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STUDENT LIFE & AMENITIES #ONOTHERISE

Student life is a broad category, so we are committed to accomplishing things that will make a holistic and positive impact on your daily life while spending time on campus. Student life as it relates to our platform includes providing front line mental health resources, addressing food waste in dining halls, and adding some more convenient rental options to Langsam Library.

A. FACULTY & STAFF MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

WHAT IS IT? Due to the high volume of appointment requests that CAPS receives, and a shortage of funding compared to the number of students they serve, we are unable to meet the needs of our growing student body. Wait times for counseling sessions are ever-increasing, so this initiative would seek faculty & staff members from each college to receive basic mental health training and serve as confidential resources for students. Dangerous or threatening matters would always be referred to professionals at CAPS or the appropriate authorities.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? This initiative impacts students that may have academic, involvement, or peer-related stress and need less pertinent and professional help, or quick and accessible guidance. Over time, we hope that this will additionally impact students who do need more immediate and professional help because CAPS will have more capacity to provide services with some of the requests being offset by Faculty & Staff Champions.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? We plan to accomplish this initiative by first working with CAPS to build out an action plan, and then establishing a similar application, training, and implementation process to the former Mental Health Ambassadors program. We believe, however, that Mental Health Champions will be sustainable due to higher retention rates among university employees, as opposed to students who are frequently graduating. We will cooperate with both Faculty & Staff Senate to identify interested candidates.

B. CALLED TO COMPOST

WHAT IS IT? Food waste in dining halls is a problem that faces many college campuses across the country, and UC is no exception to this trend. It’s time we educate students about compostable products and foods, and make composting an option in our high traffic dining halls across campus.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? The impact of Called to Compost affects students who have meal plans and dining passes, allowing them to join the fight in decreasing food waste. This will benefit us all by creating a more environmentally conscious and sustainable campus community.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? UC has taken some steps to eliminate food waste in dining halls since 2017, so we will work with Housing & Food Services to build upon the momentum that we have enjoyed over the last two years, modeling campus composting efforts after peer institutions such as the University of Pittsburgh and George Mason University.

C. LANGSAM CHARGER RENTAL

WHAT IS IT? Students will have the ability to rent phone, tablet, and laptop chargers from Langsam Library for a period of time, similar to the currently existing laptop rental program.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? This is a convenient campus amenity for students who need to charge their devices at the Library or students that forgot chargers at home and need access to one during the day.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? We will use Student Government funds to tackle the costs of chargers for different devices. Langsam Library has been a key campus partner for Student Government, so we will work with them, as well as UCIT, to implement a system where students can check out these chargers for reasonable periods of time.
ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION #ONOTHERISE

Our student body is becoming more diverse with each incoming class, so we have a responsibility to advance the interests of students with marginalized identities and take intentional steps to advocate for the most vulnerable among our campus community. This includes, but is not limited to black & brown students, international students, women, survivors of sexual assault, LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, religious minorities and others. Our plans to help these students goes beyond just representation and will be a unwavering focus of our administration.

A. SURVIVOR SAFE FUND

WHAT IS IT? SAFE stands for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam. Following a sexual assault, survivors can visit UC Health for a SAFE exam that will assess their physical health and collect forensic evidence, should they choose to pursue a criminal investigation. Fortunately, these exams are administered at no cost to survivors. However, other costs can be associated with these trips to the emergency room, such as treatment for other injuries. We will establish a fund specifically to cover additional medical costs that survivors incur as a result of sexual assault, so they won’t need to cover anything out of pocket, or have expenses show up on insurance bills sent home to parents or other family members.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? This initiative will impact survivors of sexual assault who choose to have a SAFE exam administered and find that their exam has additional costs associated. We hope that this fund will ease one more of the burdens survivors might face following sexual assault.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? We plan to allocate an appropriate amount from the annual Student Government budget to spearhead this fund. We will work with UC Health to set up an efficient system in which survivors can anonymously access these funds during their hospital visit.

