OGAZ-PORTMAN
UNITE.
AUSA STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

PLATFORM

This campaign is the culmination of over a year of discussions about improvements necessary to shape the University of Denver into the university that we believe it can be and the type of institution in which we would like to be a part. Yet, this past year was only the preparation. This campaign is not the end of a year's work, but rather the beginning of a movement to unite the students of the University of Denver to take action, to take a stand, and make the individual, institutional, and systemic changes necessary to achieve our collective end goal of university-wide improvement. Our focal points of necessary change have been grouped into three categories: campus life, inclusiveness, and campus identity. Collectively, we believe that these are meeting points of the weakest areas of the University of Denver. By uniting in action, we have the ability to reshape the University of Denver.

We have elaborated upon two of the most important issues within each category below. Such elaboration should give insight into our understanding of each category as well as goals that we seek to accomplish in each category as a whole. Below our focus areas, you will find a list of issues and action items that we plan to work on next year to achieve these goals.

Campus Life

Unite the campus community through cross campus collaboration
The University of Denver is composed of many strong and important communities, yet these communities are often segmented among specific populations. In order to create a united, cohesive campus community, each of the individually strong communities within DU must come together to create an even stronger DU community. Collectively, we have the potential to grow as individuals. Collectively, we have the ability to create a stronger school spirit. We can do this as student organizations by working together for stronger programming. We can do this as a campus through better, more inclusive scheduling with a real, effective, and cohesive campus calendar that speaks to the needs of the students. Collaboration can be furthered by removing unnecessary red tape. Bringing the campus community together in new ways can be as simple as an academic unit or student organization utilizing resources available on campus such as a marketing program being developed by marketing, communications, and digital media students.

Ensure university responsibility to the students
A university is built upon the students. Without the students, there is no university. If this is indeed true, then the value of the students should not be misplaced as it currently seems to be. In order to ensure that the university administration understands the importance of the opinions and thoughts of its students, we need to come together to ensure that our voices are being heard. Many times, our concerns fall on deaf ears that would seek to run our university as a business,

free from the concerns of its students – the reason that the university administration exists. By uniting our voices and by pushing for the issues that we hold to be important, we have a chance to create the changes that the students deem necessary. As a student body, we have the ability to affect the issues that involve us and the campus to which we belong. We must come together to show that we care about the decisions that are currently being made for us and about us, rather than with us and with our consent.

Inclusiveness

Foster an accepting campus climate
Time and again, leaders on our campus have championed the journey to create an accepting campus climate that welcomes students of all backgrounds. Sometimes we see changes that have a lasting effect, but the majority of the time the changes that we see can only be found on paper. In order to truly create a university campus community that understands the importance of acceptance and inclusiveness, many things need to change. First, as students, we need to actively seek unity. Although we may be different, and although these differences are very important, it is in our similarities and recognition of our differences that our future lies. While recognizing the characteristics that define each of us as important and active parts of our campus, it is important to consider the experiences that we all share. We have all learned in the same classrooms. We have all lived in the same dormitories. We are all students of the University of Denver. This, in itself, may not seem important, but it is the basis of our common connection. These shared experiences unite every student on our campus. In order to create a campus community accepting of everyone, let us look at our similarities while also remembering the differences that define, and further, our distinct identities. Let us look to that which can unite us all and hold firm the traditions that each of us share.

Embed inclusiveness into new student orientation
Inclusive Excellence is an ideal that the University of Denver has adopted. All members of the DU community have the ability to benefit from the understanding gained from the Inclusive Excellence model. In order to truly change the campus climate to become more inclusive, an understanding of what "diversity" is and what "inclusiveness" is must be taught to all incoming DU community members, the largest group of which enter through new student orientation each fall. The DU Tube program, currently a required part of Discoveries, was built upon four cornerstones, one of which was inclusive excellence. DU Tube was developed prior to Discoveries 2008 and has yet to successfully discuss inclusiveness as a foundation of the DU experience. As such, a new, effective program on inclusiveness needs to be developed and embedded into all new student orientation programs.

