

ADVOCACY SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Two Delt undergraduates served as student lobbyists for the 2022 Fraternal Government Relations Coalition (FGRC) Capitol Hill Visits in April reviewing legislative priorities and best practices for lobbying meetings in advance of the online sessions.

Danny LoPiccolo (Lafayette College, 2022) and Bradley Berklich (Kenyon College, 2022) joined International President Bruce Peterson (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1975) to lobby on April 27 and 28, 2022.

LoPiccolo, who earned degrees in government and law, and French, had no prior working exposure to federal lobbying or Capitol Hill, but the legislative agenda resonated with him.

“Representing the FGRC, I advocated for two major anti-hazing bills that, if passed, would increase transparency and accountability for hazing incidents at every institution of higher learning in America,” LoPiccolo said.

As a lobbyist, he provided information to help encourage lawmakers to add their names to the list of co-sponsors for these bills. “I got an up-close look at the legislative process, interacted directly with congressional staff and learned how to be an effective advocate for issues of national importance,” LoPiccolo said.

He engaged with the offices of three U.S. Senators and two members of the House of Representatives: Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH).

Berklich also met with congressional staff from a host of Ohio and Pennsylvania offices, most notably the offices of Sens. Brown, Portman and Toomey. The number of young staff involved in government operations made an impression on Berklich as did working with LoPiccolo, a fellow Delt undergraduate.

“It was my first taste of post-graduation Delt connections, and I found it very rewarding to make the connection,” he said.

Berklich, who studied economics, public policy and classics realized he might want to pursue a career tied to law or government while serving as student body president at Kenyon. “Joining the FGRC lobbying sessions was a great way to dip my toe in the water and gain exposure to staffers and lobbyists, and advocate on behalf of Delt at the same time,” Berklich said.

He is passionate about anti-hazing legislation and Delta Tau Delta’s commitment to stand firmly alongside other fraternity and sorority

members who have pledged to end hazing on college campuses.

“I also really enjoyed advocating for Freedom of Association,” Berklich said. “Delt has been valuable to me in my college career, in large part because it is a male-only space, and it pains me to think that it could disappear if colleges and universities try to ban single-sex spaces. I was more than happy to speak in favor of a law that protects Freedom of Association.”

Both Berklich and LoPiccolo want Delt brothers to know the FGRC has the Fraternity’s best interests in mind. “From improving college affordability to upholding Freedom of Association rights, the priority of the FGRC is to fight for Delta Tau Delta and its members,” LoPiccolo said. “I highly encourage future participation by other members of our organization.

“It’s work that’s important. It protects and advances our interests, and it’s being done by current Delt undergraduates and enthusiastic and capable teams of Greek-affiliated alumni,” Berklich added.

LoPiccolo will attend Brooklyn Law School to pursue his J.D. and Berklich plans to pursue a career in public policy and eventually attend law school. ▲

Danny LoPiccolo (Lafayette College, 2022)



Bradley Berklich (Kenyon College, 2022)

The North American Interfraternity Conference and National Panhellenic Conference have set legislative agendas guiding the FGRC’s work. The agenda includes the following priorities:

- Protect students’ freedom of association rights by ensuring they can join women’s-only and men’s-only student organizations like fraternities and sororities;
- Pass anti-hazing legislation to provide additional transparency and education about hazing on college campuses; and
- Advocate for the passage of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (CHIA), which would update the tax code to provide more access to funding for infrastructure improvements to fraternity/sorority housing.