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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017

SGB is proud to announce we have arranged to fight hate with purposeful action this Thursday, as the Westboro Baptist Church hosts a 30 minute demonstration on the University of Pittsburgh's campus. The views expressed by this group stand in direct conflict with the values of our University. Thus, SGB has partnered with the Rainbow Alliance and set a goal to raise \$20 for each minute that WBC is on our campus. The money raised will be donated to Proud Haven, an organization that helps homeless LGBTQ+ youth. To donate please visit <https://goo.gl/UMsLxW>

SGB is excited to announce that the First Year Council has officially finalized the nine first year students who will be helping committees and board members on various initiatives. This is an excellent opportunity for SGB to gain new perspectives on student life at Pitt and get young students involved.

The Academic Affairs Committee is excited to announce that following a year of working with the Registrar's office, the class drop period has been extended. This change will be implemented in the 2018 spring semester, and is published in the academic calendar. This will give students one additional week to drop classes, which grants them a total of three weeks instead of two. Students will need to retain fulltime status and this change applies only to undergraduate students enrolled in undergraduate courses. Advisors will need to sign off on the drop during the third week. The extended drop period has no impact on current practices for withdrawing from all courses. The full policy can be viewed here: <http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/assets/pdf/ExtendedDropPeriodGuidlines.pdf>

October is Mental Health Awareness, which will give Pitt students a chance to not only become more informed on mental health, but feel supported by a range of activities the school is offering. Tuesday, October 10th marks World Mental Health Day, and will begin a variety of programs, which include a yoga class, a Self-Care Fair, a discussion with counselors, a talk from the guardian of the Golden Gate Bridge, and many more. In addition to the programs offered, staff and students are encouraged to wear green shirts every Tuesday of the month to increase awareness and help break the stigma. The month will also be raising awareness and support for sexual violence prevention through various programing.

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For more information on the fundraising efforts with the Rainbow alliance contact Max Kneis at sgbpres@pitt.edu, for the First Year Council, contact Krishani Patel at kkp14@pitt.edu; for the drop period change contact Joshua Hanley at josh.hanley@pitt.edu; for Mental Health Awareness Month contact Alex Spenceley or Ami Fall at als362@pitt.edu and agf34@pitt.edu respectively.