Student Government Report by Fatu Amara

1. Student Government Coronavirus Emergency Fund; The Student Government has established a $80,000 student emergency fund for students facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus. A grant of $500 maximum will be allocated to eligible students and the Petrie grant committee will oversee the application and allocation of funds. Students can apply by completing the Petrie grant application.
2. In addition to our roles as student advocates, our budget is spent on initiatives that can promote student wellbeing. Brief overview of 2019-2020 Projects Funded by the Student Government Budget

* Student Government Coronavirus Emergency Fund
* Student Government Graduate School Assistant Fund
* Financial Emergency Student Loan
* Student Events and promotional items (fall & part of spring)
* Free scantrons for students
* Student Government Internship Program
* Renovation of the Green Dolphin Lounge
* Academic and Study Abroad Scholarship
* Academic and Research Conference Fund

1. There was misinformation, and students contacted me about cutting funds for caps and gowns and asked me to refund their money back. I wanted to clarify that the Student Government budget was never responsible for paying for caps and gowns. In the most recent years, Student Government has offered to assist the Association by paying for caps and gowns because their budget could not afford it. This was a limited offer and was bound to cut at any time because it was not sustainable for our budget. The most recent 25% Student Activity Funds (SAF) refunds highlighted how necessary it is for student organizations to use their funds appropriately and only buffer for expenses that are not theirs when it’s possible. Our budget is very fragile, and we are working to make sure the upcoming student government is equipped with enough resources regardless of what summer and fall SAF decisions might be.