



Office of the Student Body External Vice President

End-of-Year Report
2021-22 Academic Year / 69th Legislative Session

May 11, 2022

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Foreword: From the EVP

On behalf of the Office of the Student Body External Vice President, I am pleased to welcome you to the office's 2021-22 End-of-Year Report. I have had the distinct honor and privilege of serving as the 25th Student Body External Vice President of Baylor University for the 69th Legislative Session.



In this report, you will find broad-level information about the various initiatives, successes, and failures of the EVP office this year. This report is intended to provide transparency to the student body, partners of my office, and other impacted stakeholders. It will also aid in ensuring a smooth transition from one EVP to another.

Serving in this capacity has been enlightening in identifying the different strengths and weaknesses of the EVP's office. Even greater than that, it has provided unique opportunities to explore new areas of campus life that may need improvement. From the very beginning, my office set out to truly revitalize and reinvigorate the positioning of the EVP role within the greater scope of Student Government, while further aiding the student body throughout all of the challenges they face.

As you read this report, I encourage you to consider the work the EVP office has accomplished this year and where it moves forward from here. I am confident that my office was able to implement my EVP campaign platform of "Equity Through Empathy" via its initiatives and look forward to seeing the EVP role prosper in the future. Thank you for taking the time to read this report—I sincerely hope you enjoy this final product of my time in Student Government and service as External Vice President.

Blessings,

Zach Tufenkjian '22
Student Body External Vice President

Office of Community Relations

—Composition—

Director: Kathryn Foster (Fall 2021), Marlee Anderson (Spring 2022)

Members: Ifunanyaife Richardson, Adam McCoy, Saba Sultan, Harrison Williams, Emmie Latham, Megan Duckworth (fmr.)

—Initiatives—

Baylor Neighborhood Association

In collaboration with Baylor's Department of External Affairs, the Office of the External Vice President worked to reactivate the Baylor Neighborhood Association. The Association is a community organization working to represent the interests of those living within the Association's boundaries (i.e. the neighborhood including and surrounding Baylor's campus). The Association was dormant for many years and remnants of old signage still remain scattered around the neighborhood.

The EVP's office worked directly with External Affairs throughout the year to re-establish the association. External Affairs played the role of filing paperwork, setting up a website, and other logistical tasks, while EVP Tufenkjian assisted in the operation of meetings. The Association's first meeting was held on Monday, September 27, 2021, in Cashion 501. The meeting, and others like it, featured speakers from the City of Waco, the Baylor Police Department, and other partners. EVP Tufenkjian served as the President of the Association. Community Relations member Harrison Williams served as Vice President, and member Ifunanyaife Richardson later served as Secretary. Multicultural Engagement member Mohit Patel served as Treasurer, and Senior Student Senator Tate Korpi served as Secretary for the Fall 2021 semester.

Moving forward, the Association's operations will continue to expand and collaborate with Baylor, neighborhood partners, and others as it seeks to improve the Baylor Neighborhood. Harrison Williams was elected President of the Association during its May 2, 2022, annual meeting.

Service Opportunities

To better inform students at Baylor of service opportunities that might exist, the Office of Community Relations developed a spreadsheet containing service opportunities that may be of interest to members of the Baylor community. These Waco-based opportunities greatly complement Baylor's greater culture of service that students are known for participating in. The service opportunities were researched by Community Relations members, inputted into a spreadsheet, and finally uploaded onto the Student Government website to be viewed.

Following this year, this initiative could be further expanded upon by partnering with campus departments and student organizations with vested interests in community service. This will further empower the Office of Community Relations' work to ensure it is fruitful and beneficial to the student body at large.

Rapoport Academy Partnership

Many members of Baylor Student Government participated in their high school's own form of student government. As a way to pay respect to these ties and further give back to those who will come after, the Office of Community Relations partnered with Rapoport Academy Meyer High School for this very purpose. Community Relations members and EVP Tufenkjian visited the Rapoport campus in April 2022. Members spoke to Meyer High School Student Council members during their daily meeting to inform them about Student Government's work and other relevant topics. The following day, students from the same group visited Baylor's campus and sat in on the April All-Student Government Meeting held on April 28, 2022. The students were announced at the meeting and were able to see the work of Student Government in action.

