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USG Demographics Report Release

Columbus – We, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), have the incredible opportunity to represent all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University. Earlier in this academic year we received valued feedback from students, and it became clear that it was necessary for USG to conduct an internal demographics report to investigate the makeup of our organization so that we can ensure that all students are adequately represented. We take our responsibility as student representatives very seriously, and that responsibility includes fostering a space where student voices are welcome. Our organization has advocated for all identities on campus, but that is not enough. All identities have a place in our organization, and we must do a better job of sharing that message.

On November 13, 2015, Undergraduate Student Government committed to releasing a demographics report and a recruitment plan. In the proceeding days, USG began to discuss the execution and implementation of the report and recruitment plan. Between that point and December 8, the final day of autumn semester classes, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, and Senior Staff worked to create a comprehensive survey. Through collaboration with the Center for the Study of Student Life, a survey was finalized and distributed to members of USG on January 18, 2016, one week after returning from break. The survey remained open until February 11, 2016, once the survey reached a response rate of 95.05%, ensuring the results of the survey accurately represented the demographics of the organization. The results were compiled into the report released today.

The results of the report highlight a wide range of information, illuminating areas of underrepresentation as well as areas of strength in representation. We recognize that there are groups on campus that are underrepresented in USG, and we are working to rectify this. We will work to more effectively represent the student body by increasing the representation in areas of gender identity, racial and ethnic heritage, international residency, retention of fourth year students, and those not affiliated with Greek life. It is also important for us to highlight identities that are represented well within USG. The report unveils that USG has strong representation of students who identify as LGBTQ, students who receive a Federal Pell Grant, students who are employed, and first generation college students.

The completion of this report will result in the implementation of a USG Task Force, which will be collaboration between the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Internal Affairs Committee, and the Outreach Committee. Directors Tony Buss(.43), Amelia Gulick(.41), and Zawwar Khan(.480) will be leading the Task Force and will be creating a comprehensive recruitment plan to improve the areas where USG falls short. We are committed to shaping our organization to have the best possible representation so that every Ohio State student has a voice within student government.

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