



## **Student Association for Global Affairs**

Distr.: General  
20 January 2009

**First annual assessment of the Student Association for Global Affairs (SAGA) program of work submitted pursuant to the SAGA Constitution dated 1 December 2008 from the President of SAGA addressed to the Members of the SAGA of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in Newark.**

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Student Association for Global Affairs (SAGA). The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the SAGA.

*(Signed)* **Panayotis A. Yannakogeorgos**  
President  
Student Association for Global Affairs (SAGA)

**First annual assessment of the Student Association for Global Affairs (SAGA) program of work submitted pursuant to the SAGA Constitution dated 20 January 2009 from the President of the Student Association for Global Affairs addressed to the Members of the Student Association for Global Affairs of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in Newark.**

During the 2008 calendar year, the Student Association for Global Affairs (SAGA) engaged in an unprecedented and extensive program of work and took appropriate actions on a wide range of items on its agenda in support of the Division of Global Affairs (DGA).

During exchanges taking place in deliberations of the SAGA Executive Council, including in open meetings, and the informal discussions that have transpired among a number of proactive Members of the Association the following objectives were set out:

1. Address the concerns of DGA's students.
2. Foster a sense of community within the DGA.
3. Promote the reputation of the DGA students through its activities.
4. Collaborate with DGA and University administrators on a variety of projects.

To address the concerns of our students the SAGA Executive Council organized:

1. Closed meetings, which are arranged every week so that members of the SAGA Executive Council can report their progress in their respective areas of responsibility and plan the agenda for the organization's open meetings.
2. Open meetings, convened approximately every two weeks, in an effort to provide DGA students with the opportunity to formally inform SAGA's Executives of their concerns.
3. Consultations with the Director of DGA which are frequently held to convey students' concerns. SAGA extended invitations for the DGA Director's participation to a number of open meetings.
  - a. In response to this exchange and commitment on the part of the DGA Director, a Career Workshop series for DGA students was organized in collaboration with the Office of Career Services. The first event took place December 4, 2008. The series will continue in the Spring 2009 semester.
  - b. At SAGAs request, the DGA director presented a *Toolbox for a Career in Public Service*.
4. The SAGA Executive Council has sought office/study space and lockers within the Center for Law and Justice (CLJ) for DGA's Teaching Assistants.

- a. After consulting the Director of administrative services, School of Law–Newark, Ms. Francina Skipper, it was reported to students that they may meet with her to schedule a time and location for office/study space (subject to availability) within the CLJ.
  - b. Due to the extreme shortage of lockers for Rutgers Law School, it was reported none are available for DGA students in the CLJ.
5. Ongoing consultations with the Director of DGA and relevant Department heads regarding the establishment of a combined Masters or Ph.D. degree in Global Affairs with a Masters degree in Economics.

In order to foster a sense of community and to improve the image of SAGA, which had suffered from a period of inactivity, the SAGA Executive Council took the following actions:

1. Organized DGA’s first Global Food Festival in Spring 2008.
2. Organized an Academic conference on Global Change and Governance.
3. Organized a Semester Kick-Off event in Fall 2008.
4. Organized several social networking events.
5. Organized a second Global Food Festival took place in November 2009.
6. Collaborated with the DGA Administration to organize the 2008 DGA Holiday Party.
7. Members of SAGA’s Executive Council participate and contribute to the agenda of both the Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA), the Rutgers University Senate and the *Journal of Global Change and Governance*.

In order to promote the reputation of the DGA through its student body the SAGA Executive Council facilitated the following opportunities for students:

1. DGA students are now provided with the opportunity to publish their research via an in house peer-review publication.
  - a. The realization of this objective has been almost entirely due to SAGA’s current President through the founding of the peer-reviewed *Journal for Global Change and Governance*.
  - b. Efforts continue to be made in reaching out to DGA’s and other Ph.D. students within the Rutgers community, core DGA and associate DGA faculty, a number of colleagues from other universities, and various

- practitioners regarding the opportunities to publish their work in the *Journal of Global Change and Governance*.
- c. Similar opportunities have been provided to these individuals regarding the presentation of their work at our conferences.
2. A student conference was organized in April 2008 in which students presented their latest research.
  3. The upcoming *Symposium on Conflict, Cooperation, and Security in the New Century* is being planned for March of 2009.
  4. SAGA's Executive Council has represented the organization before the Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA) regarding the funding of our events and the *Journal of Global Change and Governance*.
    - a. We have ensured that, when deemed appropriate, the current Director matches the funds made available by the GSGA in association with carrying out our planned Symposium.
  5. We have consistently disseminated all available information with regard to upcoming conferences, potential employment opportunities, various internships, and graduate and professional school opportunities, including the State Department's information session sponsored by the Office of Career Services
  6. Co-sponsored with the *Journal of Global Change and Governance* and the Rutgers's *Law Record Symposium on Iraqi Refugees* and participated in the event.
  7. Co-sponsored with *Journal of Global Change and Governance* and the International Law Society and extended an invitation to the Honorable Rahdi-al-Rahidi to speak about corruption in Iraq, with closing remarks by DGA faculty General Richard O'Meara (Ret.), who trained many of the judge's staff in Iraq. This event received media attention thereby promoting DGA, SAGA and the *Journal of Global Change and Governance*.
  8. We reached out in coordination with DGA staff members to officials from Columbia University in an effort to promote the attendance of DGA students at the International Organizations Day.
    - a. Columbia University notified the DGA representation that this year DGA could not attend. It was assured that from hereon out, DGA's participation is guaranteed for the Fall of 2009.
  9. Our SAGA Secretary/Treasurer is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Public and International Affairs*, and is in a position to facilitate the submission of scholarly work by DGA students to this journal.

10. DGA students have been encouraged to form a number of Working Groups in an effort to research and publish their findings in their respective areas of interest and fields of expertise with support of faculty advisers. As of yet, no Working Groups have been formed due to either insufficient concept development or lack of student interest to take part in this effort without formal academic credit.
11. SAGA's Executive Council sought to implement Google's Checkout system in to facilitate interested parties donations to SAGA.
  - a. After a series of meetings with the university administrators, SAGA was precluded from opening the requisite checking account.

To effect the changes made, collaboration with DGA and University administrators was critical to all of the above projects. Important milestones have been noted throughout this annual assessment.

**The 2008 SAGA Executive Council**

Panayotis Yannakogeorgos - President

Jacqueline Wells - Vice President

Georgios Bardis- Secretary/Treasurer

George Karaminas - Doctoral Student Representative