Three seek student council presidency

Juniors with distinct and different backgrounds and perspectives hope to make their mark on the community through leadership

Libman: ‘A well-reasoned, well-argued, real vote’
Nikas: ‘That’s all I want, to bring people together’
Thompson: ‘I fight hard and I never back down from a challenge’

Why are you running for All-School President? Jonathan Lipman: I’ve done a lot of leadership in other clubs and if I win this, I feel like it’s the University by the University; so, the overarching theme here is that the University is looking at Lab really closely and I think there needs to be a strong student leader here.

I think that I am a well-argued, well-reasoned voice. Logical, neutral to actual, mix of bad decisions, so if they want to make actual, mix decisions, they can actually listen to people.

Christos Nikos: Well, in general, I’ve always wanted to lead Lab or any kind of a student body really and use your talents and your skills not only for your benefit, but also for the benefit of others. That would be my goal as an All-School President. Above all, you’re there for your grade and your high school.

Taylor Thompson: Student Council is something that I’m extremely passionate about. I served on Student Council two years prior and I ran at every opportunity in high school. Not only has it helped me grow as a person but feel a calling towards it. I’ve always been an extremely outspoken person and I feel like it’s my duty to use that skill to advocate on behalf of others. I also feel that I’m a very good listener and I can translate the ideas, questions, concerns of the student body and serve as a liaison between the student body and the administration.

What do you bring to the table that the other candidates don’t? Jonathan: I have experience. I know Ms. Appleby, Ms. Thompson and the new principal already. That helps. They sort of trust my opinion already, which lets me go further in the process a lot quicker.

Also, a mix of technology experience. I bring a well-argued, well-reasoned voice.

Christos: I think that I am a very experienced person in different courses. I have been in different clubs here at Lab. I think what I do particularly well is that I can tell a story well. I think that this will be unique to my leadership. I think that leadership and that will expose me to different cultures and not only learn from others but also help others will stand out.

Taylor: I think that I am above all a people person. In the last two years I’ve formed relationships with not only people in my grade, but people in Student Council as well. Student Council in the past two years has helped me form my correspondence skills as well. I also have a strong personal belief system, which also helped me learn how to work with people and lead large groups. Serving as (class) vice president, having to communicate with my whole grade has given me a new perspective on what it means to be a leader. I am somebody who, for the things that I am very passionate about, I fight hard and I never back down from a challenge.

What plans do you have for Student Council? Jonathan: I have big plans. I want to move Student Council in more events, services and advocacy model. Things are services like the course review, Mr. Fabricius, Piyao, Gaia and Otto have been really pushing the course review. At the end of the year, students will take a minute to review each course, saying how helpful it was, saying what kind of things we did and how much homework they had, etc. Then, at the beginning of the year, students will be able to see what they’ve said when selecting their course. That’s something we’re doing is a hook back program. There is no reason why we shouldn’t have something brand new copy from MBS. So, Student Council is hopefully going to create a system where we match (students). Advocacy is also something I am passionate about. I want to take more big things that people say is “Oh, I want to create more transparency with the administration. I want more communication.” In my views, I think that that is really important to me. One of the things that I have learned from my experience at Lab is that I have learned to work with people.

Christos: I would like to host assemblies like our class T-shirts, going up to the principal. But also, I think that the way to communicate with our grade is through Facebook. So that’s where my leadership skills will stand out.

I have well-argued, well-reasoned voice. That’s where my leadership skills will stand out.

Taylor: I want to make sure that everybody at Lab has his or her own uniqueness and we can all accept everybody’s point of view.

What experience do you have? Jonathan: I have two years of being a sophomore. I have the leadership experience. I also felt that I have a very special point of view, but I remember that I have never really looked at these issues in a student government point of view, but I remember that we had some opinions in the Atlantic University. I want to be the voice for the people of the student body.

Taylor: I have been on Student Council my freshman year as well as my junior year. I served in two different positions. I served as Cultural Union [representative], where I worked on planning events for my grade, budgeting, sending out reminders for class events. I also worked as the vice president. I coordinated things like our class T-shirts, going up to junior retreat early to talk with faculty and students about all the things we’d like to do, as well as my role within Student Council with proposing bills.

How do you plan to represent the interests of the student body? Jonathan: I think there’s a fine line between what I can advocate for and what I am able to advocate for. If something is something, and I think it’s in the best interest of all students, there are some issues where I don’t think that the students don’t have one hundred percent belief in that, which is actually great. I think what a student leader needs to do at that point is something we’ll be like at the beginning. We can discuss and debate with the student body the things that are really important because then we can hear what different people are saying. I really think that student leader runs assemblies because if a student wants to hold an assembly that means that there is actually student interest in that issue versus the administration there could be some disconnect. I’m a huge fan of discussions. I think they’re very productive. If people aren’t interested in sharing their opinions they might not come, but I’m thrilled to listen to the people that want to and incorporate it.

Christos: The way I would communicate with them would range from personal opinions to messages of the student body.

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If approved, Constitution revision will clarify procedures, structure

By SABINA PAX NEWS EDITOR

Student council has finished making changes to its constitution, which has been in development since the start of last year. Updates to the document clarify previous gaps in Council procedure.