Campus Identity

Create a sense of belonging on campus
Currently, many students lack a strong sense of belonging on campus or a great sense of pride in our campus. In order to create an atmosphere conducive to the creation of such a sense of belonging, we will work to ensure the establishment of a stronger campus identity. We are the University of Denver Pioneers! Increasingly, we have come to be known nationally for many reasons including athletic successes and academic rankings – yet, where does the student fall into

this? Students need to feel like they are a part of athletics on campus. Athletic spirit often unifies students. Students need to be involved in the commemoration of the accomplishments of our academics. We should celebrate together our collective contribution to the improvements and successes at the University of Denver. Pride in our university will yield a stronger sense of spirit and a powerful sense of belonging.

Rebrand our campus as a university, not a corporation
Walking across our campus, it is easy to get confused as to whether you are at DU, another college, or the campus of a large corporate headquarters. Campus identity begins with knowing where you are, yet you could walk into almost any building on campus and not feel like you are at DU. This is a problem. Every building should be distinctly DU. Front desks should be labeled with a DU logo or have an image near them that makes every passerby think "DU". Signage in buildings and around campus should signal that this is the University of Denver. Event promotion should be easy, yet restrictions exist on event promotion, such as flyer posting, that seem to inhibit the college atmosphere. Other colleges and universities are plastered with signs, banners, event promotions, and much more that celebrate the student body throughout campus. DU has a great deal to celebrate as well.

ACTION POINTS

In order to bring about the institutional changes that are listed above, the following points of action detail the methods that we will use to ensure change at the University of Denver. These action points are broken down into the same three categories as their conceptual counterparts. We will work with Senators, Committee Chairs, and the Executive Board to fulfill these goals.

Campus Life
- Foster collaboration across campus
  - Initiate programs between segmented campus communities towards a united campus community.
  - Create lasting relationships between non-connected campus entities – e.g. different schools, different departments
- Create incentives for student involvement
  - Involvement outside of the classroom is a benefit to students in the classroom.
- Student Organizations
  - Programming Process:
    - Educate student leaders on the programming process. This includes on campus programming contracts as well as contacts to reserve rooms and spaces across campus.
    - Educate students on available campus funding resources that can directly aid in the successful programming of events including the DUPB University Program Support Committee (UPS), AUSA Diversity Committee, and the AUSA Board of Contingency.
  - Funding Process:
    - We know that the annual funding process for student organizations can be complex and difficult to understand. We will foster greater communication

with student organizations about the expectations and guidelines that govern the spending of the Student Activity Fee allocated to students every year.
- We will ensure that the AUSA Finance Committee works with student organizations throughout the year so that allocations and funding are comprehensive and transparent processes.

- Inter-organizational communication:
  - We feel that communication between all student organizations is essential to a more united and engaged campus community. We will implement the following changes in order to facilitate an increase in communication:
    - Create student organization roundtables to bring together AUSA Student Government and student organization leaders to discuss concerns regarding campus life and student programming.
    - Implement an effective, cohesive campus-wide student event calendar.

- Residential Living
  - Residential Living is an important aspect of the university. We will work to establish suitable and more student-oriented experiences, especially in light of the on-campus living requirements for 1st and 2nd year students. We will also work to improve the on-campus living experiences of 3rd and 4th year students by ensuring a different type of interaction between housing officials and students. The following points of action will allow us to bring about these changes:
    - Develop upperclassmen residential living experiences.
      - Keep Nagel open during Winter Break
      - Ensure appropriate RA interactions for upper-class students as more of an advisor as opposed to a policy enforcer
    - Install LCD systems in residence halls to promote campus programming, emergency notification, video announcements, etc.
    - Work towards the purchase of time efficient and sustainable laundry equipment.
    - Push for the purchase new furniture for residence hall common areas and apartments.
    - Work to create an RA Bill of Rights so that Resident Assistants can understand, and work to improve, the policies created by Housing and Residential Education (HRE). Many times policies and expectations are passed onto these students without their input or consideration. Through the implementation of an RA Bill of Rights, created collaboratively with HRE and RAs, a greater level of transparency and reliability will be established.
    - Keep student living information private. Currently, the University of Denver has a strict policy that forbids the sale of students living situations. However, there have been several instances during the 2008-2009 school year that question the actual implementation of this policy. To ensure student security, as well as student comfort, we will work to ensure that this information does not leave the university.