Next year, it is highly encouraged that this partnership is continued. The best way to do this is to partner with Rapoport for a back-to-school drive in the Fall. Rapoport Academy, like many schools across the State of Texas, may have struggles maintaining adequate levels of school supplies throughout the year. Teachers are regularly put into situations where they must pay out of pocket in order to supply their students and give them the education they deserve.

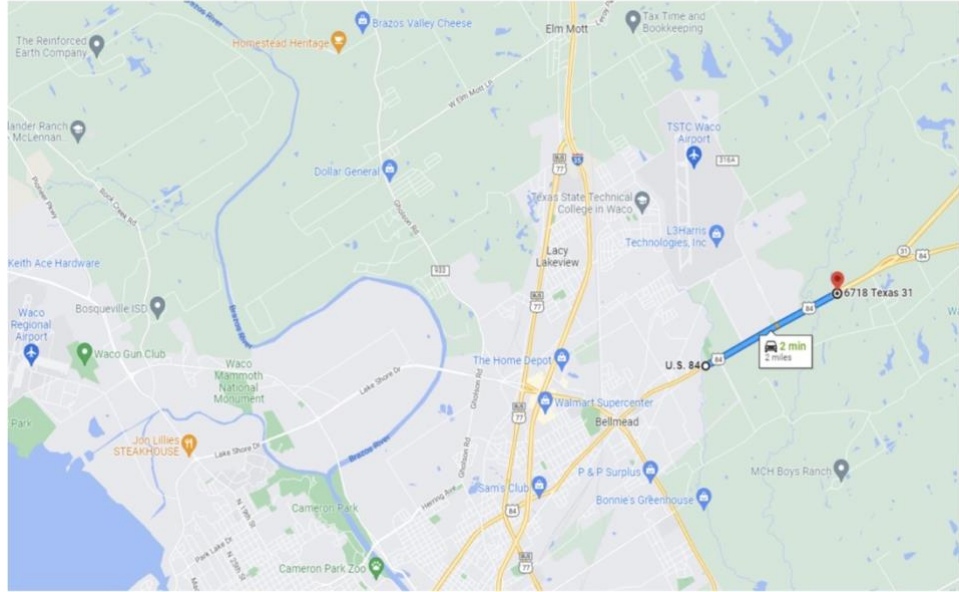
Adopt-A-Highway

Towards the end of the Spring 2022 semester, the Office of Community Relations submitted an application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for its [Adopt-A-](#)

[Highway](#) program. After several weeks of working with TxDOT and following up, a stretch of highway was assigned: US-84 beginning at the Bellmead city limit and proceeding 2 miles eastward.

As of May 10, 2022, the contract for Adopt-A-Highway is under review and will need to be submitted to TxDOT to formally enter into the program. The Adopt-A-Highway program

requires four pickups per year. A sign identifying Student Government as the program's sponsor will be placed near the highway. This initiative serves as a great service opportunity for Student Government



members to get involved and take care of our neighboring community.

