

Student Government Association Candidates

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Senator for Commuter Students

David Mechura

PLATFORM

I am running for the Senator for Commuter Students position. My first initiative includes working with Metra, to allow students to receive a discount for taking the train. My second initiative that I want to accomplish is closing the gap between DePaul commuter students and the DePaul community. Therefore, allowing commuters to feel like they belong and have the same opportunities as the others. This includes finding a place where commuter students can spend the night, so they can enjoy their clubs/activities or allow time for academics without having to worry about getting home. My third initiative is to try and expand our career fairs and bring more value and job opportunities. As well as making it easier for commuters to attend, by making sure that the times work best for everyone.

BIO

I am a Junior, that has just transferred from a community college. I want to be involved with DePaul and help improve the school in anyway possible. Since I am a commuter student myself, I find being involved to be important because it allows commuter students a chance to have a voice in decisions. I am currently looking into clubs and organizations to join, like the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center. My outside involvement used to include working full time at Krispy kreme to save up for DePaul, while attending community college. As well as attending and instructing Tae Kwon Do classes in my free time. These outside involvements helped me grow my character and have allowed me to be able to help others in need.

Senator for Commuter Students

Samuel Rahman

PLATFORM

My name is Sam Rahman and I am running for the office of Senator for Commuting Students. In my term as senator, I will push for less expensive metra tickets for commuter students. Currently, college students do not receive a student discount; I hope to change that. Secondly, I will work to give commuters the first pick of classes, ensuring commuters the best possible class schedule. Work conflicts, unnecessary multi-hour breaks in-between classes, and inhospitable class times will be a thing of the past. Finally, I will push for more commuter-friendly meeting times for extracurricular activities. Many clubs and organizations on campus meet at late and inopportune times which inconveniences many commuters and prevents them from joining the activities. I hope a shift in meeting times will allow more commuters to become involved.

BIO

My name is Sam Rahman and I am running for the office of Senator for Commuting Students. I am currently enrolled in CDM with majors in computer science (software development) and economics. I am also a proud member of Depaul's Wind Symphony and Depaul Model United Nations. I currently commute from the western suburb of LaGrange where I hold a part-time job at the Oak Brook Park District.

Senator for First Year Students

Ankit Pal

PLATFORM

1. Free Speech for All:

If elected, I will make it my goal to hold a vote on and pass a resolution to back free speech at DePaul University. This is an essential move that must be made in the aftermath of DePaul being named one of the 10 worst schools for Free Speech in 2017 by the Huffington Post. I would demand a specific resolution that protected all students' rights to Free Speech regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political leanings and affiliations, etc. All groups of individuals should not live in fear that they will lose their First Amendment Rights while attending college. No one should fear being fought, harassed, or assaulted because they opposed an opposing viewpoint. If elected, I will fight to make sure their rights are protected.

2: Oversight, Accountability, Reform

I want to look into ways to increase oversight and accountability within the University. I would ask that students receive a detailed breakdown of how their tuition money is being spent. This allows students to understand where their money goes and allows for students to speak on whether they agree with spending by the administration. Overall, this must be done to encourage transparency within DePaul and to find ways to lower education costs.

3: Educational Affordability

One of my biggest concerns is the growing cost of higher education in the United States. This is a issue that must be handled in both the short and long term. When considering the short term, I would ask for smart cuts to the budget to chip away at unnecessary spending in order to reduce some costs for the students. One these smart budget cuts are implemented, I hope to advocate for change on a higher level in order to bring reform that will significantly lower the cost of college for our students.

Bio

My name is Ankit Pal, I am a Indian-American first generation college student from Western Illinois. I am a Health Sciences Major on the Pre-Health Track. On campus, I recently became a member of DePaul Activities Board, DePaul Med-Life, and Intramural Flag Football. Off campus, I hope to volunteer and work in the health-oriented settings. I hope to get involved with Chicago youth football groups to help underprivileged youth get access to football and teach teamwork, competition, and discipline. Hopefully you get to know me plenty more if you elect me as your Senator for First Year Students.

Senator for First Year Students

Lenin Plazas

PLATFORM

I am running for Senator to represent the proud freshmen at DePaul.

My key three initiatives for accomplish for this year is to:

- * Guarantee every greshmen voice is heard because this school is also ours*
- * Ensuring safety on campus (LP and Loop) to make sure that DePaul remains the safe community that is always has been*
- * Carry out and fight for actions on pressing issues that all freshman want to guarantee change to believe in and a university where all Demons will be treated equality*

BIO

My name is Lenin M. Plazas and I am ready to serve my fellow Blue Demons. I have had this passion for politics and yet most importantly serving my community. I was my senior year's class president and served as the Local School Council's student representative. I am heavily active in politics, volunteered at some political campaigns and organized rallies at my old school in regards to ending gun violence in schools. I am a proud Dreamer/DACA recipient and yet a proud American. Both of my parents are very hardworking and will forever be grateful. I hope to be elected to the Senate in hopes to serve my DePaul community and also to learn how to be a good leader and service member to my community. Not only do I have a passion for politics, but have a passion for justice and to guarantee that no place lacks equality because everyone deserves to have safety, love, education and comfort while eagerly working in making the world a better place.

