



The University of Michigan
Central Student Government

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government (CSG) Report

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University,

I am pleased and honored to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government (CSG). Below is an update on the work of CSG this past month:

Introduction – New President and Vice President

- **President:** Ben Gerstein is a rising Junior, pursuing a major in the Ford School of Public Policy alongside an LSA minor in the DAAS Department. Ben is passionate about making CSG more accessible to students, and enhancing the way through which CSG and University resources impact every student's Michigan experience. His most salient priority as President is inclusivity; ensuring that marginalized voices at the University of Michigan are not only heard, but recognized for their truth. Further, Ben hopes to work on projects conducive to an enhanced student experience; such as, limiting barriers to academic success, making Michigan a more sustainable campus, and expanding the race and ethnicity requirement to create a more wholesome and valuable academic experience across all schools and colleges. Outside of CSG, Ben has worked for 3 years as an overnight camp counselor, where he has worked to build creative programming that is both engaging and informative. His time at camp—leading an age group of around 50 campers and managing programming for 200—has helped develop both his leadership and problem-solving skills. He is an avid fan of sports; a die-hard Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs fan.
- **Vice President:** Isabelle Blanchard is a rising Senior in LSA, double majoring in Biomolecular Science and Computer Science. She is especially passionate about giving back to the Michigan community and connecting with students to provide equitable opportunities on campus. Isabelle hopes to increase awareness of the existing resources on campus through a comprehensive resource guide available to students in both physical and online forms, while also working on implementing new resources based on conversations with students. Isabelle believes the most important step to accomplishing the mission of CSG is to reach out to and meet with students to discuss their experience on campus, both issues and passions. Outside of student government, Isabelle is a member of Salto Dance Company and volunteers at the University of Michigan Hospital through the HOPE Ambassador program.



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Recent and On-Going CSG Projects

- **Graduation Gowns and Photos:**
 - CSG funded free graduation gowns and photographs for over 100 students on campus—ensuring they do not feel burdened by the costs that accumulate during graduation. CSG purchased graduation gowns, caps, and tassels for students. In addition, CSG partnered with Mployments—a student ran talent platform—to create access to photographers for students.

- **Maize & Blue Cupboard:**
 - The Maize & Blue Cupboard will continue to provide for students in the Spring and Summer terms, starting the week of May 5th. CSG would like to recognize the work of previous administrations in helping the Maize & Blue Cupboard find permanent residence and funding, and CSG looks forward to continuing to support this integral campus initiative.

- **Well Being Fee Proposal:**
 - The previous CSG Assembly introduced and passed Resolution 8-077, entitled, “A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WELL-BEING FEE.” The revenue generated by the fee would benefit Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), the new Maize and Blue Cupboard space, and other initiatives encompassed by the holistic model of wellbeing. CSG supports this effort—led by the Greene Administration and students from CSG’s Mental Health Taskforce.

- **Student Organization Funding Committee:**
 - During the Winter semester, SOFC supported 236 student organizations, which represents more than 15% of active student organizations on the Ann Arbor campus. The average portion of requested funds that was granted was 32.11%. During the 2018-2019 school year, SOFC received 860 applications requesting \$1.58 million and awarded \$517,197.48.

Isabelle and I look forward to working with each of you to enhance the Michigan experience for all students this upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Gerstein
President, Central Student Government