
Student Involvement & Leadership

2013-2014 Report

Mission

In alliance with the mission and strategic plan of the University of New Orleans and Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, the mission of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL) is to foster student success and lifelong learning by providing all students with meaningful opportunities for involvement in campus and community life. This will be achieved through initiatives such as: cultural activities, leadership and citizenship development, community involvement programs and partnerships in service-learning. The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership's programs and services are committed to the development of the whole person in conjunction with the mission of the University of New Orleans.

The areas that fall within the purview of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership include:

- Leadership development and programmatic advisement of registered student organizations,
- Leadership Programs (Leadership Cabinet programming, Emerging Leaders Program, Privateer Camp, and the Transfer Retreat for Leadership)
- Community Service Initiatives,
- Greek Life,
- Student Activities Council,
- Student Government.

Annual Report Structure

In order to establish a baseline and continue assess the offices progress in accordance with its mission, the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership compiled this 2013-2014 report. This report is divided into the following sections:

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Section 1: Student Organizations

SIL believes that participation in a student organization is one of the most rewarding ways in which a student can be involved. Registered Student Organizations (RSO's) are a vital part of campus life and afford students the opportunity to interact with others at the University while fostering learning outside the classroom. SIL provides developmental training for organizational leaders and their advisors, offers resources for planning and implementing organizational programming, and verifies that organizations are following university procedures.

As a registered student organization at the University of New Orleans student organizations have access to the resources of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. This includes checking out equipment such as sound systems, microphones, and extension cords.

In 2013-2014, student organizations coordinated nearly **400** events on campus (**137** events and **29** bake sales in the fall; **208** events and **18** bake sales in the spring).

In Fall 2013, registered student organizations and departments were able to reserve the SIL conference room in the University Center through the office of Student Involvement and Leadership, using it a total of **117** times. In March 2014 the conference room was converted into the Greek Life office.

In January 2014, SIL opened a new space for students: the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room. Students use the space by signing-in, using the room a total of **69** times through the semester. The space is intended for use by any and all faiths during office hours (for security purposes).

Event Highlights:

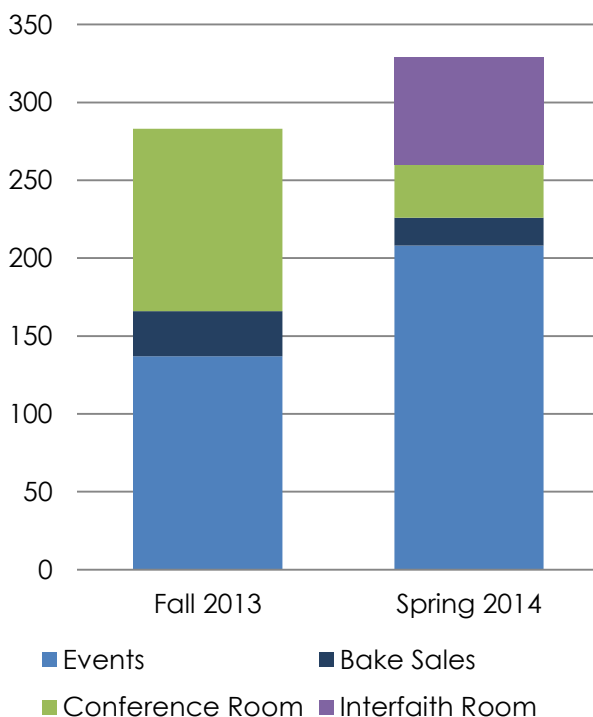
- August 2012 vs. August 2013 = **650%** increase
- September 2012 vs. September 2013 = **5.71%** increase
- November 2012 vs. November 2013 = **12.5%** increase

In addition to organization orientations, in Fall 2013 SIL created an orientation specially geared towards advisors of student organizations. Orientations for student organizations and advisors have had increased attendance. Fall 2013 had 24 student organizations attend the Student Organization Orientation in person, and many others viewed the orientation online.

