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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018

SGB would like to wish students a happy and healthy New Year, and an easy transition into the spring semester! Make sure to take advantage of all the great programming being offered by the Division of Student Affairs for both new and returning students.

SGB introduced a resolution at this week's meeting calling upon the University to implement open educational resources as a way to reduce costs for all Pitt students. Open educational resources can be defined as syllabi, lesson plans, lab books, worksheets, video lectures, textbooks, and full courses published under an Open License that allow for their reuse and repurposing by others and are freely available for anyone to use online. This resolution seeks to reward professors who use open educational resources and open the open textbook network to the university library system. The enactment of this initiative would substantially reduce the cost of students face each semester part from tuition, helping alleviate some of the debt burden many students face. In response to SGB's work, the Provost's Office is forming a committee to make formal recommendations on implementing the initiative, comprised of faculty, student, and staff members as well as representatives from the library and Center for Teaching. SGB is also working with sustainability students and the Senate Council on this initiative.

Election packets for the 2018-2019 Student Government Board are now available in WPU 848 and are due by January 24th. Any candidate interested in running must sign out a packet and collect 200 signatures for Board or 250 for Presidential positions. More information regarding elections will be given in a session held on Wednesday, January 10th in WPU 837 from 7-8PM.

SGB hereby announces the resignation of Communications Director Nick Fisher effective 12/8/17, for personal reasons. Sana Mahmood has been appointed to assume this role, having previously served as the Associate Communications Director. Additionally, Natalie Simmons resigned from the Judicial Committee, effective 12/14/17, for personal reasons.

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For more information on the resolution and personnel changes, contact Max Kneis at sgbpres@pitt.edu, for information on the Spring Election, contact Anastasia Bodea Crisan at adb126@pitt.edu.