May 2014 Report,

This year, Student Senate worked on transparency. The goal of every new initiative pursued was to create better communication with Student Senate and the Student Body. The prime role of Student Senate is to represent the students. This is not attainable unless the institution itself opens up to gather comments, concerns, and suggestion from the students. We relayed information through various platforms to open discussion on what Student Senate was doing. Below are the list of initiatives and the goal they accomplished.

Ask a Senator Day: Campus-wide event aimed at gathering suggestions from the Student Body. Committees worked on making progress on some of the suggestions throughout the year. However, most of the time, Student Senate could not act because the change had to occur on an institutional level. Moving forward, the following is a list of suggestions Student Senate would still like addressed gathered from Ask a Senator Day.

- Environmental Sustainability
- Handicap Accessibility
- Increase Radius of Public Safety Shuttle Transportation
- Variety of Dining Food Options
- Printers in Residence Halls
- Commuter Lounge
- Remodel Ganfield
- CCE Support
- Sell Alcohol
- Decrease Tuition

Snacks With Your Senators: A two-hour, four-part series where Student Senate gathered comments, concerns, and suggestions. Allowed Senate to communicate effectively face-to-face with students. This was especially useful for Student Organizations during the budget process.

Monthly Newsletter: Highlighted important updates and new initiatives pursued by Student Senate. Informed students on what Student Senate actually does.

Today in Student Senate: A Sunday night recap of full board meeting on our Facebook page. Although Student Senate publishes meeting minutes, they are seldom read. Utilizing social media provides instantaneous information where students are most likely to read it. Our most popular post totaled over 600 views.

Office Hours: In an effort to reach out to more students, senators shared the responsibility and collectively held office hours at Second Cup twice a week. This increased our visibility on campus.
Q&A Sessions: Due to the financial rebalancing that is occurring at Carroll University, Student Senate voted unanimously to sponsor three Q&A sessions on April 7-9th, 2014. Students could pose questions to the top administrators including Dr. Doug Hastad, Dr. Theresa Barry, Ron Lostetter, and Dr. Joanne Passaro. Student Senate also voted unanimously to request an FAQ sheet to be posted in the Carroll University webpage for all students to read. As of April 17, 2014 Student Senate is still waiting for the FAQ sheet to be posted. Student Senate lacked the resources to communicate with all students that the financial rebalancing was occurring. After suggesting that the administration send out an e-mail communication to inform all undergraduate students about the financial rebalancing, the response was a firm no. Response from students regarding the current situation is mixed. Some still do not know. Others know but don’t care or believe it is not our business as students to get involved. They accept it as a business decision. Yet, there are others who feel very passionately and argue strongly against the decision to lay off 14 staff and 2 faculty. They are angry and want to know how this decision will affect the future of certain departments at Carroll and how they, as students, will be affected.

Thank you,

Erika Ysaias