- Dining
  - Students are often faced with unreliable dining choices, especially those who observe specific lifestyles (Vegetarian or Vegan) or religious observances.
    - Extend meal times for dinner.

- Increase availability and labeling of vegetarian and vegan options.
- Provide Kosher and Halal meal options.
- Work to ensure that food is not wasted by providing implementable food recycling initiatives.
- Have "feedback" days in the dining halls to get mass student input for changes in dining options.
- Sustainability
  - Over the past two years, there has been a great push to embrace sustainability as a vital aspect of the University of Denver campus. We have seen many triumphs of these efforts but we also realize there is still much to do. At the beginning of this year, the AUSA Sustainability Committee was created and since its inception has created much change on campus. We wish to continue this commitment for years to come and the following actions will help us to accomplish this.
    - Continue the momentum of the Sustainability Committee this year, and leave our legacy with the University **and** the environment.
    - Outdoor and expanded Recycling: We need to continue improving our recycling system, with more locations (including outdoors), more pickups, and more things that can be recycled.
    - Composting--Much of the waste we create on campus, particularly in the dining halls, can be composted and used as rich soil.
    - Bike Sharing: We will work to support the ongoing efforts to support Bike Sharing in Denver and at the University.
    - Community Garden: We will continue to support the new garden so students can have access to home grown, nutritious food.
- Advising
  - First and foremost, the university is a place of learning. Because there are many different programs, departments, and major specific requirements, improvements to Academic Advising are necessary. Students are frequently faced with a complex process that does not leave room for actual advising. The following action points will allow us to enact the changes necessary to ensure that every student receives helpful and accurate advising information.
    - Educate students on the three-tiered advising process, i.e. major advisor, academic advisor, and First Year Seminar advisors.
    - Encourage student organization collaboration with the Center for Academic and Career Development.
    - Stress the importance of Academic Advising and course schedules during New Student Orientation.
    - Push for informational events about Academic Advising so that students will come to understand its importance during their college careers.
- Grade Regulation
  - Perhaps because of DU's decentralized system of schools and departments, students' grades may be of differing value depending on where they are assigned and which professor assigned them. This inconsistency does not adequately access a student's work and leads towards grade inflation.
    - Ensure that grades are not arbitrarily assigned
    - Develop a University-wide grading scale

- Greek Life
  - The institution of Greek Life is a very important aspect of the University of Denver. Between 19-20% of all students are part of Greek organizations and they are regularly faced with negative stereotypes that create barriers to the understanding of their involvement. By breaking down these barriers, we will work to ensure that Greek Life is supported across campus, celebrating the Greek spirit of service, brotherhood, and sisterhood.
    - Work with Greek leaders to educate the campus about their history and importance on the campus of the University of Denver.
    - Encourage Greek Life sponsorship and attendance of campus wide events.
    - Promote the newly established Multicultural Greek Council as an important aspect of the future of Greek Life on campus.
    - Promote the individual philanthropies that are sponsored by chapters on campus so that all students will understand the spirit of service essential to Greek Life.
    - Break down stereotypes that create barriers between the interaction of Greek Organizations and non-Greek students
    - Educate the campus about the leadership development essential to Greek Life.
    - Promote security around off-campus Greek houses, specifically those on Sorority Row
- Technology
  - For several years, the University of Denver has required students to own a laptop. While this policy is not new, many changes still need to be made to better utilize this technology resource including ensuring that every student receives helpful and reliable support as well as the ability to make use of their laptops in all aspects of their education:
    - Laptops
      - If the University has a laptop requirement, students must be able to use laptops in class for academic purposes
      - Electronic reading assignments should be able to be viewed on laptops as opposed to required printing
    - Assignments
      - Work to allow assignments to be submitted electronically, specifically through the use of Blackboard.
      - Improve Professors' knowledge and usage of the Blackboard Academic Suite so that students will have a secure and reliable resource for classroom experiences.
      - Work to ensure that professors allow for submission of double sided printing.
    - Printers
      - Ensure that new printer purchases across the University must be duplex printers (double sided) in order to promote, and further, sustainable campus wide efforts.
      - Implement a new printing system that allows documents to be sent to all campus printers so that if a printer in a Residence Hall is down

