Undergraduate Political Science Association
2019-2020 Executive Plan

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Our mission is to create a space that encourages intellectual dialogue on political subjects, strengthens the relationship between students and faculty, and helps students grow intellectually, socially, and professionally.

Michael Hernández
President

Samantha Pleasants
Vice-President

George Albu
Treasurer

Julia Markfield
Secretary

Beth Ginsberg
Advisor

Wendy Tapia
Social Media Manager
Introduction

The Undergraduate Political Science Association was founded in January 2019 under the name “Political Science Club” by undergraduate students Michael Hernández, Aaron Robair, George Albu, and Samantha Pleasants, and by Professor Beth Ginsberg. The Undergraduate Political Science Association prides itself in being an inclusive and nonpartisan organization. Since its founding, the Political Science Association has become an active student organization at the University of Connecticut, fulfilling its mission to “create a space that encourages intellectual dialogue on political subjects, strengthens the relationship between students and faculty, and helps students grow intellectually, socially, and professionally.”

In the 2019-2020 academic year the Undergraduate Political Science Association will take measures to expand membership in the organization and strengthen its presence in the university. This effort will include rebranding, creating a new logo, hosting more events, developing a strategic partnership with other Registered Student Organizations (“RSO’s”) such as the College Democrats, College Republicans, Democratic Socialists Association, Debate Club, and creating an official partnership with the Stamford World Affairs Forum (“WAF”). Additionally, the Undergraduate Political Science Association will take into account the political context of the following months, focusing its events on the political process and election cycle. Furthermore, the Undergraduate Political Science Association will plan a trip to the United Nations and the Connecticut State Capitol. The Undergraduate Political Science Association will also look into the possibility of engaging in a legislative campaign at the state level during the 2020 legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly. Lastly, there are plans underway to invite the Connecticut delegation in Washington to come on campus for an event, as well as separate events for local elected officials and Democratic presidential candidates to come speak in town hall-style events.

The goal of this executive plan is to provide guidelines, key dates, and goals for the 2019-2020 academic year. Throughout the next few pages, you will find a comprehensive plan to execute the mission of the Undergraduate Political Science Association.
Spring 2019 Overview

The first semester of the Undergraduate Political Science Association was a true success story, as shown in the three events it hosted:

- “Globalization and Women’s Rights”.
- “How to Get Involved in this Year’s Legislative Session”.
- “Upcoming Local Elections and Volunteer Opportunities”.

Each event fulfilled a different part of our mission. The first event, “Globalization and Women’s Rights”, connected students with faculty in Storrs (namely Professor Arat) and helped them grow intellectually since the nature of the event was academic. The second event, “How to Get Involved in this Year’s Legislative Session”, helped students grow socially and professionally by connecting them with an external organization and with opportunities in the Connecticut legislature. The third event, “Upcoming Local Elections and Volunteer Opportunities”, helped students grow professionally since our guest of honor Diane Dauplaise presented students with opportunities in the Greater Stamford Young Democrats and shared her own experience at UConn and UConn Law.

The first semester of the Undergraduate Political Science Association was also successful in its adoption of social media, outreach efforts, and strategy meetings. First, social media was used successfully through the creation of a Facebook page that gained more than a hundred followers, many of whom are local election officials. Second, outreach was done mainly through Mailchimp, a website that allows senders to track email readership and to customize emails. This allowed us to reach a greater audience and increase readership. Third, strategy meetings were used to coordinate events among club officers and develop the agenda for the semester. This allowed us to coordinate three events in just one month. These three areas of success will be replicated in the 2019-2020 academic year.

While there were many successes in the spring of 2019, there are many areas that were ignored and will be improved in the following months. This includes increasing our presence on other social media platforms, increasing membership, advertising events on the Daily Digest, creating relationships with other organizations, setting up a table at the activities fair, planning trips, hosting more non-faculty speakers, and planning more events in general for each semester.
Fall 2019 Tentative Events

