

UMSGINC ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



ELECTION RESULTS: Tripp & Shelmerdine Elected President, VP!

Keegan Tripp, a 20-year-old Political Science major and incumbent Student Body President, was reelected alongside his new running mate, Cynthia Shelmerdine, a 20-year-old Biochemical Engineering major. Campaigning on a platform of finishing key projects and preparing for UMSG's long-term future, the duo emphasized community building and organizational stability. The pair were inaugurated on April 24th alongside the new executive team and are excited to serve the student body in the year ahead.

SAF Raise Referendum Results

This spring, UMaine students approved the first significant Student Activity Fee (SAF) increase in over a decade. Previously only tied to inflation, the SAF had fallen behind the growing needs of the student body. After months of discussion regarding UMSG's financial sustainability, the General Student Senate placed a \$22 per-semester increase referendum on the executive election ballot, **where it passed with 72% support**. This vote strengthens the foundation for campus involvement and reaffirms our community's commitment to investing in student-led initiatives. President Tripp spoke with The Maine Campus about the vote—you can read the full interview on their website!



Graduating Seniors: Wishing them the best!

From Left to Right: Dylan DeMerchant, Danny Tanaka, Oliver Bois, Riley Mills, Memphis Peterson, Sam Brown, Jon Guzman, Abby Downer, Kass Belyi, Maggy Johnson, Juliana Jolin, Zachary Wentworth, Cameron Birks, Beau Michaud, Darrin Martone.

Missing: Amanda Levesque.

Message from the President

"It's a great time to be a Black Bear! From our Men's Hockey East Championship to UMaine's continued R1 status, a comeback in student involvement, and major increase in students in decision-making across campus, Student Government is also entering a new era of growth. Considering the record participation, a stronger student voice, and the passage of a \$22 increase to the Student Activity Fee, I'm incredibly grateful for the student leaders I've had the chance to serve alongside this past year. Looking ahead, one project I'm very excited to pursue is building stronger connections with UMSG alumni. I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together in the year to come!"

- Keegan Tripp, UMSG President



GSS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UPDATES

~ The 46th Session of the General Student Senate (GSS) ~

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY REFORMS

This semester, Student Government faced a tighter budget than anticipated—an issue that has been building for years. As UMSG strengthens its connection with the student body and more organizations become aware of and utilize our resources, demand has continued to rise while our budget remained unchanged. At the same time, rising costs across the board have further strained our ability to support student organizations at unprecedented levels. What was once sufficient for fewer clubs and organizations had to be stretched further, revealing inequities in the distribution of the Student Activity Fee. In response, President Tripp authored several financial policy reforms, and the Senate implemented caps on maximum annual budget allocations to ensure all students have equitable access to the funds they contribute to. These changes are designed to stabilize the budget and promote fairness in funding for years to come. *For more details, check out the article by Haden Buzzell!*



RETURN OF THE SPRING CONCERT

This year's Student Entertainment team was excited to return to tradition and host its annual Maine Event concert toward the end of the Spring Semester! Led by VPSE Leeman and AVPSE Hall, UMSG was happy to welcome Ricky Montgomery, an indie pop artist with approximately 9.3 million monthly listeners on Spotify. The concert was held in the CCA on April 11th which also included the Oshima Brothers as the opening act. Student Government provided ~800 student tickets, and the event was a huge success!



MODERNIZING OUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Partnering with the Center for Student Involvement, we're excited to launch a streamlined process for student organizations via our unified platform, Campus Groups. Students can now initiate applications for club recognition, reserve storage space, and soon submit funding requests, all with a few clicks. This modernization eliminates the hassle of printed forms, saving time and creating a more efficient experience for everyone.





CLUB STORAGE INITIATIVE

To address the long-standing challenge of storage space for student clubs, President Tripp and VPSO Levesque established and implemented a Club Storage Program. This initiative provides a two-tier storage solution: 27 lockers in the Wade Center for smaller storage needs, distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and off-campus storage units for organizations with larger equipment, funded through requests to the EBC. By offering secure and accessible storage, this has already helped alleviate the burden on student leaders who previously relied on personal spaces like their dorms—ensuring equitable and convenient access to resources and supporting the long-term sustainability of student organizations.