Student Organization Highlights:

- Over 100 active, registered student organizations on campus
- Interfaith room grand opening in Spring 2014
- Conference room converted into the Greek Life office in Spring 2014
- Additional resources for student organization's available online
- Orientations regarding how to run student organizations for both executive board members of student organizations and advisors (implemented Fall 2013)
- Online orientations with audio for student organizations and advisors (implemented Fall 2013)
- SIL now reserves events for the Sandbar

Student Org Activities



Section 2: Leadership Programs

The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership executes an array of leadership programs, including retreats, workshops, networking events, and the leadership awards ceremony throughout the year. SIL's leadership programs have seen an **overall 24%** increase in participation since 2011. More specifically, the Leadership Summit has experienced a **15%** increase in participation since 2011; the Leadership Retreat has seen a **26%** increase in attendance since 2012; Privateer Camp has increased **31%** since 2012; and the Transfer Retreat for Leadership increased by **26%** since 2011. The 2014 Leadership Recognition Ceremony experienced a **23%** increase in attendees and nominations compared to 2013.

Leadership Cabinet

In Spring 2014, the Leadership Cabinet hosted the annual Leadership Recognition Ceremony as well as assisted in hosting the annual Leadership Exchange with Washburn University. The Leadership Cabinet also met regularly to design leadership programs and initiatives to implement.

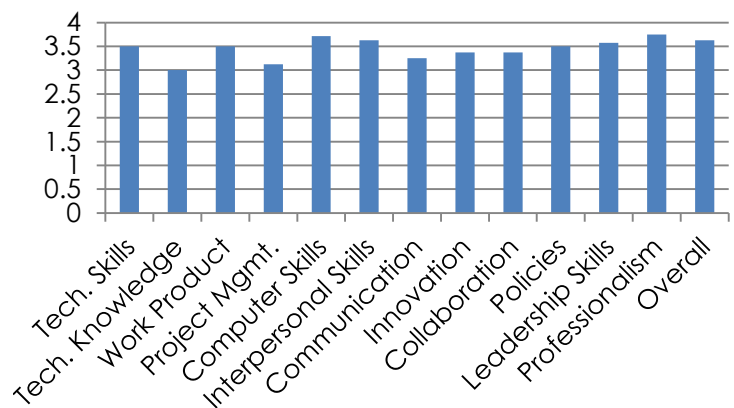
At the end of the semester, the members of the Leadership Cabinet were asked to complete an evaluation of their experience and the support they received from SIL. The graph to the right indicates the members' confidence in the various skills and learning outcomes set forth by SIL for them. These scores are the averages of the members of the Leadership Cabinet with the following rating scale: 1 = inexperienced or improvement needed; 2 = satisfactory; 3 = very competent or high level; and 4 = outstanding.

Comments made by Leadership Cabinet members regarding their experience:

- "I grew so much as a young person! I feel I have met my goals as a student leader and can use the valuable skills I learned in my everyday life."
- "I feel like staff development is important, once you get to know each other you transition from a team to a family. You really know the people you are working with, and that just makes the work that you do even more amazing."
- "One of my most significant accomplishments this past year is when inspired students to want to become better leaders and more involved and I didn't think people were paying that much attention to the little things that I did. I know that I played a part in marking things happen but since I felt like I wasn't in a big position I didn't make that much of an impact. The main goals of... the Leadership Cabinet is to help guide more student leaders."
- "The result of participating in the staff development activities was that we grew as LC's together. Before the various...activities we would work together efficiently but once we did the staff development activities I developed a closer bond with the people within our organization."

For 2014-2015, the Leadership Cabinet discussed the development of iLEAD talks: leadership development workshops coordinated and presented by the Leadership Cabinet members for other UNO students. This goes hand-in-hand with the development of smaller, more frequent events and programs, to complement the large-scale events they already host.

