



November 19, 2014

USG Supports a Safe and Sustainable Mirror Lake Jump

Columbus- In September 2014, Undergraduate Student Government hosted a 3-part series consisting of a Town Hall and two panelist discussions concerning the Mirror Lake Jump. These meetings were open to the entire student population. By hosting the in-person Town Hall and simultaneous virtual town via USG social media, USG sought to ensure that all students could vocalize opinions and propose solutions. The overwhelming consensus from participating students was that the jump was a meaningful tradition, which would warrant making compromises with the administration where necessary in order for it to continue.

The panelist discussions included expert testimony from individuals with unique perspectives on the jump, including a public health specialist, OSUPD Captain, and Wexner Medical Center employee, among others. These discussions and opinions were taken to the General Assembly to develop a recommendation.

Members of the General Assembly, elected by undergraduate students, representing all colleges and living areas, had a voice in passing a resolution. That resolution suggested various items to the University's Administration, and was based on the information presented to them at the town hall and subsequent panels. This resolution resolved to "support continuing the Mirror Lake Jump in a form that protects student safety while preserving the essence of the tradition." Other action items that the resolution called for include:

- Only reasonable regulations directly related to safety
- Sexual assault prevention programming
- Volunteer corps
- Continued medical and police personnel
- Increased entry points to the lake, if fences are used
- Increased access to wristbands, if used
- No specific time limit
- No division of jumpers
- No cost to students
- Supplemental safe event
- Adequate lighting

The resolution's suggestions were presented to various university administrations, and were taken into consideration in the development of The Department of Public Safety's plan. This plan includes vastly improved access to wristbands, increased entrance and exit points within the fenced in area surrounding Mirror Lake, and minimal further regulation. More information about their plan can be found at: <http://www.ps.ohio-state.edu>

USG will be coordinating a volunteer corps to assist jump participants where necessary. Register to volunteer at go.osu.edu/MirrorLakeVolunteer. USG will also be coordinating an informational social media campaign including safety tips for the jump and information on the university plan. Follow @usgosu for updates on the jump and tips for how to #ProtectTheTradition in 2014 and for years to come.

For additional information, please contact:

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