> students will be able to print across campus without having to submit their print job again.
>
> - Ensure a more functional user experience in webmail by outsourcing to a system such as Google.
> - Foster greater collaboration between Residence Hall Staff and the University of Denver Resident Technology Assistants (RTAs) to ensure that students are aware of the support provided through RTA service.

- Create a Tuition Bill of Rights
    - Tuition is always on the mind of the students and their parents. In times of economic uncertainty, the ability of the students to voice their financial concerns is paramount. Through the establishment of a Tuition Bill of Rights, students will be able to understand the decisions made by the University Administration in regards to tuition.
- Athletics
    - Athletics is undeniably an essential aspect of the university. Over the past few years, efforts made to improve the visibility and importance of our athletic programs have met limited success. In order to ensure that our athletic program, as well as our athletes, receive the support they need the following action points will be implemented:
        - Ensure that athletics remain an important tradition to the University of Denver by encouraging all students to attend events.
        - Promote and further the importance of the Rally Alley program that began at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.
        - Work closely with Intramural Sports and Club Sports so that all students will be able to find their own niche in athletics if they so desire.
        - Encourage the athletics department to branch out from the Ritchie Center and advertise events to students across campus as well as off-campus.
        - Ensure that students are able to create their own Club Sports that are seen as untraditional – e.g. Ultimate Frisbee.
        - Promote the participation of student athletes (competitive, intramural, and club) in campus wide events.
        - Promote the University of Denver Fight Song as an important tradition to the upkeep and advancement of University pride.
- Administration
    - Many times the concerns of students are not taken into account on the administrative level of the university. We understand that the university exists as a multi-dimensional entity that involves academics as well as business needs but we want to champion the voice of the student. By enacting the following action points greater collaboration between students and university administration can be achieved.
        - Promote strong and active University leadership that takes into account student opinion – i.e. without the students, there is no university
        - Hold quarterly Chancellor's Roundtables that take the Chancellor to the students – e.g. holding a roundtable in a residence hall.
        - Promote active and supportive communication between administrative bodies and students on campus.
        - If the university is also a business, it must take into account the needs of its consumers, i.e. the students.