Throughout the spring and summer months of 2019, the Undergraduate Political Science Association consulted with its leadership, advisor, and membership to evaluate the needs and interests of students on campus. After a careful evaluation, the Undergraduate Political Science Association proposes that the following events be executed in the fall semester of 2019, which will run from August to December.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Strategy Meeting</td>
<td>08/28/2019</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>UConn Library</td>
<td>To develop a funding strategy and begin coordinating events.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement Fair Tabling</td>
<td>09/04/2019</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Concourse</td>
<td>To increase membership and improve outreach efforts.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate Watch Parties</td>
<td>09/12/2019 and 09/13/2019</td>
<td>Funding required for light refreshments.</td>
<td>Gen Re Auditorium</td>
<td>To provide an informal space to political science majors and non-majors to socialize and learn about the upcoming presidential election. <em>Debate watch parties may also be hosted in October and November once those dates are released</em></td>
<td>Julia Markfield and Michael Hernández</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Funding/Refreshments</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Organizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution Reading</td>
<td>09/17/2019</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Concourse</td>
<td>To engage students with external communities by inviting different people to read different parts of the U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Beth Ginsberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Photo Shoot</td>
<td>09/18/2019</td>
<td>Funding may be necessary to compensate photographer.</td>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
<td>To help students develop professionally by taking professional headshots to be used for resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and beyond.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>10/15/2019</td>
<td>Funding may be necessary for light refreshments</td>
<td>Gen Re Auditorium or Off-campus</td>
<td>To invite local politicians to discuss the main issues affecting Stamford such as development, education, and immigration.</td>
<td>Julia Markfield and Michael Hernández</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2020</td>
<td>Early or Mid-October</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students develop socially and intellectually.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut 2020</td>
<td>11/01/2019</td>
<td>Funding may be necessary for light refreshments.</td>
<td>Gen Re Auditorium</td>
<td>To invite state politicians such as Senator Murphy, Senator</td>
<td>Julia Markfield and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Organizer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential Candidate Meet and Greet</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Funding may be necessary for light refreshments, security, and venue</td>
<td>Julia Markfield and Michael Hernández</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To help students grow socially by connecting them with a presidential candidate such as Kamala Harris or Pete Buttigieg. <em>This event may be co-sponsored with 203 Action (a tri-partisan group) or it may be scaled back as a private event at a venue in Greenwich</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>11/07/2019</td>
<td>Potential event to help register students to vote and raise awareness about voting.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Herbst</td>
<td>Mid-November or Spring</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Potential lecture. Topic TBD.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Organizer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip to the United Nations Headquarters</td>
<td>11/25/2019</td>
<td>Participant charge may be required to cover transportation and admission costs.</td>
<td>To help students develop professionally and socially by connecting them with external communities.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Meeting</td>
<td>12/04/2019</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To reflect on fall 2019 and begin coordinating events for spring 2019.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event with Staff from Senator Blumenthal’s Office</td>
<td>Early December 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow professionally by making relevant connections.</td>
<td>Sam Sakur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Affairs Forum</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially and intellectually.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the events proposed above are numerous and diverse, the Undergraduate Political Science Association will be considering additional events that can be co-sponsored with other organizations. Additionally, the events proposed above do not take into consideration any events that might develop more spontaneously or in response to an event of a political nature. Therefore, the events proposed above are first and foremost a guideline for the Undergraduate Political Science Association.
Spring 2020 Tentative Events

The spring 2020 semester will run from late January to early May. In these three months, the Undergraduate Political Science Association will focus on four goals:

1. Actively seeking institutional support from the Political Science Department by establishing a more formal relationship, and by seeking a status in the university similar to the status the CLAS Student Leadership Board has.
2. Inviting more speakers from Storrs and beyond to speak to themes that are of interest to students. (Interest will be determined through a survey).
3. Hosting films that are political yet entertaining.
4. Recruiting more students for the organization and for the Political Science Department.

The goals stipulated above will be achieved through the following events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Event</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow professionally.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Screenings</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Primary Event</td>
<td>04/28/2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández and Beth Ginsberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration Drive</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially and intellectually.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández and Beth Ginsberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour of the CT State Capitol</td>
<td>February-March 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>CT State Capitol</td>
<td>To help students socially and professionally.</td>
<td>Michael Hernández and David Michel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Organizer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science Recruitment Day</td>
<td>April 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow intellectually.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Party Heads Event</td>
<td>April 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially, intellectually, and professionally.</td>
<td>Club Leadership, College Democrats, and College Republicans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Update Event</td>
<td>April or May 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow socially, intellectually, and professionally.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of Political Science Department Forum</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>To help students grow intellectually and professionally.</td>
<td>Club Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reduction in the number of events in the spring semester also reflects the shifting priorities of the Undergraduate Political Science Association: from events to institutional change. The biggest form of “institutional change” will be seeking a more formal relationship with the Political Science Department. In other words, seeking a status similar to that of the CLAS Leadership Board, where the Undergraduate Political Science Association would become an extension of the Political Science Department and thus enjoy its financial and institutional support. As of now, this is an aspiration and an ongoing conversation.
Master Calendar

The following dates are of importance to the Undergraduate Political Science Association:

