



Dear Policymakers,

On behalf of more than 17,000 undergraduates that the Towson University Student Government Association proudly represents, we are pleased to present to you our 2012 Legislative Agenda.

Unanimously approved by the Student Government Association, this agenda encompasses the concerns and needs of our student constituency, as well as some of our initiatives to address them. While specific issues are discussed, our agenda is not limited to what is presented here.

As matters pertaining to Towson University and higher education arise throughout the legislative session, we will continue to advocate for Towson University students. We look forward to working with the General Assembly to ensure that the State of Maryland continues to enact legislation that is in the best interests of Maryland's students and higher education system.

GO TIGERS!

Respectfully Yours,


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Student Government Association

2012 Legislative Agenda





To Preserve Affordability

In today's global environment, perhaps nothing is more important than a college education. That is why—for the sake of our communities, the state of Maryland and our country—we must continue to make the affordability of higher education a top priority in our state capitol. The Student Government Association seeks your support of education funding and aid for students who desperately want to attend college, but simply cannot afford to do so.

Financial Aid. The Student Government Association strongly supports an increased role by the State to fund Towson University students. In FY 2012, Towson University received the lowest funding per FTE student in the state. Subsequently, Towson must apply 61 percent of its revenue from tuition and fees to operating costs. As the value of a Towson University education continues to increase, additional state funding is required to maintain its affordability.

Gas Tax. Affordability of education goes beyond the price of tuition. Commuter students comprise 75 percent of Towson University's student body. Most of these students rely on motor vehicle transportation to commute to and from campus. With the price of gas continually increasing, an additional tax would hurt students who rely on their car as a means of transportation. The Student Government Association urges the General Assembly to reject any increase in the gas tax which would place additional pressure on students and families.

To Support Campus Growth and Improvement

Towson University is proud to have made many improvements and expansions, academically and structurally, over the past few years. With these improvements, Towson has advanced its national reputation tremendously. It is important that Towson continues on this trend and remains one of the up-and-coming universities in America. Your continued support will advance Towson's mission, and benefit our students, communities and state.

Campus Growth. Towson University entered its third consecutive year of no growth in the fall of 2011. Despite the increasing number of applicants, the university was forced to turn away many students. Towson University does not have the proper funding needed to hire additional faculty that our current and increasing student population requires. The Student Government Association supports an increase of funds that will ensure educational quality along with the projected expansion.

Campus Safety. Towson University students rely on a campus environment that is both safe and efficient. The Student Government Association strongly supports maintaining the \$13.8M in funds required to begin phase two of Site and Safety Improvements for FY 2013 and build a pedestrian bridge spanning Osler Drive. With two new residence halls, recently-constructed West Village Commons, and a new 1,500-space parking garage, thousands of students and visitors walk across Osler Drive multiple times per day, which is dangerous for students and congested for vehicular traffic.

Necessary Improvements. The Student Government Association strongly advocates for your support of the funds required in FY 2013 for phase one of necessary improvements to Smith Hall. One of the oldest buildings on campus and home to the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, Smith Hall is in need of repair and renovation.

To Maintain Sustainable Initiatives

Year after year, Towson University remains committed to creating a sustainable campus environment. The university and Student Government Association recognize the importance of efficient and sustainable technologies. We ask for your support in sustainable initiatives and legislation.

Recycling. Towson University is committed to recycling campus-wide. In 2010, more than 1,000 tons of material was recycled on campus. There are nearly 4,000 recycling containers around campus, including recycling bins for proper disposal of electronic goods.

Reducing Dependence. In the fall of 2011, the Student Government Association began to give away free, reusable water bottles to reduce students' dependence on non-reusable items. Students with bottles may take advantage of a water bottle filling station in the University Union or discounts on fountain drinks in the dining halls.

Towson at a Glance

Towson University has 21,464 enrolled students.

- Towson University has a total enrollment of 21,464 students.
- Towson is Maryland's largest producer of teachers, health professionals and business majors.
- Eighty percent of students call Maryland home.
- Minority students at Towson graduate at an equal or higher rate than non-minority students.
- Approximately 73,000 Towson alumni call Maryland home.

