Mission Statement

“The Student Government of George Mason University advocates the interests of the student body, educates the University community with regard to the state of the institution, and represents the interests of each student. The Student Government of George Mason University will serve as a liaison to the administration, faculty, staff, and University community.”

Introductory Note

The Student Government of George Mason University was established from an inherent need for student representation to university administration and the Mason community. As advocates of the student body, we seek to defend and enhance the rights, opportunities, and experiences of each student at George Mason University. The authority of the Student Government is derived from the students of George Mason University, as well as by the University’s Board of Visitors, and is collectively recognized by the University President and the other university administrators.

Membership of the organization exceeds 75 students, who were either elected or appointed by those elected through the university at-large. Our Student Government is representative of the diverse, high-caliber students that attend our institution. The Student Government works relentlessly throughout each year to accomplish various tasks and initiatives that align with our seven working departments: Administrative and Financial Affairs, University Services, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, University Life, Government and Community Relations, Academic Affairs and Public Relations.

The essential programs, policies, and traditions initiated and supported by the George Mason University Student Government are designed to continuously improve student life at the University. These programs include: What Do YOU Want Wednesday, Gold Rush, Mason Lobbies, the BIG Event, and more. Through our initiatives, Student Government has gained an accurate understanding of the opinions and concerns of the student body of George Mason University. The decisions and actions taken by our organization are governed themselves by a motto:

“Serving you, and the needs of the Mason Community.”

Compiled below is the forward looking vision and priorities of the George Mason University Student Government for the 2015-2016 academic year. We believe that the fulfillment and inclusion of these elements into our University will enable our organization to enhance the Mason experience, and successfully serve the needs of the student body and community.
Our Vision and Priorities

1) To foster a positive culture of safety and student well-being

Safety is essential to producing an effective learning environment. As a University priority, student health and safety has been at the forefront of conversations across all departments. By fostering strong working relationships with administrators and staff throughout the University, the Student Government of George Mason University has enabled students to have a voice in their own safety. The Student Government recognizes that it is time to create a shift in campus culture, in order to achieve an environment where students are able to proactively take responsibility of their own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of others. Whether it be sexual assault, drug and alcohol policies, or mental health, the Student Government believes the University needs to be a safe space for students so that they are able to continue to learn and grow outside of the classroom. The Student Government will continue to cultivate initiatives to help students be knowledgeable about the policies and resources available to them at George Mason University.

2) Building Patriot Pride by improving the student experience for on-campus and off-campus students

George Mason University is continuing to grow rapidly in all aspects - academics, opportunities, and in numbers. What draws students to any university is the experience they are able to envision themselves having while pursuing their degree. The student experience is unique in that every student’s time is limited; the George Mason University offers many opportunities (through programs, resources, organizations, etc) for students to be engaged with the University to help build the student experience. As the University continues to grow exponentially, the Student Government recognizes the need to protect and improve the student experience, as Student Government believes it should not be hindered by any type of University growth.

George Mason University is on an upwards trajectory and will continue to increase and expand on the services provided to students. It is vital that these services meet the needs for all students populations, and that students are represented and actively involved in the decision-making process. By ensuring that all student voices are brought to the decision-making table, and that students are able to utilize University resources to be successful, the Student Government believes the student experience can be improved. The Student Government wants to see an increase school spirit, and for each student to be a Proud Patriot; the Student Government will pursue that goal by protecting and improving the overall student experience for all students.

3) Building a community that truly embraces differences and diversity

George Mason University prides itself on its diversity. The Student Government values the different cultures and perspectives students bring to the University. Student Government aims to
promote inclusiveness and understanding of differences through encouraging open dialogue between students. We aim to help strengthen our community by bringing students together and creating ways for students to develop an understanding of one another’s opinions and perspectives. It is this understanding that can help allow students to grow as individuals and be successful in the professional world. Student Government is dedicated to strengthening its relationships with offices and organizations across the university in order to ensure that all students’ voices can be heard.

4) Ensuring students are set up for success during and after their 4 years

George Mason University provides many opportunities and resources for students to utilize, some of which are unique due to the University’s name and location. Often times, students are unaware of all that is available to them and unsure of how to capitalize these resources. The Student Government aims to work with University offices in order to help students identify, and even improve on the resources and opportunities available to them during their undergraduate career. These opportunities are vital in creating an academic and experiential student experience that only George Mason University is able to offer to students, and ultimately add to the value of the George Mason degree. Student Government believes that every student should utilize all that the University offers so that they can continue be innovators and leading minds in the workforce.

5) Being accountable to students

Students put in a significant amount of time, energy and resources into their pursuit of higher education. In return, they are offered a large variety of resources and services; yet sometimes students feel that there can be a disconnect between what they want and what they receive. The Student Government of George Mason University strives to align all of its functions with the motto, “Serving you and the needs of the Mason community”. The Student Government serves as the voice of the students and thus gains its legitimacy from the student body. In order for the Student Government to serve its constituents effectively, students must trust the Student Government. In an effort to maintain a positive relationship with the student body, the Student Government is affirming its commitment to being increasingly transparent and advocating on behalf of the students.

The Student Government recognizes that the student body is a shared constituency between the organization and George Mason University. In an effort to better serve students, the Student Government encourages the University as a whole, to become increasingly transparent to its students. As the Student Government moves forward in this initiative, it hopes to strengthen the relationships that it has with University administration. The Student Government looks forward to working together to build trust and legitimacy between all entities to continue serving students to the best of its ability.