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Joe Fore

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## DSG project aims to capture ideal Duke

**Ashley Dean**

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For a new project slated to begin in January, Duke Student Government wants undergraduates to consider their ideal collegiate experiences.

"We as students have an idea what makes students tick, but we want to get as broad a perspective as possible," said DSG President Elliott Wolf, a junior.

DSG Executive Vice President Joe Fore, a senior, is at the helm of the Duke Story Project, currently in draft-proposal form.

"The concept was to find a way to really gather student input that would help drive a lot of decisions that are going to be made in the coming months and years about the direction of the University," Fore said.

Although the Campus Culture Initiative is also investigating Duke's social scene, its main concern is to examine what already exists on campus and to develop recommendations for administrators, Fore said.

Student submissions will be in the form of stories or personal narratives, but may also include photographs, poetry or song lyrics, he added.

"The idea is to get actual stories of the day in the life of a Duke student, and from those draw conclusions about what things students would like to see and what contributes to certain aspects of our culture that we would like to change," Wolf said.

He added that DSP differs from the CCI since it will not collect empirical data and will focus instead on overarching themes, rather than definitive solutions.

DSG hopes student responses will paint the picture of an ideal Duke environment-where they would live, how they would interact with classmates and faculty and what types of entertainment and extracurricular activities they would enjoy.

Submissions will be accepted throughout January and in early February. DSG representatives will then collect and review the stories, deducing commonalities and underlying themes.

Fore said DSP will culminate in a final report-released at the end of the spring semester, around the same time as the CCI's recommendations-examining the submissions and giving the administration recommendations that would address the desires of the student body.

"These two reports could essentially be taken together and could provide a real clear road map, with the Duke Story Project giving the overall themes of where the students would like to see Duke going and the CCI providing concrete suggestions," Fore said.

Senior David Snider, DSG vice president for athletics and campus services, said the report will be a valuable resource for administrators.

"There's always a desire, especially from the Trustees and top administrators, to have something that clearly articulates, broadly speaking, what students want from their experience," he said.

The submissions will be included as an appendix to the DSP report.

A draft-proposal memo for the project was sent to members of the DSG Executive Board prior to Thanksgiving break, and a proposed timeline includes a presentation before the DSG General Body at its weekly meeting Jan. 17 and advertisements throughout that month.

Response from the Executive Board has been positive so far.

"A lot of the stuff that DSG works on from day-to-day is very specific projects," Snider said. "Joe's intention and what we all got excited about is the ability to more broadly engage in the dialogue of the CCI and the Strategic Plan in what overall goals should be to enhance the Duke experience."

Fore said the project will be beneficial in allowing DSG to convey students' ideal Duke environment.

"I think we are given a tremendous responsibility to inform those decisions as best we can and helping the University to become how we want it and what we hope it can be," Fore said.

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