

Student Senate

MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT

Across the United States, student governments strive to best represent the student body of their institution. The degree of influence on institutional policy varies vastly between these student governments. When unable to influence college policy-making, student governments have far less success in making a lasting impact at their college or university.

In establishing “student engagement” as one of our core values, Pitzer stands for the belief that students must be active participants in college governance. From helping to shape academic criteria and curriculum, to determining the future members of faculty and staff, Pitzer College has always promised to be different. It has always promised to give a voice to students that otherwise would likely go unheard.

The Pitzer College Student Senate currently boasts 50 senators and representatives, 10 judicial council members, and 5 Executive Board members. With roughly 6% of the entire student population serving as members of the Senate, Pitzer ranks among the largest per capita student governments of all higher education institutions in the United States. This structure allows for better representation of the wide range of students’ interests, beliefs, and ideologies.

As we looker towards the future, there is a strong desire to progressively diversify the individuals who comprise Pitzer’s student government. Not only is it the responsibility of Student Senate to see this goal through, but also the duty of all Pitzer students to get involved in the democratic process.

Working together, I am certain that we can create a more inclusive environment and continue to push Pitzer College to new limits.

Provida Futuri,



Andrew Lydens, Student Senate President, 2015–16

HIGHLIGHTS

- Creation of a newly revised Stud Student Senate Constitution, which was approved by the entire Student Body in a campus-wide referendum.
- Unanimous passage of a resolution formally recognizing “Indigenous Peoples Day” and censuring “Columbus Day” at Pitzer College.
- Active involvement with the recently established Presidential Search Committee, including the appointment of a student representative to serve on that committee
- Advocated for amending proposed changes to the college’s graduation requirements.
- Unanimous passage of a resolution calling for the addition of Gender-Neutral restrooms in key buildings on campus
- Approved the creation of over a dozen new student clubs and organizations.
- Successfully reformed the annual Budget allocation system in order to prevent overspending and create a special rainy-day fund.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Advocate for additional amendments to the Student Senate Constitution that eliminate remaining ambiguities and inconsistencies.
- Improve level of diversity in Student Senate to ensure that the voices of underrepresented communities can be heard.
- Highlight and recognize the achievements of Pitzer students and campus organizations.
- Reform the current election system in a way that empowers all students and enables greater voter participation.
- Greater student involvement in current administrative changes taking place at Pitzer College.

“When I helped to establish Table Tennis Professionals—Pitzer’s first ever competitive Ping-Pong club—Student Senate played an integral role in streamlining the process and bringing together a group of ping-pong enthusiasts. Dozens of student organizations are thriving at Pitzer. When a student has a good idea for a new club, Senate helps make that idea a reality.”

Doug Lewis '17, Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee (APT)

“It’s amazing how much Student Senate was able to accomplish in the past year. I am especially proud of our efforts to increase the number of gender-neutral restrooms available on Pitzer’s campus. Senate is leading the fight to create a more safe and inclusive college environment for transgender and non-binary individuals.”

Chance Kawar '17, Student Senate Secretary