

Student Government Fall 2021 Special Election Candidate Guide

The following are your candidates for the Fall 2021 Student Government special election. Please take the time to read why they are running, and what the biggest issue they believe is facing their constituency. Sections are broken up by position, and those within each section are in alphabetical order by Last name.

College of Allied Health & Nursing Senator Candidates

Namita Basnet

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I want to see a change in the field of organisation and want to grow with the growth of the club as I'm also a student of nursing and was a biological science student. I want to aware people.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I believe it is definitely the diversity of the field in health campaign people should come out and open up on the other hand, females are also lacking the knowledge in the hygiene and regular updates which I definitely think should improve.more programs with the right theme and guidelines should be done.

Zhi Zhi Patterson

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I want to support, improve and build confidence in students that are involved with College Of Allied Health and Nursing who are pursuing a major in this category. I am a social work major through the College of Allied Health and Nursing and I find myself empathetic to this position because not only academically it's challenging but you need to have a wise and strong heart pursuing the major you are in College of Allied Health and Nursing.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I'm a transfer student this year. I am new to getting to know the groups and their struggles. I want to learn and hear these issues out and help, support and use my voice to.

College of Arts & Humanities Senator Candidates

Ryuto Hashimoto

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I'm running for the Arts and Humanity senator position because I would like to deliver the students' voice from our departments, forming the strong basis of education at this university. Since Arts and Humanities is founded as the one of the first university-taught subject, universities have been diversifying the programs and raising the national and global leaders. I strongly believe our students and the value and perspectives from Arts and Humanities should be represented even at Student Government. And I'm willing to do so with my admiration to these departments.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Despite the longest history of Arts and Humanities, I observe how the significance of our departments is sometimes underestimated; there has been the national trend of defunding the departments under the College of Arts and Humanities these days. As I value our studies, I would like to work to protect students' learning experience in this college.

College of Business Senator Candidates

Riley Carlson

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am interested in this position because I want to be involved with some of the decisions made on campus.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I believe the biggest issue facing our students right now is the lack of knowledge of where our funding is going and also just where it is going in general. There was major funding this past year to make learning online easier. 80 inch tv's, owls, and many other new tech tools were installed, but what they didn't think about was in order for students to use those tools they need a job and money to buy food. With the service industry being shut down for months at a time many students were out of jobs and couldn't afford rent nor could they get unemployment because they were still a college student. I think there should have been more funding to help students with housing needs first before major dollars were spent on new technology.

Adam Greenside

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

Once in a life time opportunity also to help build leadership skills and make me into a better person.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Because I am apart of college of business I have their perspective and I hope that any issues will be addressed to me so I can solve it. So far it's all good.

College of Education Senator Candidates

Muhammad Asghar Raja

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I want to serve the student community and solve their problems and concerns.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Higher education cost and COVID 19 impact directly or indirectly on student mental health.

College of Graduate Studies Senator Candidates

Ajay Angdembe

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

Learn and distribute information above graduate students specifically for International students.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Sometimes a little concern can bring huge changes. I will try my best to give much concern to people and try to deliver the info needed.

Douglas Roberts

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am interested in the position of Graduate Studies Senator because of an endless list of issues that face students in our challenging climate of today. Every student at MNSU is experiencing an endless list of problems and challenges and I want the opportunity to try to hit at the root cause of some issues and help as many as I can to succeed in a time that feels impossible to succeed.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I hate the idea of what is the biggest issue. We have an infinite list of problems facing each member of our campus and no one person's biggest problem is the same. For Graduate Students, I have overheard issues of lack of backing funding for programs they care about, lack of proper information being provided to new graduate students, lack of social opportunities for graduate students, and to a degree mistreatment of grad students academically. While, some of these issues are more or less feasible than others to solve, I believe that student government has a degree of responsibility to at least assist in providing more funding to better assist the programs that matter to graduate students. I believe we can redevelop and create a better orientation for graduate students so that they are actually better aware of campus and opportunities available to them which I believe may make a difference on social opportunities that graduate students feel left out on. I also believe we should establish a universal private survey available for students to better discuss without the feeling the obligation of reporting a professor that is abusing students academically to obtain a better view on the issue and look into new methodologies of solving said issue.