Office of Student Organization Engagement

—Composition—

Director: Caleb Eliazer

Members: Daniel Russell, Kasandra Albarran, Brinkley Bounds, Lee Rodenbaugh

—Initiatives—

Town Halls

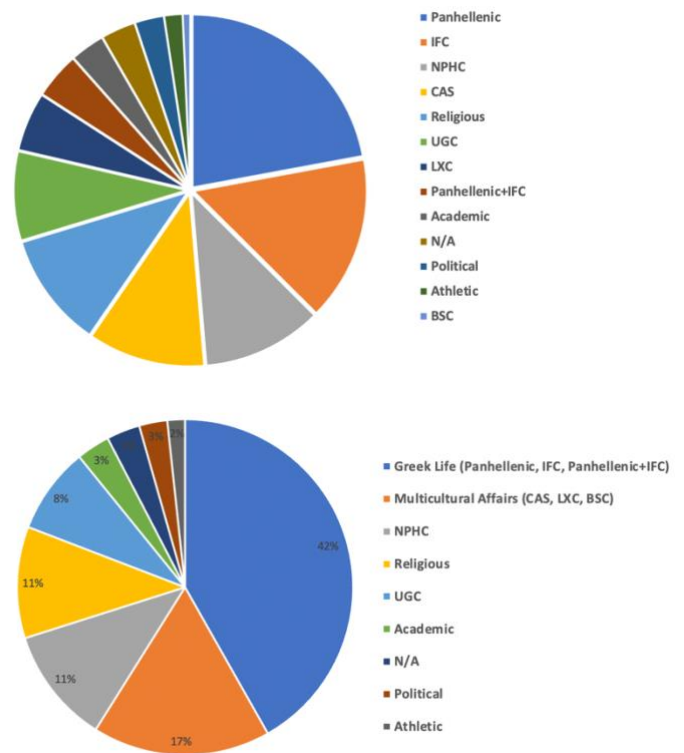
During the Fall 2021 semester, the Office of Student Organization Engagement attempted to hold several town halls. These town halls would include discussions and listening sessions from leaders about issues facing their student organizations. Leaders of most registered student organizations were contacted via mass email.

The first town hall during the Fall 2021 semester had very low attendance. Following this, it was apparent that it would be better to meet one-on-one with organizations and the subsequent town halls were canceled. Although the town halls themselves were not successful, the Office of Student Organization Engagement was still able to gain insight into the behavior of student organizations and how they respond to Student Government communications.

Student Government Allocation Fund (SGAF) Data

The Office of Student Organization Engagement worked to better visualize and understand where funding for the Student Government Allocation Fund (SGAF) is allocated. The SGAF is a fund distributed by the Student Senate to organizations and campus improvements. The office was provided data spanning three prior legislative sessions and subsequently compiled them into a comprehensive spreadsheet detailing the different organization categories funding was allocated to.

If this data compilation has been lost, please contact the current EVP or EVP Tufenkjian himself.



Creative Arts Experiences

The Office of Student Organization Engagement briefly explored during the Spring 2022 semester the idea of adding more student organization events to Creative Arts Experiences. Under certain Baylor degree curriculums, attending these experiences are awarded as required credit on a student’s degree audit. This initiative was designed to bring more students to more student organization events, especially those providing cultural representations. Because the end of the semester drew near, this initiative did not fully come to fruition but does have potential.

Vietnamese Student Association / Ballroom Dance Society

In October 2021, the Vietnamese Student Association held its Autumn Moon Festival event. The event was anticipated to take place in the Student Union Building (SUB)'s Barfield Drawing Room. However, it was discovered that another organization, Ballroom Dance Society, already possessed a recurring room reservation for the room.

The Office of the External Vice President met with leaders from both organizations to help facilitate an agreement that would allow VSA to use Barfield so long as accommodations were made for Ballroom Dance. After reviewing several potential venues, the EVP's office developed a compromise: Ballroom Dance would provide VSA with Barfield, in exchange for VSA's reservation of Cashion 500 and the EVP office's assistance in booking Truett Great Hall for a future organizational event. At this time, Ballroom has not held an event at Truett with the assistance of the EVP's office, although there was an unsuccessful attempt to coordinate the organization's annual Christmas Party for the venue.

Lingering Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Organizations

One observation of student organizations that should be denoted in this report is their unique experience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In working with the Baylor Department of Student Activities and organizations themselves, it was evident that the pandemic caused a considerable knowledge gap among many campus groups. For instance, basic processes (reserving a room, creating Connect requests, etc.) had to be taught to more organization leaders than usual.¹ Helping bridge this knowledge gap moving forward will be important in ensuring the success of organizations of all types across Baylor's campus.

Office of Multicultural Engagement

—Composition—

Director: Kavya Ganesham

Members: Thaddeus Corpuz, Tanaka Zenda, Ashley Farokhrouz, Mohit Patel, Shivam Patel, Izzy Moore

¹ This statement is not backed by any specific data but is the general feeling of Student Organization Support efforts performed by the Office of the External Vice President this year.

