**Report on the Seminary for the Student Live Committee of the Board of Trustees**

**University of Dubuque**

**Fall, 2018**

Nicole Wegele, Seminary Student Council (STUCO) Moderator

We are so excited to look ahead into the future of the UDTS STUCO. During the August residency we held elections and ran our first meeting with a record number of 17 members. This influx of STUCO membership is representative of the large incoming class of 42 students to the seminary this fall and represent the diversity of thought and being that make up UDTS. The STUCO helped welcome new and returning seminary students in August with a cook-out and worship event. The event was well attended and is one of those traditions that people look forward to each August.

At the STUCO meeting in August we adopted a draft of STUCO by-laws. These are a work in progress and will be further refined throughout this year. We also have a new leadership team in place. Emily Frandsen will serve as Vice Moderator, Hilary Island-Thomas will serve as Secretary, and Christina Rees will serve as Treasurer. With the structure in place, we focused our attention outward by asking the questions: What are the things we want to focus on this year that will connect us to the wider University and how can we build a stronger community of online and residential students across degree programs? We will continue to allow those questions to be the foundation of all that we build this year.

First, we will continue with a focus on formation and belonging by offering the “Retreat in a Box” again this year and are considering several projects along this theme. Our STUCO members are the first again this year to offer the Wednesday Word devotionals that are sent out to encourage and challenge the student body. We will join the wider University in becoming a sponsor of the Homeless Nation showing and are working on a hashtag campaign that will allow students to promote this event and show how we are all connected in this endeavor to provide for the least among us. We will further this campaign by having our residential Tables work on advertising kits at one of their sessions, and kits of essentials for those who are homeless, and we will ask different groups for advertising contributions through a hashtrag campaign. And, this Sunday we will participate actually or virtually with a UD CROP walk team to help raise money towards this endeavor.

As we move forward into much activity, we are hopeful for the energy and imagination that this large motivated group of STUCO representatives will bring. We will move forward with staples from previous years and will add new activities that will further nurture fellowship throughout the Student Association, foster relationships, belonging, spiritual formation, and service throughout the community.