

# Wyche-Palumbo Platform

## Mission Statement

The 44th Student Government Cabinet at George Mason University is driven by a commitment to empowering the student body. The Cabinet has created an agenda that aims to achieve progress for a diverse range of issues and concerns.

Our overarching goals revolve around helping students feel proud and comfortable with their diversity, promoting greater transparency, and advocating for the students' needs. We are committed to creating a better George Mason University for all.

<b>Student Body President:</b>	Paul Wyche, pwyche@gmu.edu
<b>Student Body Vice-President:</b>	Nell Palumbo, npalumbo@gmu.edu
<b>Chief of Staff</b>	Pauneez Faris, pfaris@gmu.edu
<b>Presidential Advisor</b>	Zayd Hamid, zhamid@gmu.edu
<b>Timeline:</b>	Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

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# Platform Agenda

## Admin and Finance

### ***Registered Student Organizations***

- Facilitate greater communication between RSOs and the Student Funding Board as an intermediary

### ***Internal Affairs***

- Host a shadow Student Government event during freshman/transfer elections
- Send records of Student Government events and spending in a public Student Government newsletter

### ***Financial Affairs***

- Lobby the Registrar's Office to allow each student to request and obtain an official transcript for free at least once per academic year
- Demand transparency from University Administration on the allocation of student tuition and fees

# University Services

## ***University Sustainability***

- Work in conjunction with the Office of Housing and Residence Life to promote the Green Residence Program and train RAs accordingly
- Work in conjunction with University Sustainability to ensure the University is implementing/following sustainable practices
- Support the expansion and maintenance of the Food Forest
- Work with University Sustainability to install plastic bag recycling bins around campus

## ***IT Services***

- Ensure the continuation and growth of the Mason Stewards and Mason Stewards for IT programs
- Work with IT Services to expand outdoor WiFi connection
- Work with the Office of Information Technology Services to streamline a reporting form for Apogee power outages in residence halls to help them track outage patterns

## ***Parking & Transportation***

- Garner student responses on the option to buy into the UPass Program to provide unlimited rides on Metrorail without raising the overall cost of tuition for all students
- Push Mason parking to implement a "payment-over-time" option so students can have the choice to pay the price of a parking pass over time or all at once
- Ensure the Parking Board, overseen by the Student Body President, resolves parking citation issues/appeals in a timely manner

## ***Dining Services***

- Continue to provide and improve options for students who have dietary restrictions at the dining halls in conjunction with Mason Dining and the Student Culinary Council
- Ensure that date fruit is made available in all dining halls during Ramadan for Muslim students to break their fast with
- Push for increased cultural food retail dining locations in available facility spaces
- Work with Sodexo to have left over catered food donated or provide to-go boxes

## ***Student Experience***

- Work with the MIX to offer free printing for students
- Work with Facilities to renovate the Grove to provide a dynamic, pleasant outdoor environment for students to find leisure in
- Increase student awareness of the resources on other Mason campuses

# Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

## ***LGBTQ+ Affairs***

- Ensure the map of gender-inclusive bathrooms on campus is updated and publicly disbursed/known to the student body
- Continue to work with LGBTQ+ services on rolling out pronoun stickers for MasonIDs

## ***Religious Affairs***

- Continue working toward establishing Interfaith Prayer rooms on campus so students, faculty, and staff of all religious backgrounds have a private space to pray on campus
- Work with University Administration to ensure respect and support towards individuals from different religious backgrounds. Enhance education and understanding of various faith/religious beliefs that our student body represents on campus through celebrating religious holidays, and highlighting religious student groups by uplifting their impactful work being done in the community.

## ***Disability Affairs***

- Encourage ODS (Office of Disability Services) to send students with registered disabilities a survey with the objective of gaining responses on how we may better accommodate them
- Work with the Mason Stewards to educate them on how to spot and report ADA compliance issues

## ***Multicultural Affairs***

- Work with international students and OIPS (Office of International Program and Services) to restructure the OIPS website in order to make it more effective and understandable for international students who may feel overwhelmed when first navigating it
- Initiative GIVE B(L)ACK, a service-based event during Black History Month with the goal of giving back and supporting black-owned businesses in the community
- Put Indigenous People's Day on the Academic Calendar
- Continue to build the relationship between all RSOs and Student Government, especially those who represent historically marginalized communities

# University Life

## ***Fairfax Life***

- Continue to host Farmer's Market events with both local and student vendors to support small businesses in the Fairfax community

