



Dartmouth College Student Assembly

Vox Populus – Voice of the People

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

To: The Student Body of Dartmouth College

Re: *State of the Student Body - Fall 2014*

Welcome back everyone!

As your newly elected President and Vice President of Student Assembly, the Dennis-Cunningham team would like to formally welcome everyone back to Dartmouth's 245th academic school year. We would also like to extend a special welcome to the newest members of our Dartmouth family – the Class of 2018. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to campus this fall. Welcome home.

We couldn't be more humbled and honored to be serving you this year, in what we think will be a special, exciting year for Dartmouth. Last spring, we promised that this student body would know exactly what their elected officials would be doing for them. As such, we've decided to release this statement - the State of the Student Body - so that you could know what new and exciting ideas Student Assembly has in store for you during the upcoming term.

With every decision Student Assembly makes this term, we want to ensure we're acting in the best interest of the student body. Additionally, we want the student body to be informed about what Student Assembly is working on and pursuing at all times. In order to fulfill this, we've decided to add to our team a new marketing director with social media co-chairs, in addition to the bi-termly release of the State of the Student Body.

This year, we envision a Student Assembly that bases every idea and initiative on two fundamental ideas: transparency and action. In terms of transparency, we want students to feel as though they can be a part of the decisions made on our executive board.

Contact Us: Collis Center 205 A • Dartmouth College Hanover, NH • 603.646.0081
Student.Assembly@Dartmouth.EDU • www.dartmouth.edu/~saportal

© Copyright 2011, The Dartmouth College Student Assembly. All rights reserved. Information provided in this press release may be quoted and properly cited in newspapers, journals, radio, and television. Reproduction in all other media sources not listed here must be approved in writing by the Speaker.

In order to enhance the line of communication between students and Student Assembly, we've decided to add two rotating members to sit on our board each term. Each member will serve on the board for one term, possessing full voting power during their tenure.

Beginning this term, after every executive board meeting, we will be releasing our notes to the student body. Additionally, if any student or organization would like to speak with the executive board directly, they can simply blitz us and we will invite them to an upcoming meeting. Student Assembly will also be hosting open office hours every Sunday from 7:30-9:30 PM this term in the Student Assembly office (Collis 301A).

Accompanying a decline in membership and relevance, Student Assembly has faltered at a time when the College has been beset with student turmoil and months of negative press. This is why we are emphasizing the need for Student Assembly to take action and gain pertinence over the course of the upcoming term and year that we are in office.

With action comes being effective. We believe every step SA makes this year should effectively improve the lives of students on this campus. After being elected, we both realized that the current SA structure was no longer conducive to reaching that goal. We have restructured SA to grow the number of student participants. Student Assembly will now feature a governing body that incorporates the ideas and opinions of more than ninety students this year. This growth in representation will be a crucial step forward in meeting student needs across all communities of campus.

This year, Student Assembly committees have also been completely re-designed to better address the issues students face day in and day out on campus. This can be illustrated by the fact that our Academic Affairs Committee will now feature the addition of four faculty members to increase student-faculty communication and collaboration.

Student Assembly also believes that every student should have access to national news sources. As such, SA will continue to provide daily paper copies of the *New York Times* on newsstands in Novack, Collis, FoCo, and the Hop. This fall, we are proud to introduce a new option available to all students. In this day of new technology and the desire to conserve as much paper and resources as possible, every Dartmouth student will also have access to their own personal *New York Times* online subscription.

We believe that Student Assembly should be committed to promoting and enhancing school spirit. Our Assembly will be hosting a slew of tailgates throughout the term supporting every sports team in hopes to increase school pride, support, and campus-wide participation at sporting events. Student Assembly will also be committed to hosting meetings with affinity houses, freshman floors, Greek organizations, and various campus clubs in order to certify that an open line of communication is never broken. It is our responsibility to ensure that everyone on campus always feels and knows how Student Assembly can help further their goals and aspirations for the term.

We are so excited to announce that this term we will also be releasing two school-wide campaigns that will address the issues of sexual assault and mental health, respectively. September 30th will mark the start of our mental health awareness campaign, which kicks off right before National Mental Health Awareness Week. On that night, we will be hosting a panel discussion in Moore auditorium, opening up the dialogue for a topic that is often considered taboo here at Dartmouth. Throughout the fall, we will work with Dick's house and other groups on campus to examine the seriousness of mental health on college campuses, the relationship between binge drinking and mental health, and tools to combat depression, stress, and anxiety. This campaign will highlight the outlets, counselors, and resources that Dartmouth currently offers regarding mental health. It should also serve as a movement to take a serious stance to improve the lifestyles of Dartmouth students at all levels. It is up to us, as the Dartmouth student body, to ensure that we are not only taking advantage of a first-class Dartmouth education – but that every student is in a healthy mental state.

In addition to our campaign on mental health, Student Assembly will also be placing a huge emphasis on combatting sexual assault. This September, our Assembly will be partnering with the National Campus Leaders Council to work with national student leaders and policymakers to address sexual assault on college campuses.

We've committed to join the White House's #ItsOnUs campaign to help generate an environment where sexual assault is unacceptable. To start the campaign, we'll be launching a student leaders welcome back roundtable to have an open dialogue about sexual assault on this campus. In addition, we'll be running a social media campaign and holding an event for National Campus Conversation Week. As the only elected body on

campus, the Assembly looks to apply our position within the student body to add substance to the conversation on sexual assault and use it to shift the culture on campus and fuel policy change.

We hope everyone has had a great start to the term, and we look forward to seeing you around campus. We couldn't be more excited to work with you!

Yours truly,

DARTMOUTH

Casey A. Dennis

Student Body President

Frank M. Cunningham III

Student Body Vice President

For further questions, please contact Reilly Johnson
(reilly.j.johnson.16@dartmouth.edu), Press Director of the Dartmouth Student
Assembly.

