Summaries of Past Projects

2017-2018

**BYUnited (Diversity & Inclusion):** Initiative focused on researching how the experiences of minority populations at BYU can be improved. The main topics of research included how to increase the visibility of minority populations on campus, improving the services and support available to minority populations, and how to better educate BYU’s majority population on the experiences of minority populations on campus. The project made the recommendation to obtain more data and send out a campus wide survey to better understand minority experiences.

**BYU Devotional:** The initiative focused on improving attendance at BYU’s weekly devotionals at the Marriott Center. The project collected data regarding the faculty and student view of devotional, including their attitudes toward devotional, how often they participate, and their preferred method of participation. The team suggested adjusted times for Devotional, food trucks at the Marriott Center and not marking students late during the class block following the Devotional.

**Easter Holiday:** Initiative focused on increasing student and faculty academic productivity, decreasing student stress, and increasing spiritual wellness by researching an Easter Holiday centered around General Conference. The project researched how to alter the current allocation of school days so as to leave room for an Easter holiday. The main recommendation made by the group was to decrease University Conference in order to use those days for an Easter holiday.

**Emotional Wellness Course:** Initiative focused on improving the emotional wellness of the students on BYU campus. The project considered multiple methods and weighed their potential impact. They concluded that the best way to improve the emotional wellness of students on campus was to create a course on personal wellness and relationship skills. Course was not created at that point in time, as changes to the curriculum were required before moving into the course creation phase. (Classes were created later on in the 2018-19 year).

**Off-Campus Housing:** Initiative focused on creating an app that has a search function for finding housing, extending the current boundary (one-mile radius) for BYU housing, and creating a BYU housing Instagram page. The project found that students have many negative experiences with BYU housing and feel that their living quarters do not comply with safety guidelines.
**Intro to BYU Course:** Initiative focused on researching the new student experience at BYU. The project researched the demand for an “Intro to BYU class,” and worked with administrators and the office of First Year Experience on a current pilot section of the intro class. The proposed class would orient students to the many resources on campus and help them to have a successful BYU experience.

**Student Health Center:** Initiative focused on increasing overall student health and wellness at BYU. Aimed to increase the volume of students who use this facility as a primary source of care. The project conducted thorough research to understand the issues that prevent students from utilizing the many services offered by the BYU Student Health Center. Their overall purpose was to improve accessibility and student awareness of these services through a variety of innovative ideas directed at resolving these concerns/issues.

**Transportation (UTA):** Initiative focused on helping students know about convenient transportation options at BYU. The project worked to generate a plan that will give insight to the scope of problems being faced and what can be done to provide solutions. While the project was underway, BYU announced its new UTA pass for students, at which point the project began creating a marketing plan for the new resource.

**Veterans Center:** The initiative focused on understanding the current state of veteran support on BYU campus, investigating the attributes of successful veterans’ centers and the resources required to implement and sustain those resources, outlining a clear vision of the desired form and function of The BYU Veterans’ Center, and presenting actionable recommendations to administration. The Veterans Center has not yet been implemented.

**2018-2019**

**BYU Bulletin:**
The project researched University Communication as pertaining to publicizing events and activities on campus. From their research, the group determined that a centralized location for all announcements on Learning Suite would best help students to be aware of activities and events. The project worked with IT to explore a feasible option for a centralized online portal for all BYU events and activities.

**Environmentalism and Sustainability:**
The project sought to research how to best promote environmentalism and sustainability at BYU. As the group progressed through the semesters, they found from their research the need to increase awareness of the actions already being taken by the University in these areas. Their work was focused on collaborating with stakeholders and researching how best to accomplish these two purposes. Some of the recommendations include new locations for recycling bins, informative signage near bins, and awareness efforts directed toward students.

**Class Planning & Registration:**
Research was conducted concerning how students currently perceive class planning and registration, and how the processes may be improved. The group found a list of main features that students hoped could be changed.
They also found that many of the useful features on the current registration system are not known to many students, necessitating actions to increase awareness.

**Diversity & Inclusion:**
The group sought to research how to promote inclusion most effectively on campus and what is the current experience of multicultural students. Through formalized surveys, feedback gathering “Y-dea fairs” and focus groups, the project found that many students feel isolated and/or excluded because of their unique backgrounds. The recommendations revolve around the purpose of providing a deliberate, continuing effort to improve inclusion on campus. One of the recommendations was to create a permanent “Inclusion Council” composed of students.

**Emotional Wellness:**
The project was a continuation of the same project during the 2017-2018 Student Advisory Council. The main initiative of proposing a GE class focusing on emotional wellness necessitated further research and consideration. This 2018-2019 project focused on the logistics of said class and emphasized its implementation among freshmen.