Leadership Cabinet Learning Outcomes



Leadership Recognition Ceremony

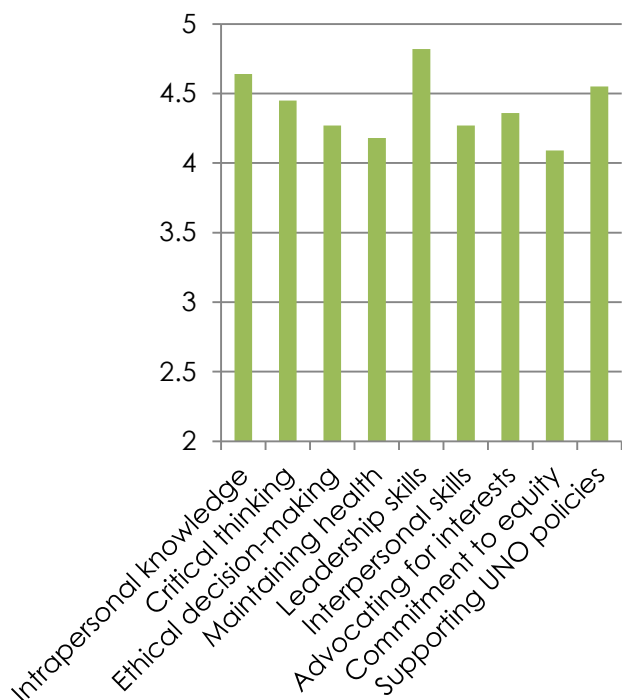
The Leadership Recognition Ceremony is an annual event orchestrated by the Leadership Cabinet to recognize UNO student leaders with awards and certificates for their inspiring service on campus and throughout the city of New Orleans. Major awards include: Advisor of the Year, Student Leader in Community Service, Event of the Year, Organization of the Year, Organization President of the Year, and the Edgar E. Burks Award, and over 80 Student Recognition Awards. This year, over **122** students, faculty, staff, and families attended the Leadership Recognition Ceremony, a **23%** increase from last year, which only saw 99 attendees. Leadership Cabinet implemented online nomination systems for the first time with some user difficulty; we expect to improve and further streamline the nomination processes for next year.

Emerging Leaders

The mission of the Emerging Leaders program is to strengthen first- and second-year students' leadership skills by fostering opportunities to nurture interdisciplinary thought, critical thinking, and leadership development activities that both challenge and support students. This year, the program served **20** Emerging Leaders and **two (2)** Emerging Leader Mentors.

As part of the program, four (4) to ten (10) Emerging Leaders and Mentors volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House for one-and-a-half to two hours each week. The Emerging Leaders performed **72** service hours over the course of the semester.

Learning Outcomes



At the end of the semester, the Emerging Leaders completed a survey evaluating the program. With regards to achieving SIL's learning outcomes for the program, the Emerging Leaders were asked to measure their confidence in the skills from 1 to 5: 1 being that the program did not provide opportunities to capitalize on the skill, and 5 being that the program helped enhance the skill. The graph to the left illustrates the average of their responses.

Comments made by the Emerging Leaders about the program:

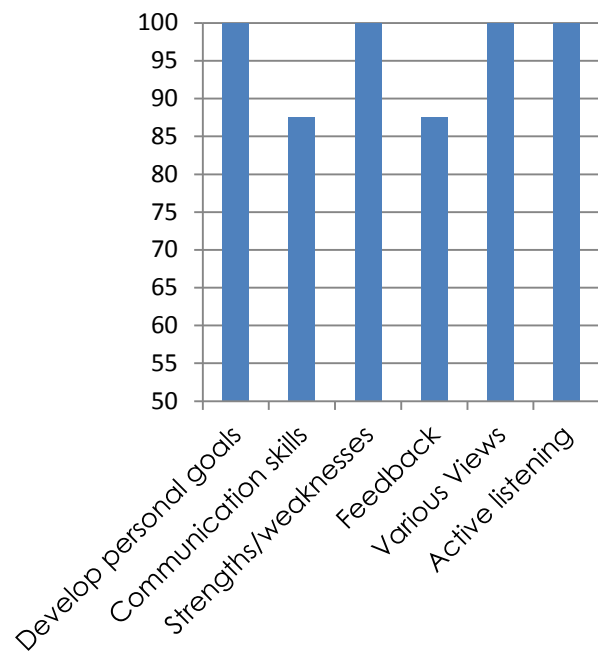
- "My proudest moment was when I was told I was an inspiration. I didn't realize I was affecting anyone on that level, and it was baffling to me when I was told. I don't think I would've had that moment if I wasn't an Emerging Leader."
- "Through this program I have learned so much about conflict resolution...It has been one of the greatest tools I have learned from the program."
- "Seeing fellow leaders literally emerge from their shell and tap further into their potential was really rewarding and inspiring for me."

Leadership Exchange

The Leadership Exchange is a three-day experience in which students have the opportunity to travel to another university and interact with other college students sharing an interest in and a passion for leadership. In the past, the University of New Orleans has hosted students from McKendree University and Washburn University. In Spring 2014, UNO hosted students from Washburn University for the three-day exchange including co-facilitated leadership trainings, service opportunities, and cultural appreciation. Overall, **80%-90%** of participants expressed satisfaction with each component of the program.

The following graph shows the skills Washburn and UNO students felt were supported or enhanced during the Leadership Exchange. The percentages refer to the number of participants who felt they had improved on the particular skill.