- **August 26, 2019**: First Day of Classes
- **August 28, 2019**: First Strategy Meeting
- **September 4, 2019**: Involvement Fair
- **September 6, 2019**: Meet and Greet with Pete Buttigieg
- **September 11, 2019**: Club Meeting
- **September 12, 2019**: Democratic Debate Watch Party
- **September 13, 2019**: Democratic Debate Watch Party
- **September 15, 2019**: Greet and Meet with Kamala Harris
- **September 17, 2019**: Constitution Reading on Constitution Day
- **September 20, 2019**: Meet and Greet with Jill Biden
- **September 23, 2019**: Professional Photo Shoot
- **September 25, 2019**: Club Meeting
- **October 1-15, 2019**: Potential Census 2020 Event
- **October 23, 2019**: Club Meeting
- **October 27, 2019**: Stamford Town Hall Event
- **November 1, 2019**: Connecticut 2020 Event
- **November 2-4, 2019**: UConn model United Nations Conference
- **November 6, 2019**: Club Meeting
- **November 7, 2019**: Election Day
- **November 13, 2019**: Potential Lecture by Prof. Sterling-Folker
- **November 20, 2019**: Club Meeting
- **November 25, 2019**: Trip to the United Nations Headquarters
- **December 2019**: Event with Staff from Senator Blumenthal’s Office
- **December 4, 2019**: Last Strategy Meeting of Fall Semester
- **December 13, 2019**: Last Day of Fall Semester
- **January 21, 2020**: First Day of Spring Semester
- **February 2020**: Film Screenings
- **February 2020**: Voter Registration Drive
- **February-March 2020**: Tour of the CT State Capitol
- **March-April 2020**: Potential Lecture by Susan Herbst
- **April 2020**: Political Science Recruitment Day
- **April 2020**: CT Party Heads Event
- **April-May 2020**: Legislative Update Event
- **April 28, 2020**: CT Primary Event
- **May 2020**: Future of Political Science Department Forum
- **May 9, 2020**: Last Day of Spring Semester
World Affairs Forum

As part of our mission to help students develop professionally, the Undergraduate Political Science Association will be establishing a formal relationship with the Stamford World Affairs Forum (WAF). The WAF is a “non-partisan, non-profit, located in Stamford, CT dedicated to educating and engaging its members on global issues in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.”

Our President, Michael Hernández, is a WAF member and has developed a connection and friendship with the WAF Executive Director Wendy Skratt. After careful consideration and popular consultation at regular meetings, the Undergraduate Political Science Association has decided to create a strategic partnership with the WAF in an effort to engage students with speakers, events, and members that are part of the WAF network. This is aligned with our organization’s goal to help students grow professionally and intellectually.

A proposal has been sent to the WAF Executive Director outlining our interest and partnership with WAF. Ideally, discussions will be hosted on-campus and will be led by WAF members on a monthly basis and can vary depending on demonstrated interest. Topics will be on world affairs and will vary from month to month.

Additionally, students will have access to WAF and its events. Events hosted by WAF often feature prominent speakers from Freedom House, the State Department, and other areas pertaining to the fields of world affairs, politics, and international relations.

Inter-Organizational Cooperation

As part of our effort to help students grow socially, intellectually, and professionally, we will be hosting more events with other organizations at the University of Connecticut. Our organization will work closely with the Debate Club, College Democrats, College Republicans, Democratic Socialist Association, and other clubs to connect students with more opportunities.
Branding, Marketing, and Merchandise

An integral part of any organization is its branding, marketing, and merchandise. The Undergraduate Political Science Association leadership understands the importance of these mechanisms, and as a first step we have created a new wordmark, shown below:

We are planning to order merchandise later in the semester with our wordmark, adhering to all university standards. Our wordmark has also been disseminated in emails, social media, and flyers. This has led to an increase in membership and name recognition.

Website

We will work with IT and Student Activities to establish a dedicated page on the UConn-Stamford Political Science Department Website. This will help increase our outreach efforts, ensure the long-term duration of our organization, and it will fulfill two of our long-term goals: to create institutional change for the Political Science Department and to create a more institutionalized partnership between our organization and the Political Science Department.

Social Media

We have expanded our presence on social media, namely through the creation of a Facebook page, Instagram page, and Twitter page. On Facebook, our page has grown to over 100 followers, and Instagram and Twitter are gaining more followers every day. Our Social Media Manager is currently overseeing these efforts.

Budget

Our budget so far has zero funds allocated for the costs that are projected to accompany many of our events. Given that funds for student organizations are very limited, we plan to fundraise money in big-ticket events such as Connecticut 2020. Our Treasurer will develop a comprehensive budget.

Legislative Initiative

We will explore the prospect of pursuing a legislative initiative in the 2020 legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly, which will run from February to May. The legislative initiative would focus around tax policy, specifically around the issue of workers who work and pay taxes in Connecticut but reside in New York.
Club Officer Responsibilities

Officers of the Undergraduate Political Science Association are expected to adhere to the guidelines in the Constitution of the Undergraduate Political Science Association. Furthermore, Officers are expected to work to fulfill the mission of our organization, attend all meetings, and attend as many events as possible.

Meetings

Regular meetings will take place bi-weekly in the Judaic Studies Center.

Future Outlook

The Undergraduate Political Science Association will continue seeking institutional change for Political Science students in the University of Connecticut, which is stated in our mission. We will also explore the possibility of a more institutionalized relationship with the Political Science Department, and the prospect of becoming a Tier III organization.

Conclusion

In its short duration, the Undergraduate Political Science Association has become one of the largest student organizations in the Stamford campus. As we move forward, our mission, vision, and membership will continue to grow. This Executive Plan is a guideline, and thus the plans put forth here are tentative and subject to change. Nonetheless, the 2019-2020 academic year will be a year of growth and success.