College of Science, Engineering, and Technology Senator Candidates

Hanan Basha

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I'm interested in this position because I want to be a voice for the CSET department. Currently, I'm in my junior year majoring in computer information technology(CIT) and I kept a lot of ideas in my mind that needs to be addressed without bringing my ideas to the table. I want to use this opportunity to help my community and my peers by any means.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

During my stay at Minnesota State Mankato, I have been provided a good quality and helpful resources in my academic experience. I learned and gained the knowledge and wisdom of technology that I was dreaming to acquire back in the days. Although I enjoyed my stay at MNSU, there are few things that I wished if we had a different way to bring our academic success. One of the things that I was looking for this past year is having a good tutoring sessions for my coding or programming classes and also having limited professors of CIS classes was a problem that a lot of friends of mine and I were facing. I believe it would be beneficial if the department has more professors and faculty members to help us achieve our goals.

Eyasu Menkir

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am interested because I think this will help me in my future career.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I think it is about creating new things and opportunities.

Rathin Umesh Manoranjan Lakshmi Doss

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I'm an International Graduate student and I know the nook and corner in admission process. So, I'd like to do the job for which I have some experience and love.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

First of all, Everything is so good in here. For my department, the only thing that bothers me is the placements. If the university conducts job fair with top automotive companies, it'd be so good that many students' life will be settled and the university will get it's name cuz of that and also it's ranking increases.

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Senator Candidates

Ishan Singh

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am a Political science international relations major. I want to be a part of this as It will be a great experience for me and I'll learn from others during this time. Pick and choose all the qualities i can find from people which are beneficial.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Right now I have not been able to connect with alot of students regarding there concerns but with this position I'd like to reach people of our university and talk to them.

Olivia Webb

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am a political science major and have asperations of becoming a member of Congress. I would like to become involved in student government to gain invaluable skills and experiences.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

Within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences the issue that stands out the most is employment uncertainty after college. Many students might find it difficult or overwhelming finding a job after they have completed college. Ways to ease students might include increased access to career counseling, as well as students participation in internships in their desired field.

Student Body At-Large Senator Candidates

Marissa Waldoch

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am passionate and concerned of the well-being of students' experiences and success! Making sure that everyone around me has a good experience, is given the right help, and meets their goals has always been an interest of mine, and I believe joining the Student Government is a perfect way to do that.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

The biggest issue right now is COVID-19 being present on our campus. I will address this issue by making sure every student is safe, comfortable, and still can have that college experience.

Off-Campus Senator Candidates

Muhammad Huzaifa

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I want to be able to help and represent my fellow students by this position.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

There are a lot of things with which students need help off campus. For example a lot of students have issues with the off campus apartments and they dont get proper guidance and help in that case.

Alysha Kruger

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I know this position is a great way to help work towards a better college experience for off-campus students. It is also an effective way for me to work towards my personal goals, such as working towards being the best leader I can be.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I believe the biggest issue facing off-campus students is the lack of connection between them. In the dorms, students are given the opportunity to make friends and network right away when they move in. Off-campus students aren't able to have that experience. I would like to create more programs that will allow off-campus students to meet each other and form connections with neighbors they otherwise might never have met.

Samantha Leibeg

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I want to make a difference in a student's life and hopefully guide them through hardships

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

The biggest issue I believe off-campus residents face is the lack of campus experiences that make the college life different from adult life. I have been observing students who live off-campus and found that the only time they are on campus is for classes and dining. Meaning they miss the experiences of the community fair, MavFest, and other activities put on by clubs and organizations.

How I would like to address this issue is by working more with advertising because as an off-campus resident I do not always see that there will be events on campus and by the time I find out it is over.