## ***Police Relations***

- Get in touch with RSOs who have had problems with Mason PD in the past and see if there is a need for SG involvement. If so...
  - Host a Mason PD townhall for students to voice their concerns about Mason PD
  - Revitalize the "Coffee with Cops" event for students to share their issues with Mason PD to increase transparency
- Create a SafeRide program in coordination with GMU Police

## ***Contemporary Student Life***

- Provide more resources to out-of-state & international students when they first come to Mason so that they can have a comfortable transition

## ***Greek Life***

- Work to establish a Greek Month, an opportunity for all Greek Organizations (NPHC, IFC, UGC, and Panhellenic) to showcase what they have to offer
- Support the creation of a first-year and upper-division Greek Life LC \*Services\*
- Create events catered to promoting women's empowerment in conjunction with sororities on campus and relevant university offices

## ***Student Resources***

- Coordinate with the Title-IX office and the Undersecretary of Title-IX to create an event to bring awareness to Title-IX issues and options on campus
- Work with the Patriot Pantry to do campus-wide food drives

## ***Recreation & Athletics***

- Work with Mason Recreation and the Office of Parking and Transportation to boost bike check-outs at the AFC and RAC, incentivizing carbon-free transportation
- Work with intramural sports, club sports, and other units in Recreation & Athletics to boost overall student body participation
- Work with Registered Student Organizations to increase participation in tailgating events
- Work with Mason Rec to allow transgender students to play Intramural sports as the gender they identify as

# Government and Community Relations

## ***Government Relations***

- Facilitate a strong relationship with our Fairfax Legislators and Delegates through community outreach events
- Increase Mason's contact with local lawmakers and other political leaders in the Mason District of Fairfax County

## ***Business Relations***

- Work to expand and advertise the Mason Deals List so students are able to fully take advantage of deals catered toward them
- Work with the City of Fairfax to put on a Farmer's Market in the Fall, exclusively featuring local businesses found within the City, in order to promote students going off campus
- Expand and verify the accuracy of the Mason Merchants list through coordination with small businesses in Fairfax County

## ***Community Relations***

- Increase community outreach and political events on Mason's campus
- Expand voter registration and turnout from the student body by working with political organizations on campus

# Academics

## ***Mason Core***

- Support the roll-out of Just Societies within the Mason Core framework by raising student awareness of the importance of DEI frameworks within general education

## ***College Affordability***

- Phase out the student fee for CPR certification for students in the College of Public Health by providing enough CPR classes for the incoming freshman class through partnership with the Population Health Center and Mason Recreation
- Lobby to overturn the Student Accounts 2022 policy change that prohibits tuition waivers for withdrawals due to medical issues
- Expand the First Day Inclusive Access Program to include more classes to save students money on out-of-pocket textbook expenses
- Lobby for one-credit labs to not incur an additional surcharge if that one additional credit results in a student exceeding 15 credits
- Encourage professors to advertise on their syllabi that SG gives out free testing materials year-round

## ***University Transparency***

- Continue hosting town halls with Vice Presidents of University Life and Administration and Finance on tuition and the university budget to increase information transparency
- Increase transparency and accessibility of faculty evaluations to the student body
- Work with the webmasters of each of the academic colleges to standardize faculty biography pages with a provision for syllabus upload

## ***Events***

- Bring back Flash Lectures, an opportunity for students to get a glimpse into a given topic/course taught by a University Professor
- Work with AAUP Mason to increase mental health and burnout awareness among faculty and students through a biannual Destress Fest event

## ***Internal***

- Accredit service in Student Government's executive and legislative branches with either INTS 490 or GOVT 480 internship credits as applicable

## ***Miscellaneous***

- Put Election Day on the Academic Calendar

# Public Relations

## ***Transparency***

- Update the Student Government website to make it clearer and more accessible to students to voice their questions and concerns
- Continue the “State of the Student Body,” a video collaboration between Student Government and Fourth Estate where we talk in detail about Student Government’s accomplishments and current/future initiatives
- Provide bi-weekly/monthly progress reports related to initiatives on the Wyche-Palumbo platform on the Student Government website and social media
- Provide a list of Student Government's achievements on the website

## ***Accessibility***

- Continue to post recordings of Student Senate meetings on YouTube and the Student Government website
- Offer a live stream option so students can attend Senate meetings virtually

*Disclaimer: While these are the current main goals of the Cabinet, there are likely to be additions!*

**Last Updated:**

05/24/2023