B. INCLUSIVE CULTURE ADVOCACY

WHAT IS IT? Beyond implementing tangible programs that improve the student experience, we seek to improve the inclusive culture on campus altogether. The fact is, there are students on this campus who feel unwelcome in classrooms and other settings. This is unacceptable, and it affects students of color and those identifying as LGBTQ+ disproportionately. It’s time we put a stop to this by shifting a culture that leaves many students behind. By educating our faculty on equity & inclusion and social justice, we can begin to ensure that every student feels welcomed and appreciated for what they bring to this university, and that no one faces any type of discrimination during their time here.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? This culture change will affect all UC students, faculty, and staff for the better. We hope that it will capitalize on what we consider to be UC’s greatest point of unity: its differences.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? By partnering with the Office of Equity, Inclusion, & Community Impact to deliver workshops to faculty members, we will create a more inclusive culture for students within colleges, offices, and most importantly, classrooms. Peer accountability is a vital part of inclusion and educating our faculty is a key step in establishing a culture where we call others in to learn about equity.
ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION #ONOTHERISE (CONT’D.)

Our student body is becoming more diverse with each incoming class, so we have a responsibility to advance the interests of students with marginalized identities and take intentional steps to advocate for the most vulnerable among our campus community. This includes, but is not limited to black & brown students, international students, women, survivors of sexual assault, LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, religious minorities and others. Our plans to help these students goes beyond just representation and will be a unwavering focus of our administration.

C. CAMPUS HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

WHAT IS IT? Healthcare can be tricky, expensive, and in general, overwhelming. Women’s health specifically is often more so. We will work to make student health, particularly that of femme-identifying students, more accessible by connecting with local healthcare providers to administer STI testing, mammograms, and other health screenings vital to the well-being of college students.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? We hope that this will be a program that features a different health screening at least once a semester. Some of those will benefit the entire student body, while others will focus specifically on femme-identifying students.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? The key to this initiative is accessibility, so what we seek to do is break down barriers. Depending on the service, this could mean offering services at a reduced cost, bringing them to campus during the day, or providing transportation to a local clinic. We will work to ensure that these critical services are brought as close to students as possible, while still being mindful about the confidential nature of healthcare.
First and foremost, students come to our university to receive a quality education. In efforts to do so, students should not carry the burden of a lack of access to resources or connections that can directly impact their academic success and career development. From your first days on campus, to your last interview before graduation, here is how we plan to enhance your academic experience.

**A. NO BEARCAT LEFT BEHIND**

**WHAT IS IT?** Recognizing that Learning Communities serve as the first touchpoint for most first-year students, we will work with the Learning Commons first-year programs to bring Learning Communities to colleges that do not have them and further develop existing programs to meet the needs and wants of first-year students.

**WHO DOES IT IMPACT?** This initiative will impact all first-year students in learning communities, and especially those enrolled in colleges or programs with no currently existing learning communities.

**HOW WILL WE DO IT?** After gathering input from students who have and have not benefited from learning communities, the most feasible solution to this problem is working with individual college administrations, in conjunction with First-Year Experience, to develop programming and content that meets the needs of first-year students in their respective programs.

**B. AFFORDABLE CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY**

**WHAT IS IT?** With the high costs of a college degree already impeding many students’ academic success, we believe it is our responsibility to reduce as many of those financial barriers as we can. We will explore alternatives and price reductions to expensive technology like clickers and major-specific software in order to cut back on academic costs that build up on top of tuition.

**WHO DOES IT IMPACT?** We believe this initiative will impact almost all students at least once throughout their college careers, as these technologies could be required for any class in any major.

**HOW WILL WE DO IT?** We will research alternatives to pricey technology currently required and work with the Office of the Provost to implement on a department level. In the short term, we will subsidize the cost of new programs as necessary, using an appropriate amount of funds out of the Student Government budget.