—Initiatives—

Connect Workshop

For the Fall 2021 semester, the Office of Multicultural Engagement worked in tandem with Baylor Student Activities to promote a Connect workshop. In consideration of the knowledge gap among student organization leaders reverberated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the office wanted to better link Student Activities staff to leaders. Topics discussed during the workshops included how to create Connect requests, host organizational events, etc. It is unknown how many student leaders attended these seminars but continuing them year after year would be fruitful for the state of our student organizations.

The Store Initiative

For the Spring 2022 semester, Multicultural Engagement collaborated with Baylor's food pantry, "The Store," to improve cultural representation among food and resources offered to students facing food insecurity. This idea was brought forth to the office by a Department of Multicultural Affairs intern who provided great insight into the challenges faced by students as it relates to this issue.

Conversations with The Store's staff began the first week of the semester. From there, the office collected input from student populations on campus (e.g. international students, multicultural organization leaders, etc.) to identify which inventory should be added to The Store's shelves. After collecting this, the office met with The Store's staff again to provide their findings and determine how to proceed. The Store subsequently purchased a select set of items from a "top 10" list of foods/beverages/resources that were incorporated into The Store's inventory on a trial basis.

To support these efforts, the Student Senate also passed a Senate Resolution authored by Senator Ruhi Thapar. The resolution was designed to ensure a continuation of the introduced resources brought forth by this initiative and to direct the EVP's office to continue these efforts. Following through with this project is vitally important to the success of The Store Initiative and future of cultural representation in the combat against food insecurity among members of the student body.

Office of Extra-University Relations

—Composition—

Director: Shea Berthelot

Members: Zacarri Walker, Lauren Gil, Hayden Cottrell, Matthew Fleitas

—Initiatives—

Renew Our Roads

The Office of Extra-University Relations undertook a major initiative entitled “Renew Our Roads” beginning in the Fall 2021 semester. The initiative was designed to create localized transit improvements in the immediate area surrounding Baylor’s campus. The general scope of



this area is identified as the Baylor Neighborhood Association’s jurisdiction.

These improvements were intended to improve safety among those traversing the Baylor neighborhood, whether by car, foot, bicycle, or other forms of transportation. To accomplish these changes, the Office of Extra-University Relations worked directly with staff in the City of Waco’s Traffic Department, the entity responsible for investigating and recommending modifications to city traffic patterns.

The three most nominal improvements were the conversion of the following three local intersections into four-way stops:

- 11th Street & Speight Avenue (requested October 2021; converted November 2021)
- 10th Street & Bagby Avenue (requested October 2021; converted April 2022)
- 9th Street & Speight Avenue (requested October 2021; converted May 2022)

In addition to the conversion of four-way stops, members of the Office of Extra-University Relations also participated in what was nicknamed “pothole patrol.” This entailed manually

driving around the Baylor neighborhood to locate, record, and report potholes to City of Waco staff. Several potholes were reported by the office and promptly filled in the subsequent weeks.

It is clear that Renew Our Roads encouraged the City of Waco to place greater emphasis on the Baylor neighborhood. This is supported by the sudden improvement of other intersections/areas in the neighborhood not originally requested by the office. For instance, both 8th St./Baylor Ave. and 8th St./James Ave. were converted into four-way stops only weeks after 11th St./Speight Ave. was initially reported by the EVP's office after sitting dormant for years.

A webpage was established to track the progress of requested changes and provide feedback/suggestions. Billboards were also placed around campus to promote the initiative City of Waco's My Waco app, a new online tool that can be used to contact the City about issues.

While many necessary changes to existing intersections have likely been reviewed and/or completed, improvements can always be made to keep the Baylor student body safe as they traverse off-campus areas. A detailed Google My Maps map showing all the improvements and existing infrastructure can be found [here](#).

Approved Catering List Expansion

The second main initiative undertaken by the Office of Extra-University Relations was its push to expand Baylor's Approved Catering List.