Leadership Exchange Skill Development



These are only a few of the various skills and learning outcomes that Washburn and UNO students are expected to expand upon and have achieved during this year's Leadership Exchange.

Comments made by the Washburn and UNO students about the program include:

- "It was a lot of fun."
- "I think it was very helpful, especially seeing and meeting leaders from a different place with difference viewpoints, but similar goals."
- "I absolutely loved it! It was an amazing trip filled with learning about difference types of leadership and meeting new people."

To provide UNO students with the same cross-cultural experiences as other students, SIL and the Washburn University Leadership Initiative are working together on grants for 2014-15 to allow UNO students to visit Kansas and experience a true "exchange".

Section 3: Community Service Initiatives

SIL is committed to instilling in students the importance of civic engagement. The Service Coalition at UNO is a student-run community service resource of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. The organization serves as the connection between volunteers, student groups, nonprofits, and service providers. The Service Coalition works to address New Orleans' social, environmental, and educational needs by volunteering with various non-profits, **20** in total for 2013-2014.

Students who participate in Service Coalition and its programs gain valuable skills and insight, particularly in the organization's target learning outcomes (listed to the right).

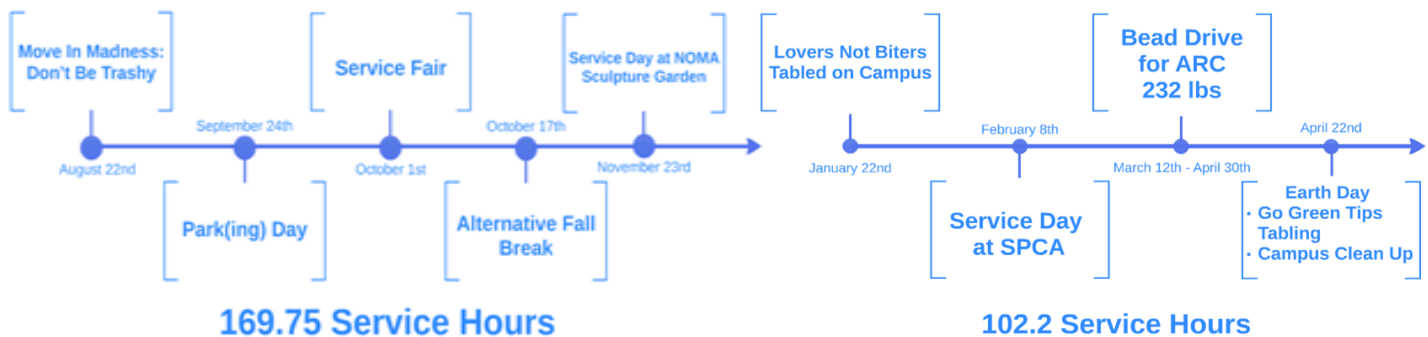
Targeted Learning Outcomes



Highlights:

- Recycled **762** lbs of Mardi Gras Beads
- Student-run on-campus recycling program for 3 years
- Service Fair (87 freshmen and transfer students attended)

2013-2014 Service Opportunities



The Service Coalition hosted **nine (9)** total service opportunities for students in 2013-2014, totaling **271.95 service hours** in the community and on campus.

In evaluations completed after each service opportunity, students provided positive feedback. In Spring 2014, **90%** of students agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to gain greater self-awareness and better able to work as a team member; **100%** of students reported that they felt more connected to the community and were made aware of concerns faced by the community.

Student comments include:

- "[I enjoyed volunteering because of] seeing positive results from all my hard work."
- "I learned about things that I didn't know before."
- "I enjoyed working with others."

In 2014-2015, Service Coalition would like to coordinate more Service Days each month. (Currently, one is scheduled per month, but they are sometimes canceled due to weather). Another area for growth is to further reinforce the learning outcomes regarding advocating personal/community interests and demonstrating a commitment to equity and social justice.

Section 4: Greek Life

The Greek community at the University of New Orleans (UNO) is comprised of diverse groups of fraternities and sororities. Fraternities and sororities offer lifetime opportunities for friendship, service to the community, leadership, and scholarship. UNO recognizes **10** Greek organizations, each of which is a campus chapter of a national group. UNO is the home to five sororities: Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Kappa and Zeta Tau Alpha. Since Spring 2013, sorority life has grown by **22%**. In addition to five sororities, UNO also has five fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, and Theta Xi. Since Spring 2013, fraternity life has grown by **10%**. While the number of Greek members has increased overall, the National PanHellenic Council (NPHC), comprised of UNO's historically African American Greek organizations, has seen a slight decrease in membership. Since Spring 2013, Greek Life overall has grown by **17%**.

