

YEAR IN REVIEW

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
2019-2020



ON CAMPUS



HOMEcoming 2019

Through the combined efforts of Program Board, Multicultural Programming, the Center for IDEAs, several student organizations and many other departments, FAU experienced its most successful homecoming week ever with Owlstock, a 60's themed tribute to the famous Woodstock festival.

Students enjoyed a variety of events such as comedian Chris D'Elia, performances from artists Amine and Ari Lennox, as well as tie-dye stations, yoga sessions with goats, chalk art, and on-campus carnivals.

Students were also given opportunities to give back to the community through the ExtravaCANza food drive, as well as Days of Service at various campuses which focused on addressing social issues.

CHIK-FIL-A BREAKFAST

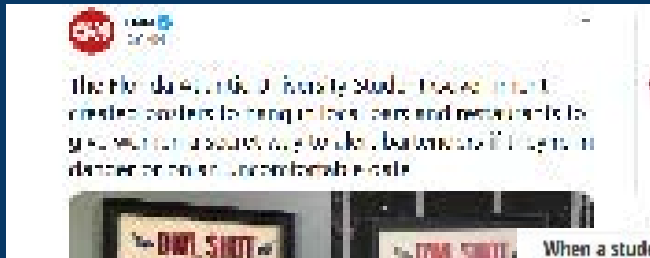
The students asked, and we listened. Many who come to campus for their early 8am classes requested that FAU provide more breakfast options.

We took the initiative to provide breakfast from the most popular on-campus location, Chik Fil A, and students have reported feeling more focused and energized to take on their morning tasks.

This long-debated amenity for students took dozens of student polls, staff surveys, and general questionnaires, and we are incredibly thankful to see everybody's hard work pay off in such a delicious victory.



STUDENT LIFE



OWL SHOTS GOES VIRAL

Student safety is our #1 priority. As we saw countless students advocate for a better environment around them, we responded with the implementation of our brand new "Owl Shots" program.

The idea is simple- if students are feeling unsafe or uncomfortable while out at a bar or restaurant, they have the option of ordering an 'Owl Shot' from the bartender in one of three ways: **'Neat'**, **'With Lime'**, or **'On the Rocks'**.

Ordering the shot 'Neat' would inform the bartender that you'd like to be escorted to your car, 'With Lime' would let them know to call you an Uber or taxi, and 'On the Rocks' would let them know to call the police due to a threat.

These code words are displayed on posters hanging in the restrooms and behind the bars of the popular areas for students, and the response has been incredible.

We are thankful for CNN, the New York Post, and several other major news outlets for picking up the story. We hope it inspires other schools and universities to adopt a similar program to keep students safe.

We are already in the process of expanding further in the Boca Raton, Jupiter, and Ft. Lauderdale areas, and we're very excited to see how far we can go.

OWL SHOT

Are you on a date that isn't going well? Are you feeling unsafe, or even just a bit weird? For help, just go to the bar and order an Owl Shot.

-  **neat**
Bar staff will escort you to your car.
-  **on the rocks**
Bar staff will call a ride for you.
-  **with lime**
Bar staff will call the police.





ASK YOUR FAVORITE BAR 

'OWLS' INTERVIEWS

Many know the most popular majors, initiatives, and accomplishments of their university, but how much is known about the students that participate?

The OWLS series sought to solve the question, "What can I truly achieve at FAU?", by showing first-hand accounts of what different students had accomplished through the knowledge, connections, and resources they obtained through their university.

The 5-7 minute interviews followed the stories of local business owners and entrepreneurs as they described their journey entering the real world both during and after college.



FINANCIAL FRIDAYS

Managing finances can be a massive hurdle for low-income college students to take on, and often times they don't know where to even begin with things like balancing a checkbook or budgeting long term.

Student Government took on the challenge to educate students on various ways to both save and invest their money through weekly posts on social media. These posts contained graphics explaining a wide variety of financial topics, from rules of thumb for budgeting to the different options students had if they wanted to start investing their savings.



UBER CODES

Safety is the number one priority for FAU students. To help guarantee our students had a safe ride home, we implemented Uber codes which provided a free \$25 worth of credits (\$5 a ride) every month.

This ensured that students could have an accessible mode of transportation as well as preventing drinking-and-driving incidents.

“AFFORDABILITY”



When Student Government polled students on what would be their biggest influence to continue their education through certifications or grad school, the answer by a large margin was “affordability”.

To help those in need of extra assistance, we made it our key priority to help make higher education accessible to all of our hardworking students. As a result, several affordability initiatives were formed.

SG SCHOLARSHIP

FAU Student Government acknowledges the hardships of balancing academics with financial burdens and would like to reward students going above and beyond. For the first time in Florida Atlantic’s history, Student Government is creating a need-based scholarship available for students who have demonstrated industriousness towards their academics and leadership among their respective campus. The “Student Government Scholarship” will be awarded to students who apply, with proof of a financial need for it.