**C. JOB INTERVIEW SHUTTLES**

**WHAT IS IT?** The career fair comes around once each semester and serves as an outstanding avenue for students to build connections with companies. These connections often lead to job interviews the following week, and while some companies make it on campus for these interviews, not all of them can do so. During the week following the fall and spring career fairs, we aim to provide transportation shuttles downtown so that students can dedicate their time and energy to preparing for interviews, and worry less about transportation and how they will get there.

**WHO DOES IT IMPACT?** This service impacts any student who receives an opportunity to interview at a company located in the downtown Cincinnati area, during the weeks following the career fairs.

**HOW WILL WE DO IT?** We will implement this service to students by working with UC Transportation and Shuttle Services to provide downtown shuttles on the select dates and times that are most appropriate with interviews, post-career fair. If all times cannot be accommodated for, we can create a Lyft Code and subsidize the cost of transportation for students that still need transportation.
200 YEARS #ONTHERISE

In honor of this landmark time in our University’s history, 200 Years #OnTheRise includes initiatives that seek to unify our campus and the greater Cincinnati area. Not only is it important that we take steps to connect as Bearcats, but also that we realize our broader obligation to the city we reside in. We plan to go the extra mile in building partnerships that mutually benefit our student body and the local community.

A. FC CINCINNATI STUDENT TICKETS

WHAT IS IT? UC welcomed FC Cincinnati to our campus back in 2016, and ever since we have enjoyed the energy and excitement they bring to the university. FC Cincy has been a beacon of unification for both our campus and the city as a whole, and in celebration of this and their inaugural season in the MLS, we will be partnering with the club to offer 200 free student tickets to a number of home games, as well as developing a discounted student ticket package.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? This initiative will impact any student fans of the club, from day-one supporters to those eager to attend their very first game in Nippert Stadium.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? We will provide free student tickets by working with FC Cincy to subsidize the cost of the most expensive home game(s) and ensure that a considerable amount of students have an opportunity to attend. To develop a discounted ticket package for other games, we will collaborate to identify the home contests during the fall semester and provide a more affordable rate for student fans.

B. CPS COLLEGE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT? In 2017, less than 100 of the approximately 6,900 spring graduates attended Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS). As the University of Cincinnati, and not just a university in Cincinnati, it is our obligation to connect with and impact the city in which we reside and take great pride in. This program would bring in 200 middle school and high school students from CPS to UC for a day, allowing them to engage in programming that makes them aware of college admissions/application processes, financial aid, standardized testing requirements, and much more. Generational knowledge of opportunities is often a barrier for underprivileged and/or first generation students, and this initiative will seek to combat this issue in our local community.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT? On the surface, this initiative will impact the 200 students who get to benefit from the program. But in addition to this, we are building long-term and sustainable relationships with local schools, guidance counselors, and community members for a greater purpose. An increase in education for members of the Cincinnati community represents an investment that generates returns beyond tangible measure.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? This initiative will take a ton of partnership, first beginning with outreach to CPS schools. We will also partner with UC Admissions to develop a comprehensive experience for these students and ensure that content and resources are beneficial to prospective students. A small task force will be comprised of Student Government members, UC Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs to execute the planning of this event.
In honor of this landmark time in our University’s history, 200 Years #OnTheRise includes initiatives that seek to unify our campus and the greater Cincinnati area. Not only is it important that we take steps to connect as Bearcats, but also that we realize our broader obligation to the city we reside in. We plan to go the extra mile in building partnerships that mutually benefit our student body and the local community.

C. OUTREACH HOURS

WHAT IS IT?  Commitment to transparency is key for elected representatives of any organization. In the spirit of raising the bar for the standards we hold ourselves to, Abbie and Chandler will conduct 200 combined hours of student organization outreach, focus groups, and public office hours over the course of the term in an effort to easily connect with students and be accessible and transparent to our constituents about the things we’re working on. This behavior will resonate throughout our organization and create more awareness and better relationships between Student Government representatives and their constituents.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?  This initiative will impact all students who want their voices to be heard.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?  Chandler, Abbie, and other Student Government members will organize a schedule to hold public office hours in different spaces on campus, virtual office hours on Facebook Live, as well as be present at student organization meetings and events on campus.
QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

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