Total # of Greek Life Members



UNO's Greek organizations take great pride in performing community service, completing **4,941** community service hours in 2013-2014. Greek organizations hosted **135** campus-wide events, including social, service, and philanthropic events. Greeks also support various causes, including the Save the Lake Foundation for Lake Pontchartrain. In 2013-2014, Greek organizations raised **\$17,319.23**, including \$1,048.00 from Greek Week.

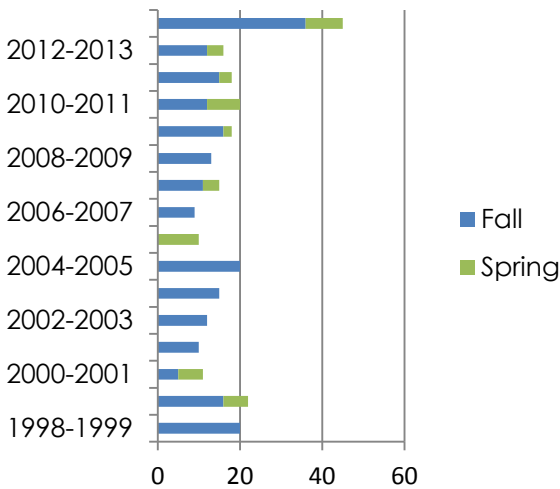
SIL's primary initiative to foster collaborations among Greek organizations is Greek Week. This is an opportunity for Greeks come together for fellowship and camaraderie through a variety of events held during the week. Students can come and interact with Greek members at these events, and Greek Week is a fun time for all parties involved. Among the events during Greek Week were: Banner Making Contest (**97** attendees), Trivia Night (**115** attendees), Chariot Races (**85** attendees), Karaoke Night (**102** attendees), Sandcastle Building Contest (**90** attendees), UNO's Got Talent co-sponsored with SAC (**200** attendees), Minute to Win It (**71** attendees), Greek Awards Ceremony (**120** attendees).

Since 2011, SIL has made it a goal to increase membership in Greek organizations. In 2014-2015, SIL will continue to work with student leaders to increase programming and visibility. In addition, SIL will continue to provide resources, such as various leadership development workshops, in the hopes to build a stronger Greek community.

Section 5: Student Activities Council (SAC)

The Student Activities Council (SAC) is the primary programming board of the University of New Orleans. SAC is comprised of eight (8) student executive board members and a number of members and volunteers. These students are dedicated to hosting events on UNO's campus to build campus community and provide educational experiences outside of the classroom. Events vary in size and scope; major SAC events include campus traditions such as Homecoming, Welcome Back Luau, Holi Festival of Colors, and SUCbAUF Annual Crawfish Boil.

SAC Inductees by Academic Year



In Spring 2014, SAC inducted nine (9) new members. In Fall 2013, SAC inducted **36** new members, the largest number of new members since the organization split from Student Government in 1998. In Spring 2014, SAC averaged 6 volunteers at each event while Fall 2013 events averaged 19 volunteers per event.

Comments from SAC members:

"SAC has made me even more UNO proud. I'm so excited about all the things they are doing on campus!"

"I met so many great people at Welcome Back Luau. It really helped me to feel more comfortable in college."

"Everyone in SAC is so friendly and welcoming. They really made me feel like a part of something great."

"I have met the greatest people through SAC. I can't thank this organization enough!"