“The SG Scholarship helped me afford my books, which is a big stress for my family”
-Mercedes, Finance Sophomore

LAST MILE SCHOLARSHIP

For low income students, approaching the final year of your degree can bring a lot of financial uncertainty. Student Government sought to help these students, who have already invested so much time and money into their university, by providing a safety net for their “last mile” to graduation.

The Last Mile scholarship provides assistance to graduating seniors for their last year at FAU, and can make a big difference for students who need one last push before finishing.

**ACADEMIC
TRANSCRIPT VOUCHER**

APPLYING TO GRAD SCHOOL?

If you have more than 90 credits completed and are in good academic standing with the university, you are eligible to present this voucher to the office to receive a copy of your FAU Academic Transcript for FREE!

TRANSCRIPT VOUCHER

The Student Senate of Student Government and the President’s Administrative Cabinet have worked together to create a Transcript Voucher Program that will be open to any FAU student to apply for, to have the fee that comes with requesting an academic transcript waived.

Chief Financial Officer Sydney Elney states that “the initiative is to help students expand horizons by helping to lower the costs associated with applying to graduate school.”

FREE TEST PREP

Graduation isn't the only thing seniors are studying for- there also comes months of preparation for graduate admission exams like the MCAT, LSAT, or GRE. Since the cost of tutoring alone can be intimidating for students, Student Government has collaborated with the FAU Test Center to provide subsidized assistance to students in financial need.

COMMUNITY

BAHAMAS HURRICANE FOOD DRIVE

On September 1, 2019, the Bahamas were hit by the category 5 hurricane Dorian, causing an estimated \$3.4 Billion in damage.

Because many FAU students and staff were affected, Student Government rallied to create a charity drive that would go on to collect dozens of cans, feminine hygiene products, and other much-needed supplies for those affected.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In the spring semester, FAU Student Government faced the unprecedented challenge of advocating for students while also navigating a global pandemic.

Despite the initial shock, Florida Atlantic staff and students of all kinds began to make drastic changes to help one another. Organizations such as Program Board and Multicultural Program Board, as well as dozens of Greek and various student clubs, began to cancel the remainder of the years events.

While in some cases this meant throwing away months of preparation, there was never a moment of hesitation as the entire university selflessly sacrificed their fun and extracurriculars for the safety of their fellow Owls.

Our staff got to work on educational graphics, showing updates from around campus or the city or informing students of various resources available to them, while the FAU Library also created an open-source library full of resources.

While it has been a learning curve, our staff is still going strong to work for you and your on (or off) campus experience.



STATE

RALLY TO TALLY

Student Government employees had the incredible opportunity to travel to Tallahassee and represent the Florida Student association, where they advocated to members of Congress and Senate about pressing issues that students are facing.

Through their efforts the bill HB-3419 has advanced through the early stages to be passed, which would allocate funding to all state universities to tackle the issue of food and housing insecurity.



Members of FAU Student Government at the Capitol Building



President Kevin and staff with Mayor Scott Singer

A VISIT FROM THE MAYOR

Student Government is very thankful to Boca Raton mayor Scott Singer for giving his time to speak to the FAU student body. At Mayor Singers discussion panel, students had the opportunity to learn about the inner-workings of Boca Raton firsthand through a live Q&A session.

“He was incredibly candid” SG VP Celine Persaud recalls. “You don’t get a lot of opportunities like this, to ask hard questions and get such an honest answer.”

Mayor Singer went over his day-to-day life in the office, detailing how the city approaches the various challenges they face on a consistent basis.

MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA



@SGatFAU

FOLLOWERS

% Increase

+150%

Annual Increase

+ 970

TOTAL POSTS

+250%

+ 63



@SGatFAU

FOLLOWERS

% Increase

+2.7%

Annual Increase

+ 50

TOTAL POSTS

+154%

+ 52

NEW STRATEGIES

FAU SG Marketing tried some new approaches to engaging with students, whether through informing students about events that are happening around campus, or on ways to educate students about important issues that they or their peers may be facing.

One great source of new engagements was our “Motivational Monday” post, which would show quotes over images that would resonate with students. They often followed a theme, such as study-related quotes for finals, or prominent black achievements for February.

Another new initiative was to consolidate certain on-campus events that were listed on OwlCentral into a big weekly post that would help students go to events that they might not hear about normally.

These are just some of the many ways we’ve tried to innovate over the past year. As seen in our metrics, our new strategies boosted engagement in all student demographics and we will excitedly build on them for use in the near future.

WHAT'S ON CAMPUS?
FEB. 11-14

= FREE FOOD/DRINKS
 = FREE STUFF

 ACCOUNTING SPEAKERS Accounting professionals discuss job opportunities Student Union 11 AM TUESDAY, FEB. 12	 CAREER EXPO Industry-leading businesses meet and network with FAU students Campus Rec 11 AM THURSDAY, FEB. 13
GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE Meet your candidates for the Student Body Elections Live Oak, Student Union 6 PM THURSDAY, FEB. 13	 QUEER COFFEE LGBTQ+ open discussion to enjoy company and discuss issues. Owl's Care Room SS-222 12 PM FRIDAY, FEB. 14



**THANK YOU FOR AN
UNFORGETTABLE YEAR**