- Encourage Administrators at every level to regularly interact with students in ways as simple as discussions while walking across campus
- Student Government Reform
  - Many times student government interaction with students is minimal with students only hearing from student government when the time for voting occurs. This type of interaction has not benefitted the students and has created an atmosphere in which AUSA Senators do not seek student input and do not vote based on the voice of their constituents. We will work to recreate student government as an institution of service compared to an institution of power. By implementing the following changes, students will be able to benefit from the work of those they have elected. (IMPORTANT NOTE: All of these changes will be implemented before the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.)
    - Within two weeks of the annual 2009 AUSA Elections, create a taskforce charged with the restructure of the student government constitution to bring about the changes below. (The Taskforce will be comprised of outgoing and incoming Senators as well as other interested students. This taskforce will work over the summer to submit its recommendations prior to the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.)
    - Create an effective student government with checks and balances of power.
      - We will create three distinct branches of government that support students. The establishment of a judicial branch, legislative branch, and executive branch, will allow student government to more effectively represent and support students and student organizations.
        - Students will be able to appeal decisions made by the Executive Branch and the Legislative branch.
    - Create student voter initiatives that allow students to directly give their input about policy changes across campus.
    - Hold Senators accountable to the platform on which they ran by requiring town hall meetings between Senators and their constituents.
      - This structure will allow students to actively voice their concerns to those who represent them.
        - Attendance at meetings is not a fulfillment of a representative's role or student expectations unless it is coupled with additional work for the betterment of the student experience.
    - As an Executive Branch, we will give quarterly updates on this platform as well as current issues facing undergraduate students.
    - Create greater availability of information to students by recording weekly updates to be posted on the AUSA student government website.
    - Ensure that student government committees respond in a timely matter to funding requests.
      - If a student applies to the Board of Contingency for funding, a reply indicating next steps will be sent within five business days or the amount of the request will be fully funded. This will ensure effectiveness, accountability, and a timely response to all proposals.
    - Redesign the AUSA Senate website so that students will always have access to reliable information and updates on student government initiatives.

Inclusiveness

- Foster an accepting campus that champions a climate of inclusiveness.
    - This may seem like an unattainable goal but we believe it is implementable, especially given the numerous campus resources available to all students.
    - In order to create an accepting campus, inclusiveness must be established as an important tradition of the university. We have students from all over the world who come from different backgrounds and bring different ideas to the table. We must ensure that this interaction is seen as a benefit to the student body as a whole because we are able to learn from those who are different than us.
    - Use resources such as Student Life and the Center for Multicultural Excellence to educate students on the importance of inclusiveness.
    - Challenge the student body to recognize their similarities while also remembering their differences.
    - Work with university administration to stress the importance of diversity on campus in order to foster an inclusive and educated campus culture.
    - Educate future generations of Pioneers about the importance of inclusiveness by offering more discussion about the topic during New Student Orientation.
        - If each successive year of students understands that we are an open campus that accepts all people, they will build upon the foundation necessary to continue this needed atmosphere.
- Handicap access
    - Improve wheelchair and crutch accessibility around campus and into buildings.
    - Create appropriate detours for handicapped students around construction zones.
- Include questions related to diversity and inclusiveness in course evaluations in order to stress the importance of these issues in the classroom.
- Promote annual inclusivity events such as the Diversity Summit as well as the Lamont A. Seller's Diversity and Unity Leadership Retreat
    - Both of these events are important traditions that take place every year at the University of Denver. Both events educate students on what inclusivity means and how we can all work together to ensure that it is achieved.
        - Promote these events to the undergraduate population in order to ensure a certain level of self-discovery and learning as it pertains to diversity.
        - These events teach the complexity of diversity. We often think that racial diversity is enough but it is through the collective establishment of the diversity of thought, creed, gender, sexual orientation, and economic diversity, as well as the intersections of these identities, that the University of Denver can grow into an institution marked by the success of this understanding.
        - Promote these events as cornerstones of the University of Denver.
- Work with the Center for Multicultural Excellence to expand support for the LGBTIQA undergraduate student population.
    - The LGBTIQA community has played an essential role in the development of the University of Denver's understanding of inclusive excellence