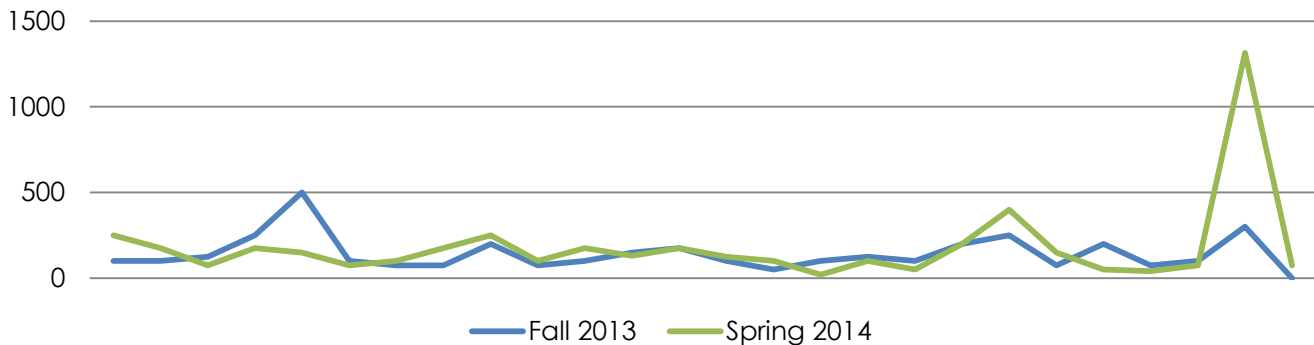
"SAC events are something I look forward to every week."

"SAC is the first place I felt comfortable on campus. I can't thank this organization enough for helping me to come out of my shell."

Events

SAC events are organized by type: entertainment (music & performance-based events), cultural arts (educational & diversity events), special events (campus traditions), and lagniappe (miscellaneous events such as the annual Welcome Week organization fair, Fresh Fest). In 2013-2014, SAC executed **51** events (25 in the fall semester, 26 in the spring semester). Average event attendance for the fall semester was **148** students (**3,700** attendees over 25 events); for spring semester was **181** students (**4,705** attendees over 26 events). The year's most popular events include: SUCbAUF 27th Annual Crawfish Boil (**1,315**), Welcome Back Luau (**500**), Holi Festival of Colors (**400**), Holiday Warm Up (**300**), Movie in the Amphitheater: Now You See Me (**250**), Drive-In Movie: Monster's University and We're the Millers (**250**), and UNO's Got Talent (**200**). Additionally, a number of SAC events were recognized in the local media, including: Silent Disco, Holi Festival of Colors, and Homecoming.

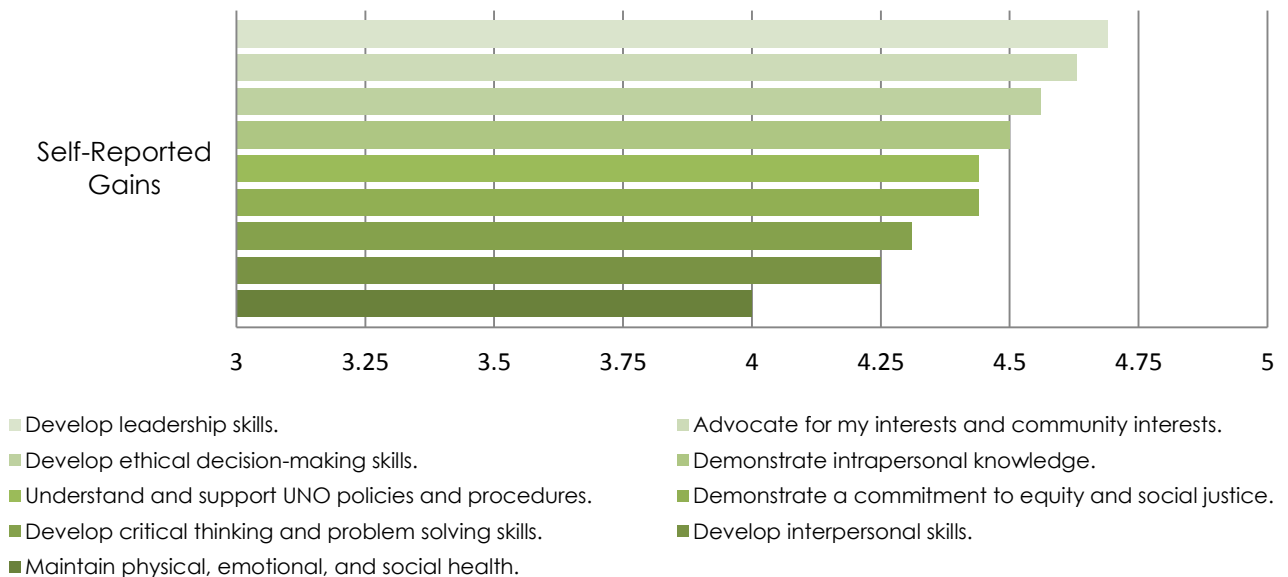
SAC Event Attendance



SAC Student Development

Students involved in SAC reported above-average growth in each of SIL's nine (9) learning outcomes. In particular, students reported the highest degrees of development in regards to their leadership skills, advocacy for personal and community interests, and developing ethical decision-making skills. Overall, students reported that coordinating SAC events afforded them the opportunity to realize the impact of their decisions and to practice their personal leadership styles.