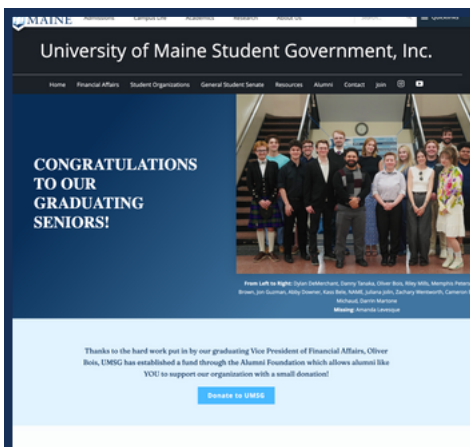
RECORD MEMBERSHIP

The General Student Senate has reached a record number of student senators (28) — the highest since the campus's recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thanks to dedicated recruitment efforts by VPSL Oldfield and broader improvements in transparency and outreach, every college is now represented. For the first time in nearly a decade, Senate seats are becoming competitive, marking a significant milestone in student engagement.

INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY

Under the leadership of MCEC Senator and now VP Cynthia Shelmerdine, UMSG has taken on a formal role in campus infrastructure planning—giving students a direct voice in decisions that shape their environment. While all students can submit requests under Operational Maintenance and Compliance, UMSG now holds exclusive authority to submit under Functional Renewal & Improvement and the Annual Call—two categories that fund meaningful upgrades like improved lighting, safer crosswalks, and accessible walkways. This process, developed over the past year, allows student leaders to identify issues, submit proposals through committee, and advocate for solutions that prioritize day-to-day student needs—bringing long-overdue attention to areas previously overlooked in top-down planning.

| Operational Maintenance & Compliance | Functional Renewal & Improvement | Refresh & Reutilization (Annual Call) | Externally Funded Initiatives |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | |
| Request Mechanism SUBMIT PROJECT HERE | Request Mechanism SUBMIT PROJECT HERE | Request Mechanism SUBMIT PROJECT HERE | Request Mechanism SUBMIT PROJECT HERE |
| Category Description Definition: Immediate repairs or interventions required to address a facility's urgent health and safety issues. These requests are submitted... | Category Description Definition: Requests for routine maintenance or minor upgrades aimed at restoring or enhancing the functionality of existing facilities. ... | Category Description Definition: Requests for significant aesthetic or programmatic improvements and functional upgrades that enhance spaces' visual... | Category Description Definition: Proposals or fund requests including but not limited to specific gifts, grants, Congress Directed Spending (CDS), or... |
| Review Frequency Continuous | Review Frequency Monthly | Review Frequency Annually | Review Frequency Revolving/Varies |
| Submitter(s) Anyone | Submitter(s) Deans, Directors, Cabinet, UMSG, GS... | Submitter(s) Deans, Directors, UMSG, GSG, or del... | Submitter(s) PI with Dean or Director review |
| Typical Funding Body Maintenance | Typical Funding Body Requestor Funded Depreciation (F) | Typical Funding Body Funded Depreciation (FD) Request | Typical Funding Body External Funding |
| Submission Parameters Example(s): Broken light fixture, climate control not functioning, water infiltration, damaged flooring tiles, slip hazards, damaged plaster or ... | Submission Parameters Example(s): Painting a single room, replacement of departmental equipment, new window coverings, glass frosting, new furniture, update... | Submission Parameters Example(s): Lobby or entrance renovation, whole corridor or multi-area painting, multi-room floor replacement, reconfiguration or ... | Submission Parameters Example(s): Research lab room simulation lab upgrade, new or programming space, additional expansion of current facilities |



UMSGINC ALUMNI PAGE

Thanks to the hard work of our Director of Technology, Riley Mills, UMSG's website now features a new Alumni Connection Form designed to strengthen ties between past and present members of Student Government. Our goal is to build a meaningful alumni network—whether that means creating groups on platforms like Facebook or LinkedIn, maintaining a database for professional connections, or providing current students with access to alumni insights and mentorship. We envision this becoming a valuable resource that supports ongoing collaboration and celebrates the legacy of student leadership at UMaine. If you're a former member of UMSG, we encourage you to take a moment to fill out the form and stay connected. You can find it by navigating to the "Alumni" tab on the UMSG website. *Direct link:* <https://umaine.edu/umsg/alumni/>

MEET THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE TEAM

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~ Officially takes Office the First Day of the Fall '25 Semester ~



President

Keegan Tripp - Going into his senior year as a Political Science major with minors in Leadership and Legal Studies, Keegan hails from Winn, Maine and will be serving his second term as Student Body President.