- o The University of Denver is a member of the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals and has many events across campus that seek to educate students on the importance of this specific community.
    - Market these events to student organizations so as to garner a greater understanding of the current issues our LGBTIQA students face.
    - Promote the Annual LGBTIQA Gala Celebration as an important tradition which demonstrates the accomplishments made by these different communities to the University of Denver.
- Work with multicultural student organizations to promote and develop their importance on campus.
    - o There are several student organizations on campus that represent specific racial and lifestyle communities across the university. We will work in conjunction with these groups to ensure that through their collective efforts a greater sense of acceptance can be achieved on campus.
        - Support the formation of the Joint Council, a group charged with the collaboration of these specific groups on campus, so that the efforts of these groups will be given a greater sense of legitimacy and publicity on campus.
        - Encourage the continual participation of these specific groups in university traditions.
        - Work with members of the Center for Multicultural Excellence to generate staff and administrative support for these student groups.
- Work with the newly established Multicultural Greek Council to further its ability to expand diversity within Greek Life.
    - o The Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) is an important aspect of inclusivity within the Greek Life system as well as campus as a whole. Currently, Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority Incorporated and Sigma Lambda Beta (Latino Fraternity) are the only multicultural Greek organizations on campus. The MGC has the potential to open the University of Denver to other multicultural Greek organizations such as traditionally Asian, Black, and Latino sororities and fraternities.
    - o Work to increase the annual budget for the MGC so that they will be able to create campus wide events that demonstrate the importance of their presence on campus.
- Work with the Learning Effectiveness Program on campus to ensure that students who utilize their services are benefiting inside and outside of the classroom.
    - o Many students on campus utilize the programs and support provided by LEP but there are inconsistencies in the implementation of these services.
        - Provide more and better information about the LEP to the student body to ensure that students are not missing out on the resources available to them.
        - Ensure that faculty members make clear their expectations of students with learning disabilities in the classroom so as to provide for a positive student experience.

Campus Identity

- Reformat DU marketing—not just a school close to the mountains
  - The University of Denver has much more to offer than just being a private, mid-sized university close to the Rocky Mountains. The vision of DU is to be a private university committed to the public good. With this in mind, we will work to promote the finer aspects of the University of Denver. Departments and school across campus have all dedicated themselves to the advancement of the human condition and as such, we need to market the University as an institution that engages students and faculty beyond the classroom. By celebrating DU's commitment to its community, we will show students that DU is more than just a school, but an avenue through which students find out who they are and who they would like to become. As we appeal to prospective students, let us embrace our geography while championing our commitment to the spirit of service that is vital to all of our communities.
- Promote the mission and vision of the University of Denver in all that takes place at DU
  - As previously stated, the University of Denver is a private university committed to the public good. Every aspect of campus devotes itself to this principle. Student organizations, Greek Life, and university departments all work to engage the surrounding community. In the words of Chancellor Coombe, "The University of Denver is a great private university dedicated to the public good. There are two ways that this greatness and dedication to the public good must be manifested: in the kinds of people that we graduate and what they do with their lives; and in the manner in which we leverage our collective intellectual capital against the great issues of the day". This is the ideal that the University is striving for and it is an avenue through which all students can grow as human beings and develop skills that will be unique in the workforce, beyond graduation.
    - Programs such as Project Homeless Connect involve the entire community in fulfilling the University's vision of being a "private university dedicated to the public good".
      - Using Project Homeless Connect as a model, work with outside organizations to bring large scale service based programming to campus
      - Promote the programs led by the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning as way for students to engage themselves in their communities and work to broaden their understanding of a commitment to service.
- Create a campus wide community.
  - We feel that a united campus community needs more than a mascot to come together. Before we find a unifying university image, we must first establish a sense of community across campus. We have strong communities across campus, but do not have a strong, united campus community to which all students feel we belong. We must come together as students, regardless of our engagements across campus, to show everyone what it means to be a University of Denver Pioneer. Regardless of our majors, involvement, etc. we must come together as Pioneers. Without a sense of campus community, we cannot hope to create a singular image of what it means to be a Pioneer. By our collective efforts, and willingness to involve one another, we can create that community.

- Find and establish a unifying campus image
    - As we embark upon the journey of creating a campus community, we must also start to seek a unifying image. While we respect and recognize our past, we must look to our future. We must understand that the formation of a unifying image must be inclusive of all students. We must ensure that this image can celebrate all aspects of the University of Denver.