Student Reported Development



- “SAC Events (volunteering & attending) have helped me more than anything. I've learned not to be around others or deal with groups, but how to work effectively with others. I've learned better communication skills, when to take initiative and when to listen to others. The most important thing I've learned, I would say, is learning and building on my strengths as we'll help/allow others to do the same. To grow and help others grow pretty much sums everything up.”
- “All the events I have done have influenced by development in some way... It provided me a chance to speak to peers and educate them in something I know a lot about, while also learning how to better teach these theories to a crowd who may not have had the same knowledge I have.”
- “I planned a lot of the SAC events with my colleagues. This taught me how to start from scratch and work my way up to a big-time event for the UNO community. I learned how to interact with small groups, speak to large groups, be a professional representative of the UNO SIL office.”
- “[SAC events] allowed me to gain self-confidence, build my leadership skills, and learn about myself.”
- “These programs helped me because they allowed me to step out of my shell. Normally, I am an extroverted person but I still have my insecurities about being in front of people but while at these events it has helped me to develop confidence in myself and my leadership style.”

Additionally, UNO's Student Activities Council was recognized regionally at the National Association of Campus Activities Central Conference for excellence in publicity and marketing, including Best Website (Medium School Division) and Best Print Media (Medium School Division).

In 2014-2015, SAC aims to increase its number of cultural and educational events to further the holistic education of students on UNO's campus.

Section 6: Student Government (SG)

The Student Government (SG) is comprised of three branches (e.g., executive, legislative, and judicial) with student members representing each of their colleges for the betterment of the University. SG offers their support to students by providing funding for their efforts, free services for their college success, and advocacy for their grievances.

During the Fall 2013 semester, Student Government passed **14** bills benefiting **12** various social, scholastic, and cultural organizations. The total amount of funding granted by Student Government in Fall 2013 was **\$25,845.21**. This money translated into over **450** service hours to be performed to better the UNO as well as New Orleans community at large.

During the Spring 2014 semester, Student Government passed **13** bills, providing nearly **\$18,000** in funding toward nearly **20** offices, colleges, and student organizations resulting in **230** service hours provided to UNO as well as New Orleans community at large. Three resolutions were passed and forwarded to campus administration, including opinions regarding the Children's Center closure, e-cigarettes on campus, and the development of a safe-ride program. Sand Volleyball courts were also funded to be built with **\$37,702.00** from the Student Government Reserve account. President Bonds issued **13** executive orders in 2013-2014, spending a total of **\$14,971.39** from his executive account. Per the last meeting of the semester there were **27** total senators.

In Spring 2014, the Student Government (SG) Budget Committee approved **\$38,746.57** for departmental/organizational budgeted projects, including funding for Jazz at the Sandbar, math tutors, summer orientation organization fairs, and Privateer Camp. Annually, Student Government provides **\$15,000.00** in scholarship funds for students interested in studying abroad and **\$30,000.00** in student academic travel funds for students interested in traveling to conferences and conventions. Other operating services funded by SG in 2014 include: the DVD library in the Earl K. Long Library, hand sanitizer dispensers, pencils, free scantrons, free legal services, and funds the on-campus recycling program.

Major projects funded by SG in 2013-2014 include:

- A Bloomberg Terminal for the College of Business Administration
- Children & Young Adult Library/Resource Center for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Jazz at the Sandbar for the Department of Music
- Musical Excursions for the Department of Music
- Privateer Camp (in part) for SIL and the Office of Enrollment Services
- Legal Services
- Study Abroad Scholarships

Additionally, the Student Government Travel fund supported **78** students who attended **35** conferences, for a total amount of **\$23,227.98** in student travel aid. This important program aids in the promotion of the University and its students at the regional and national level.

Throughout the year, SG hosted a number of open forums to allow students to question administration regarding various policies and changes in the University. The executive team also organized the "Get Fit Movement", a UL-system initiative to promote wellness on college campuses. In total, SG contributed more than **\$275,000** to projects, programs, and supplies to benefit the University of New Orleans.

In 2014-2015, SG hopes to increase its visibility with the student body in order to promote the utilization of its many services and to better advocate for student needs.