Finally, we will have SGA directly connect with students by encouraging legislators to hold their office hours in the communities they represent (i.e. the Business Reps holding office hours in Van Munching, the BSOS Reps in Tydings, etc). We will also connect to students by holding pop-up meet and greets around campus where SGA members can connect to their constituents and hear their concerns while also handing out snacks and goodies.



## CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAMPUS RESOURCES

As students at the University of Maryland, we all come to this campus with our own personal experience and perspectives. Students who are entering the University of Maryland in Fall 2020 could be coming in as freshman students, transfers, or after a gap year (or several)! Some students could be older, with children of their own, living independently, or experiencing other hardships or difficulties that could make their academic experiences different from others. Coming to a campus this large it can be difficult to ask for help, especially for those who do not know where to even begin or who to ask. We propose to tackle this issue two ways; in-person and online. In-person, we hope to host tables outside of McKeldin or STAMP throughout the week so that students learn to recognize us. This can also help us look more approachable and have more face-to-face contact with the students who we are representing. Online, we hope to release a campus-wide survey at the beginning of each semester to learn more about the student body and to gauge what types of needs they have. We will then take the results of that survey to directly connect those students to the services they need (i.e. connecting financially insecure students with the Student Crisis Fund and Campus Pantry, connecting off-campus students with the Office of Off-Campus Housing Services and the Office of Student Legal Aid, etc).





## ADVOCATING TRANSPARENCY BETWEEN STUDENTS & ADMINISTRATION



After several incidents in the past couple of years, the University of Maryland has slowly been losing its credibility of being a diverse and accepting campus. We have had several hate-crime incidents rock our campus community and it is important for us to show our fellow Terps that their safety and comfort is the most important thing. With a new University President for the 2020-2021 school year, Dr. Daryll Pines, we believe that the University of Maryland has the new opportunity to start repairing the relationship between students and administration. Dr. Pines will be inheriting a student body that has become skeptical of the priorities of administration. Because of this, we are pushing for increased transparency between the student body and administration. To achieve this, we hope to work with the administration to get answers on what specific steps they will take to ensure that tragic incidents such as the deaths of Jordan McNair and Olivia Paregol and the murder of 2nd Lt. Richard Collins, III do not happen again. As well as what steps the new administration will take to make students feel safe on campus, especially underrepresented minorities who's trust in the university has historically been low.

## FORMING COALITIONS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS

As a Big 10 school, we are given the chance to lead by example or to learn from other schools and apply their methods to best fit ours. We are also very close to other schools in the DC-Baltimore area such as American University, Johns Hopkins, and so many more! We hope to leverage these connections to benefit the student body. We will achieve this by creating and maintaining comprehensive dialogue with other SGAs and administrations to ensure that we are collaborating with other schools to share effective, means tested plans that work for us while also learning about plans that work for our partner universities.



## REACHING OUT TO MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ON CAMPUS

As members of SGA, our job is to represent the values and needs of students on our campus and this also includes students of color, students who are disabled, students who are members of the LGBTQ+ community, and students who are low income. There are several things that we can do to help these communities but it can be difficult to know what they need if we do not identify with these categories. We hope to connect to these groups by hosting mini-town halls where underrepresented students are able to voice their concerns directly to the SGA in a safe, private setting. We will also connect with campus leaders who are a part of various multicultural organizations to hear directly from on what their needs are. Next, we hope to create a safe space for marginalized groups, such as a Cultural Center, where they are able to host events without having to worry about the burden of the complicated room reservation system or finding funds to reserve rooms if they are in need. Finally, we hope to provide information to make students aware of controversial contracts that the university has with organizations like for-profit prisons and ICE while also providing students with the platform to voice their opinions on these contracts if they so choose.

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SGA Elections April 22-24