The Approved Catering List is a list maintained by Baylor that student organizations must choose from if they decide not to utilize Baylor Dining Services for campus events and other functions. Many organizations had to receive one-time exceptions to cater reputable businesses simply because the business was not in Baylor's existing systems. An analysis of the Approved Catering List shown for the 2021-22 academic year revealed that a majority of approved businesses were chain restaurants not inherently local to Waco (e.g. Jimmy John's, McAlister's, etc.). This causes an issue where Waco businesses are underrepresented on Baylor's campus. This further creates another concerning issue where cuisines from multiple ethnic and cultural identities are not represented. To be clear, however, there is no known wrongdoing among Baylor University or those responsible for maintaining the list to keep certain groups or demographics from being added to the Approved Catering List. Nonetheless, representation is important to facilitating healthy diversity, equity, and inclusion on Baylor's campus.

While expanding the list has been desired by campus organizations/departments for several years, the Office of Extra-University Relations started by receiving crucial information from interns within the Baylor Department of Multicultural Affairs in September 2021. From there, the office began comparing which businesses were on the Approved Catering List to a “wish list” of restaurants compiled by the interns. Vendors listed in America-To-Go (Baylor’s catering marketplace on Ignite) were also compared to these lists.

After inputting this comparison into a comprehensive document, the Office of Extra-University Relations began working with Baylor Procurement and the Student Government Advisor, Tanner Vickers, to identify which documents Baylor needs from businesses in order to add them to the Approved Catering List. They include a Certificate of Insurance, W-9, Food Handler’s Certificate, and other documentation that must meet certain criteria. Once these documents are collected from the businesses and verified manually, the office would submit them to Mr. Vickers. Mr. Vickers would formally enter them into Baylor’s systems for review, where they could finally be added onto the Approved Catering List.

As the Office of Extra-University Relations began to reach out to businesses to collect this documentation, it became apparent that businesses across Waco are in difficult positions to provide information. Despite most of the burden being placed on the EVP’s office, businesses must receive correspondence from Student Government, collect documentation, and finally send it. This can be tough to juggle as business owners operate their businesses, regardless of how easy it may seem.

For the 2021-22 year, no businesses were added to the Approved Catering List as a result of the office’s efforts. However, valuable information unknown to many was discovered about what it would take to accomplish this. It is highly encouraged that the EVP office continues this initiative moving forward so that this valuable progress is not lost upon it, and more businesses can be represented during Baylor events.

Additional Notes

Big XII On the Hill Conference

In tandem with the other Student Body Officers, the EVP’s office is responsible for coordinating and planning the Big XII On the Hill Conference during the Spring 2023 semester. The institution that plans this yearly conference in Washington, DC rotates every year. Because

Baylor hosted the 2021 Big XII Student Government Conference, Baylor Student Government will host Big XII On the Hill.

EVP Day



During the April 28, 2022 All-Student Government Meeting, City of Waco Mayor Dillon Meek presented a proclamation to External Vice President Tufenkjian. The proclamation details April 28, 2022 as “Baylor Student Body EVP (External Vice President’s) Day.” The EVP office thanks Mayor Meek and the City for their kind recognition of its work this year as it continues to enrich the quality of student life.

About EVP Tufenkjian

Zach Tufenkjian served as External Vice President during his fourth year of service in the Baylor University Student Government. He previously served as a Title IX Policy Committee Member ('18-'19), Director of Student Government Policy ('19-'20), and Attorney General ('20-'21). Tufenkjian was elected External Vice President on April 13, 2021 via runoff during the Spring 2021 General Election. A non-Greek senior, his positioning as EVP was a deviation from characteristics historically possessed by past External Vice Presidents.

EVP Tufenkjian received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Baylor on May 13, 2022 and was further involved in Baylor Ambassadors, Pre-Law Society, It’s On Us BU, and Baylor Democrats. Other Student Government accolades include having authored the most-sponsored Student Senate bill in recent memory, contributing to a total of 23 bills authored in the span of three legislative sessions. His senior superlative was “Most Likely to Bleed Green & Gold.”

Tufenkjian was also confirmed into the Catholic Church during his tenure in the presence. He thanks God for blessing him with the opportunity to be a part of Student Government and for forming his leadership through leadership of others. Following graduation from Baylor, Tufenkjian will move to Austin, Texas for full-time employment. He will also continue his service in Student Government as Permanent Class President of the Class of 2022.