Victor Nguyen

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I run for Off-Campus senator because I am an Off-Campus student, and most of my friends are. I know how off-campus students feel and the problems everyone has to face. I see how off-students struggle, and I told myself there must be a way to improve it. Also, I am interested in this position because I want to involve, challenge myself, and I believe I can help more people. It would be an honor for me to represent Off-Campus students and be a voice for you guys.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

The biggest issue Off-Campus students are facing is not engaging as much as On-Campus students. Studies show that students who live on campus tend to complete more credit hours and have higher grade point averages, become more involved, and become part of the campus community. Also, they can easily access campus resources (library, labs, athletic facilities, support services). In the beginning, On-Campus students have many advantages over Off-Campus students. It makes Off-Campus students challenging to fit in than On-Campus students.

In some cases, it can lead to loneliness and depression. They will perform poorly in classes or even drop out of college. Plus, it takes a while for Off-Campus students to get to school, especially in the winter. Some students can't join the event or club meetings they want.

If I can represent Off-Campus students, I will do anything that club meetings and events could happen a bit earlier, so everyone can attend. Second, I will encourage classes should promote more group activities so that everyone can connect. Lastly, I want to create events to learn more about time management and organizational skills or bring motivational speakers to talk to everyone and help the students push through difficult times.

Claire Queensland

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am a transfer student from a college in Wisconsin so I believe I have a unique view on issues on campus.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I believe that one of the biggest issues facing students that live off campus is the parking situation. There are many students that I know of that would purchase a parking pass to have a guaranteed place to park closer to campus, but the university only sells so many passes. This can be very frustrating as there are many open parking spots on campus. If we got more opinions from students, we could have a meeting with the administration and parking office to come up with a plan of how we could possibly make the college more money and give students more places to park. It is a win-win situation for both parties involved.

Namith Rajagopal

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I have had an experience of serving as Vice President during my undergraduate studies which makes me interested in this position as I know the responsibilities and the risks included in the position I'm applying for.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

The biggest issue I believe is the language barrier as everyone's pronunciation is different and it's hard at times to understand. So I would like to give importance on that encourage people to talk more and get induced into the culture of the country we live now and respect the people's culture and tradition.

Abi Saha

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am interested in that position as I want to advocate for issues the students are facing while going to college & living off campus. Issues like parking on campus, off campus student engagement & Outreach and city bus routes. I also will advocate for the general student population as a whole in regards to academia.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I believe that parking on campus is a major issue for students who commute to school for classes or events on campus. Accessibility to buildings could be a challenge for most. For example most students park in lot 23 or 24 and to access the library during the school hours, you would need about a 15 mins walk. If someone need to access a building for quick stops, there should be temporary parking zones located across campus, so that students can use it in time of need and don't have to waste time out of their busy school schedule or park in undesignated lot and get ticketed as a result of it.

Residential Life Senator Candidates

Saumya Gautam

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I am interested in this position because I have been living on campus for a while and I have come across many problems myself and have heard from my neighbors too. I believe that if I run for the position I will be the voice of my community and help make changes for the better.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I think that the biggest issue my group is facing is that the requests of the residents are not responded to on time. I have made many maintenance requests but most of them were never really responded to unless I remade the request. There were many instances that I understand its hard to complete them in a short period of time but other arrangements can be made. For example, once the fire alarm of one unoccupied room went off at night, even after calling security and CAs multiple times It was not fixed until next morning. The residents on the floor had to sleep with a loud voice going on, some of them might even had classes or work the following morning.

Yasmine Hussein

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I love knowing that I am making a difference in my community and will do whatever I can to make sure that happens. I also love to help people and speak on behave of others in order to make change.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I am a first year student and am new to campus so I am not completely sure of what issues are facing the group I seek to represent quite yet. However, no matter the issue, I will make sure it is addressed.

Sierra Roiger

Why are you choosing to run for this position?

I feel that since I have lived in the campus dorms both last year and this year, I could effectively represent them.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your constituency?

I think the biggest issue is that those in the residence halls don't feel connected enough to the student government and therefore don't think they have an ability to cause a change in things they believe. I would go about changing that by getting out and talking to those from every residence hall and informing them of their options as well as giving them the ability to discuss things privately if they are scared and just really reassuring them that the student government is here to be a voice FOR them and not against them.