Senator for First Year Students

Maya Tersigni

PLATFORM

I am running for Senator for First Year Students. As a Pacific Islander and Latina, I plan to advocate for equal representation of all students during decision-making, regardless of race, gender identification, religion, and background. I will, also, promote a policy reform at the Ray that would allow free self defense classes for all DePaul students. In addition, I want to aid the implementation of a wide array of quality food options included in the dining plan.

Bio

I am a national and global political activist, spoken word poet, and collaborator. This year, I was the closing speaker for the March for Our Lives San Francisco, where I spoke out against gun violence for a crowd of 100,000 people. Internationally, I was asked to give a public lecture on political activism by a former Delegate to the House of Representatives, for which I traveled overseas to Guam this summer. As an artist, I plan to become involved with the poetry and art organizations at DePaul. I am currently a political science student on the pre-law track, and I plan to focus on civil rights and constitutional law. For most of my life I was an athlete, competing in two varsity sports at my high school in California. I am dedicated to promoting the welfare of those around me and emboldening marginalized groups.

Senator for Second Year Students

Robert Merkel

PLATFORM

I want to be representative of all voices including with opinions that I may not agree with. I am also inspired to run to bring attention to the meal plan crisis that exploits students' tuition money. I also want to focus on the empowerment of groups that may go underrepresented at DePaul.

Bio

I was born and raised in the northern suburbs of Chicago. My Abuelos came to the US from Mexico to provide a better life for their family, and I want to take advantage of the sacrifices they made for me and get the best education and college experience ever. I am the Vice President of the DePaul Alliance for Latinx Empowerment. I ran as a first year student, despite being inexperienced. I learned what it takes to be a leader and to empower ALL students on DePaul's campus. I work on the weekends at my family's business that my Abuelito started forty years ago, and it has shown me the work ethic required to do well in school and the workspace.

Senator for the College of Education

Misael Alejandre

PLATFORM

I'm running for the position of senator for the college of education. I feel that being the education field is extremely difficult since it is such a competitive field so I really want to ensure that education students are provided with more resources to ensure they excel when they graduate, more opportunities to get a better idea of how the teaching industry works and what it involves, and that we as educators have as much information possible so that our future students are receiving the best education possible. This may come in the form of internships or more education speakers.

BIO

I'm a secondary education major with a focus on history. Since I was younger I remember how fascinated I was with the idea of teaching and I'm extremely excited to finally begin the process to become a teacher in four years. For twelve years I've been doing theatre and involved on stage. Along with theatre, in high school I also was the president of the student body government. In DePaul I'm also looking to be a member of the student body government. I feel that since DePaul is a bigger school with many more resources it will be easier to meet students' needs.

Senator for the Theatre School

Kelsee Avery

PLATFORM

I am running for Senator to The Theatre School.

Three Initiatives I hope to accomplish include:

- 1. Advocating for Theatre School students to the best of my abilities.*
- 2. Creating a greater awareness and respect for theatre as an art form within the greater DePaul community.*
- 3. Serving as an advocate for the rich mecca of Chicago art.*

BIO

I currently serve as the Treasurer on The Theatre School's Student Government Association, as well as being a member of Musical Theatre Collaborative and The TV Project & Incubator here on campus. In my free time, I walk dogs, see theatre, and explore the city!

Senator for Transfer Students

Jessica Hooper

PLATFORM

I am running for the position of senator for transfer students. I am super excited to be running for this position because I am a transfer myself. DePaul has so many great opportunities to allow transfers to become involved on campus however I have some great ideas to further those opportunities for transfer students. My first initiative is to include transfer students in 'Discover Chicago'. Having the opportunity to come to school a week early and be immersed into Chicago and DePaul culture would be just as beneficial for transfer students as it is for incoming freshmen. My second initiative is similar to my first one. I believe transfer students should also have a much more immersive orientation. Coming to a brand new college is very scary. I think if school spirit as well as clubs were more prevalent in the orientation process it would pull the student in much more and the transition between colleges would be much more seamless. My final initiative is a pitch for a mentorship program for transfers students. I think if we could offer this program to new transfers they could possibly already know someone and have a support group when they come to DePaul. This final initiative would really be helpful for students who are transferring into DePaul during the winter or spring quarter.

Bio

My name is Jessica Hooper and I am a sophomore transfer student. I transferred from the University of Arkansas and I am majoring in Film and Television with a concentration in Documentaries, here at DePaul. Since I haven't had much time at DePaul I haven't been able to fully immerse myself into everything that the school has to offer but a few clubs and organizations I have joined are DePaul Dance Company, Residents Hall Council and I am currently an associative member of Delta Kappa Alpha. All of these organizations I am very new to but I am very excited to make more of an impact in each of them as the year continues. As for my time at the University of Arkansas I was a member of Alpha Chi Omega. During my time as an active member of Alpha Chi Omega we worked with a local women's shelter and did programing at the university about domestic violence and sexual assault awareness. I hope that through SGA I will be able to become even more involved on campus and make a positive impact especially for incoming transfer students.