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Students' Government Council: challenges in wartime

The Russian aggression has brought several challenges to each domain of our everyday activities. The Students' Government Council (SGC) of the Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology is no exception. Our Faculty was organized two years ago and some social bonds were lost due to the pandemic. Still, we are trying our best to remedy the situation and make up the premises for developing civil, social and survival skills among our students.

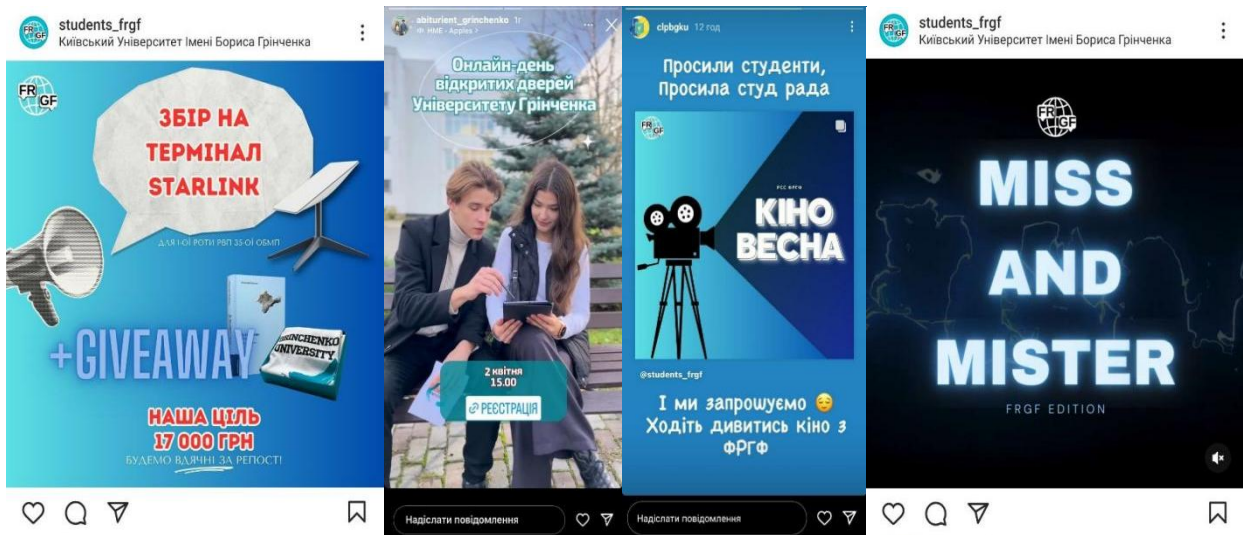
To get the ball rolling, in March of 2024, we finally got together and started building a team. We quickly found common ground and just began to draw up plans on how we could improve the lives of students in our faculty. Of course, constant air-raid alarms made us postpone or cancel many of our meetings back these days, yet we still had online conversations on Google Meet and Zoom platforms. We agreed that social activities were of great importance; therefore, we must focus on them.

The essential thing we arranged was a so-called "Movie night" for all students of our faculty. We knew nobody would be interested in long sessions, so we chose only one movie to show: "20 Days in Mariupol" by Mstislav Chernov. Around 6 people signed up for our Movie night and everything went smoothly. We were extremely glad to receive at least some compliments from those students and knew that the show must go on. The second session, sadly, was canceled due to the possibility of an air-raid alarm and people did not want to put their safety on the line, so we understood that and moved on.

We also run social media accounts, where we make announcements about BGKU activities and help future applicants by answering their questions both personally in direct messages and in Q&A posts. We also used social media to announce and promote fundraising events, such as our fundraising for Starlink terminal and giveaways with prizes for those who participated in this fundraising.



Advertisement of Students' Government Council of Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology.



Advertisements of Students' Government Council of Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology.

As for our future goals – we plan to arrange a picnic in the summer, right after the exams to help people relax and get to know them better.

Taking into account our experience, a few key points are revealed while being a part of the Students' Government, which are worth mentioning.

Firstly, passivism and inactivity. Nowadays, students are passive and unwilling to take part in any event. We understand that we are here to fix that and we, as I mentioned before, really try our best.

Secondly, it is safety. It is related to passivism because people of course tend to be afraid of un-expectancy and possible risks of air-raid alarms. This IS a problem that cannot be avoided, that is why we still have to deal with it by just postponing activities for a better experience.

Thirdly, it is enthusiasm. We really appreciate the feedback of students about our work and try to be enthusiastic, even in times of turbulence. I am personally glad our work is not left out and unnoticed – that helps us to grow and develop.

Considering everything, we can conclude that despite the country's going through a rough time; it can be considered a survival hub to give a chance for the youth to get experience to build up a civil society based on the spirit of integrity and common sense.