"There were only a few major changes," senior Fabricy Goyot- Somnent said. "For the most part, it was just clarifying questions like what happens when people resign. That can cause a lot of confusion, especially if you haven’t had the chance to deal with it in advance."

The school year began with three officer vacancies, for which there is no established replacement process. Other changes include the composition of Student Council, election procedure and officer attendance policy.

"One of the larger changes is that it formally creates the director of student technological services," junior Jonathan Lipton, current Student Council treasurer, said. "It also creates a role for proposing and passing bills, and formalizes the relationship between Cultural Union leaders and the Student Council under umbrellas."

The proposed constitution was passed within Student Council, and is expected to be approved by the student body as well.

"Our purpose is to serve the student body, so they should have a say in how we function," Fabricy said. The revised document has been published and is available on the Student Council site uchicago.edu/pages/index.php?pg=8.

Students will vote on it along with the general election on Friday.

View the constitution uchicago.edu/pages/index.php?pg=8

Student council officers are excited to see this document become official.

"It’s been a really long road," Fabricy said, "and I think what’s particularly sad for me is that I feel like all the Student Councils that are coming to the future will have this great foundation to efficiently accomplish whatever they want to accomplish."

Appointed student will manage website, voting

A new website has been created. This officer, director of student technological services, will manage the technology aspects of Student Council, the website and the election process. If the constitution passes, new Student Council will appoint a student to this office.

This year and last, junior Jonathan Lipton, current Student Council treasurer, voluntarily and unscientifically evaluated the director.

"While I was Sophomore Council president (remember me?), we spent a huge amount of time doing routine tasks and I saw the opportunity to automate some of these," Jonathan said. "As treasurer, I further worked on them and hope to streamline and transition them to the tech officer next year. It is good to see the balance of these needs during Student Council meetings and have the website and election process run smoothly.

The main umbrella project is the Student Council website, but it is a multi-functional platform, so it includes everything from the course review system, to meeting minutes, to voting for elections, to having all official Student Council meetings and events. Student Council meetings are open to any student who shows up, is creating, maintaining, and publishing the Student Council website and election process, all of these services.

Few of the top positions provide competitive races

This student election guide features responses from candidates for schoolwide and class president positions with multiple candidates. Students were asked about why they chose to run, their plans if elected and how they would represent student interest. Responses edited for length and grammar.

ALL-SCHOOL VICE PRESIDENT

I have a vision to make Student Council an efficient, transparent body, well respected by students and the administration. If I were to work effectively with the faculty in order to push Student Council bills that pass... because of my close connections with members in all grades, I believe I am aware of a lot of the demands of many of the diverse members of the Lab School.

Although Student Council does not inherently hold a lot of influence on adjusting the curriculum, I believe it is essential for that change... The English curriculum should consist of books from a more diverse set of authors. I believe the health curriculum in gym should discuss sexual ethics for people of all sexual orientations.

One reason why I believe the Lab School is such a great place is because of the conversations that it fosters. I would like to foster more conversations with members in my grade and the entire student body by reaching out to me, I will do my best to represent their needs during Student Council meetings.

I want to hear directly from students and want them to see revolutionary social change take place at Lab. Our school is a great place, but it has many, many problems... I plan to improve the University’s relationship with students by giving clubs and student organizations a voice in student government via weekly meetings with me... that encourage individuals to contact the Student Council. The way I plan to represent the interests of my grade and the entire student body by reaching out to me, I will do my best to represent their needs during Student Council meetings.

I am someone who cares deeply about and is committed to our school. Many people hold the belief that the life and communication between students, Student Council, and the administration is not efficient or transparent. I have the ambition to create a culture that supports the voices of both these and improve the class community as much as possible. I plan to improve students’ lives at school both academically and socially... I can do this, and more, because I think of creative, academic solutions to our problems. If this plan does not go according to plan, I am resilient and not afraid to keep trying until I succeed. I understand and address the concerns of both the students and the administration and compromise and optimize to find the best solution, always moving forward with what I say and deliver what I promise.

SOPHOMORE PRESIDENT

I have attended Lab for my entire life, and I have never been a part of my class’ decision making... I want to run because I believe that I can bring a new perspective to Student Council, and I hope to implement any changes that our class desires and demand. I will try to make our events more popular and exciting, and I will work to improve school spirit and morale... I have attended Lab for my entire life and I will bring new enthusiasm and ideas to our school.

I also believe I have leadership ability and the experience needed. I have attended Lab for my entire life and I will bring new enthusiasm and ideas to our school.

We are discontent with this year that a lot of people resign. That can cause a lot of confusion, especially if you haven’t had the chance to deal with it in advance."

I have a vision to make Student Council an efficient, transparent body, well respected by students and the administration.

I want to work because I’ve gotten involved with Student Council this year. Having that this year that a lot of people are discontent with this year that a lot of people resign. That can cause a lot of confusion, especially if you haven’t had the chance to deal with it in advance."

This year and last, junior Jonathan Lipton, current Student Council treasurer, voluntarily and unscientifically evaluated the director.

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This position will become a stable position in Student Council’s modern progression. "I am absolutely thrilled that the website and other technological innovations will continue to be more transparent and that Student Council can remain modern and cutting edge," Jonathan said.