Email: Keegan.Tripp@maine.edu

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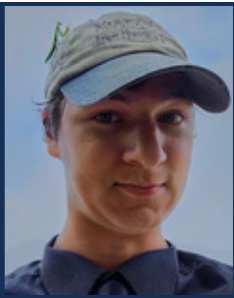


Vice President

Cynthia Shelmerdine - A rising Junior in the Bio Medical Engineering Program, Cynthia is also pursuing a minor in Studio Art. From Warren, Maine, she most recently served as a Senator for the College of Engineering.

Email: Cynthia.Shelmerdine@maine.edu

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VP for Financial Affairs

Joshua Bohm - Preparing for his senior year as an Ecology and Environmental Sciences major with a minor in statistics, Josh is from Bangor, Maine and has been a Senator for the College of ELHS for the last 3 years.

Email: Joshua.Bohm@maine.edu



VP for Student Organizations

Jordan Thompson - Going into his senior year as an English Major concentrating in Creative Writing and with a Minor in Legal Studies. He is from Caribou, Maine and entering this role from his last position as a CLAS Senator.

Email: Jordan.R.Thompson@maine.edu



VP for Student Entertainment

Dillon Leeman - Entering his senior year as a history major, Dillon will be serving in his second year as VPSE. Originally from Wiscasset, Maine, he looks forward to continuing to put on events for the Student Body.

Email: Dillon.Leeman@maine.edu



VP for Student Leadership

Nate Feng - Soon to be a junior, Nate is a double major in Political Science and Communications with a minor in WGS. From New York City, Nate has served as the chair of the Food / Dining and Policy and Procedure Committees.

Email: Jonathan.Feng@maine.edu

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Director of Communications

Jason Leclerc - Coming into his third year as a marketing and business management double major, Jason is originally from Thomaston, Maine and is thrilled to be getting involved with UMSG in his role as the next DOC.

Email: Jason.Leclerc1@maine.edu

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Board of Trustees Rep.

Olivia Britton - Entering her senior year in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a minor in Political Science. She is from Islesboro, Maine, and will be serving her second term as BOT Representative.

Email: Olivia.Britton@maine.edu



Director of Technology

Israk Ayasin - Going into his final year as a Computer Science major, Israk is from Portland, Maine. This will be his first time serving in the UMSG, and he is excited to step into the role of Director of Technology.

Email: Israk.Ayasin@maine.edu



Fair Election Practices Chair

Zoe Stankevitz - Going into her third year as a biology major with a pre-medical studies concentration, Zoe will be serving in her second year as FEPC. From Corinna, Maine she looks forward to streamlining UMSG elections!

Email: Zoe.Stankevitz@maine.edu

4th Annual UMSG AWARDS

UMSG SENATOR OF THE YEAR: NATE FENG CLAS SENATOR



Senator Feng has shown incredible growth, leadership, and commitment to service. When he joined the General Student Senate, he was initially shy but quickly proved his dedication to making a difference. As Membership Chair, he fostered a strong community among senators while lightening long meetings with humor. He then led the first-ever Food and Dining Affairs Committee, and most recently, as Policy and Procedure Chair, he made a significant impact with thoughtful and consistent work. His contributions to UMSG have been invaluable, and we look forward to working with him in his new role as Vice President for Student Leadership.

UMSG EMERGING LEADER: MATT WEBBER MBS SENATOR



Senator Webber showed enthusiasm for all things Senate this year. From EBC, FEPC, SEC and mental health he provided valuable insight and creativity in all the work he did. He also took on the challenge of chairing the undergraduate student symposium committee, collecting important feedback to continue bettering the undergrad experience. He never hesitates to speak out when necessary; from hard financial debates to a reminder of why the senate is here. We look forward to seeing what he does upon his return to campus next year.

Alumni Spotlight

Zack Wyles is an alumni with a Bachelor's in Political Science. Being invested in servant leadership since his high school years, Zack has always strived to find ways to make people's lives easier. One of his best accomplishments during his term as the UMSG President was retaining pass/fail for students during the COVID Pandemic, allowing students to opt for a pass/fail grade in some courses where it was previously not offered.

Zack attended Old Town High School - and still resides in the city of Old Town, just minutes down the road from the University. He mentors students at universities all over the country on how to run their own campaigns and win elections! He currently sits on the Old Town City Council, to which he was elected this past November and is currently trying to manage the controversial tax rate for the city's citizens in this year's budget.



ZACHARY WYLES
PRESIDENT, '21 - '22



Check out our Alumni page <https://umaine.edu/umsg/alumni/> to stay connected!