**Friends of Other Faiths:**
The project researched the experience of friends of other faiths at BYU as well as Latter-Day-Saint students and their interactions with these students. They wanted to understand what friends of other faiths at BYU were experiencing and how their experience could be improved. From the research, they found that often these students felt isolated, marginalized and patronized for their religious preference. Making a section of the Book of Mormon GE class for students not of the Latter-Day-Saint faith was proposed and has now been implemented.

**Honor Code**
The project researched current thoughts concerning promotion of the Honor Code at BYU. Although the formalized survey was not approved, data was received in alternate methods such as focus groups and interactions with students. The topic is sensitive due to recent events concerning the Honor Code, but the group worked closely with Honor Code administration to ensure that proper caution was taken in gathering data.

**LGBT+ Resource Website**
The project had the specific research topic of developing a resource website for current or future students at BYU. The website aims to help LGBT+ students or future students navigate through their experience with BYU. Research was conducted into the feasibility of such a website due to the sensitive nature of the topic, the need for resources and possible support from students and faculty.
Undergraduate Research & TA Opportunities
The project researched how to better make undergraduate research and TA opportunities available to students. Experiential learning is important to students’ development at BYU. The project wanted to research how students find undergraduate research opportunities, why they seek them, and how the process can be more effective. The team created a database that had these different opportunities listed and provided information on how to become involved with them.

2019-2020

Inspiring Learning Project
The Inspiring Learning Project was created by students to sustain President Worthen in his vision of Inspiring Learning and assist in the implementation of this vision to positively impact Brigham Young University. The team aimed to identify what types of barriers BYU students need to overcome in order to experience Inspiring Learning. They defined the parameters of Inspiring Learning to include either two forms of experiential learning: Internships or Research Opportunities. They also established 5 potential barriers for investigation: (1) Financial Barriers, (2) Awareness Barriers, (3) Time/Class Schedule Barriers, (4) Qualification Barriers, (5) Limitations of Major Barriers.

Mental Health and CAPS Resources
The main initiative of the project was to provide mental health awareness and access to therapeutic resources to the students of BYU. To meet this initiative, the group decided that a mental health class that doubles as an Art General Education class and gathering data to support an advertising campaign for CAPS resources (such as Sanvello) would be the most effective at accomplishing the project’s goal.

Project Go Forth Safely
The objective of project “Go Forth Safely” is the improvement of pedestrian safety on and around the campus of Brigham Young University. As the project approached the issue, they sought to collect data and insights to influence the implementation of better infrastructure (lighting and crosswalks) in the high traffic walk-ways surrounding campus. More specifically, they focused on incidents on 800 N and University Parkway.

Project Perfekt
The initiative had the sole purpose of normalizing failure across campus. After Researching the topic, the project found that toxic perfectionism becomes less harmful to a student’s mental health when the student feels comfortable with the idea of failure. The initiatives include the following: a failure campaign, a failure banquet, and a failure instagram page.

LIFT
The purpose of the project was to help students achieve their character-building, intellectual, and spiritual goals without being affected by impoverished circumstances. Despite BYU’s comparatively cheap tuition, many students struggle to make ends meet, and the stress and time it takes for them to make those ends meet means
they can’t use those efforts on their education. The project sought to make it easier for students, so that they can worry about achieving their full potential instead of what they’re going to eat.

**Empowering College Parents**
Empowering College Parents is an initiative to raise awareness and gain resources for student parents at BYU. The project primarily attempts to make resources more accessible to struggling student parents, connect them to other student parents through social media and networking, and research childcare options. The project found that efforts to implement childcare on campuses has had different results. The project recommended that BYU create a webpage listing the existing resources for college parents and that administration work to better support them.

**Council Internal Revision**
The goal of the Student Advisory Internal Revision was to determine what procedures would best enable the council to better represent its organizations. The main stakeholders are the students of the Student Advisory Council along with administrative leads of each organization. The findings of this Internal Revision focused on redefining the relationships between representatives and colleges, improving internal processes, and focusing on training new representatives. The purpose was to increase the Student Advisory Council’s influence by improving our comprehension of student life and campus wide issues.

**Green Cougar Coalition**
The project envisioned a transformation of student, faculty, and administration perspectives regarding environmental impact, and hoped to foster a sense of responsibility as representatives of BYU and of the surrounding communities. In efforts to promote environmental sustainability at BYU, the project initially sought to enact small, but concrete, changes, such as the introduction of biodegradable food ware or the reduction of plastic waste. The project recommended that BYU form a sustainability office where these efforts for change can be coordinated.