

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Speeches will be Wednesday, Thursday; voting Friday

BY ARIEL GANS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student Council elections are here! Candidates began campaigning on Monday. Speeches are today and tomorrow. Candidates for Cultural Union positions will deliver speeches today during high school lunch in the cafeteria. Tomorrow during the assembly period,

current freshman and junior class candidates will give speeches, and tomorrow during lunch current sophomore candidates will give theirs. Voting will take place this Friday, April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school lobby using an online system. In past years, students filled out paper ballots in the cafeteria. This year, for the first time the process is fully electronic using a voting program

created by junior Jonathan Lipman over the past two years and similar to that used for the freshman election in September. Current Student Council President Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest and Dean of Students Ana Campos will oversee tabulation of the election results. Results will be tallied by the system and posted in both the high school library and on the voting site by 3:30 p.m. Friday.

To vote using the new system, students may log on with their personal computers to sc.ucls.uchicago.edu or use one of the school computers set-up in the high school lobby throughout the day. Senior Student Council members will run the lobby voting. On election day, no candidates may campaign within 20 feet of the voting area, and voters may write-in candidates not listed on the ballot.

Three seek All-School presidency

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

Lipman: 'A well-reasoned, well-argued, logical voice'

Nikas: 'That's all I want, to bring people together'

Thompson: 'I fight hard and I never back down from a challenge'



Jonathan Lipman



Christos Nikas



Taylor Thompson

BY GRACE ANDERSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AND ALEX HARRON
MANAGING EDITOR

Why are you running for All-School President?

Jonathan Lipman: I've done a lot on Student Council in the past, and I can do a lot more. The school is in this weird place where there are a lot of things happening like we're being investigated for Title IX, there's a security audit 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 voice in all of these changes. I think that a well-reasoned, well-argued, logical voice could actually make a big difference, and they might actually listen, which is exciting.

Christos Nikas: Well, in general I've always wanted to lead U-High and I think it is important to use your talents and your skills not only for your benefit, but also for the benefit of other students. 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've ran at every opportunity in high school. Not only has it helped me grow as a person but I 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 issues, ideas and 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 bring experience. I know Ms. Appleby, Ms. Campos and the new principal already. That helps. They sort of trust my opinion already, which lets me get further in the process a lot quicker. Also, a minor thing, I bring the technology experience. I bring a

well-argued, well-reasoned voice.

Christos: I guess that can also be my experience in different countries and even in different clubs here at Lab. I mean, I do math team, science team, Students Against Brain Cancer, track — and I think this diversity will really help. Also, this year I was the only one chosen out of the U.S. to go to the Hellenic Parliament and represent the Greeks in the U.S. in a one-week seminar that occurs with 300 Greeks from all over the world. I believe that leadership and that will to expose myself to other 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 past 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 as my skill at coordinating... It's 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 to more events, services and advocacy model. ... Services are things like the course review. Me, Fabrice, Fikayo, Ciara 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 much they like it, how much homework they had, etc. Then, at the beginning of next year, [other] students will be able to see what they've said when selecting their courses... Another thing we're doing is having a book buy back program... There is no reason a freshman needs to buy a brand-new copy from MBS... So, Student Council is hopefully going to create a system where we match [students]. Advocacy is also really important to me. One of the big things that people say is "Oh,

I want to create more transparency with the administration. I want more communication."... In the wake of the threatened shooting, I thought it was so ridiculous that the administration could not communicate with all students by email. So I talked to Ms. Appleby, Ms. Campos and Ms. Braendel. And, now, the administration is actually sending [emails to the student body]. [Editor's note: Jonathan mentioned that this year's Student Council, of which he is a member, has also worked on a free expression room, where students can hang artwork not approved to be hung in the hallway.]

Christos: I would like to host activities that will not only connect grades with each other but the whole high school together and I feel that upperclassmen and lowerclassmen should be more familiar with one another. We both can benefit and learn so much from each other. I would also like to reach out to other schools and get to know the student councils of other schools in Chicago and potentially interact with other high school students... We could also potentially solve different social or ethical problems by reaching out to other governments that have something we don't or we have something they don't have, so we both benefit.

Taylor: In order for Student Council to be more effective on all grade levels and to really reach all facets of the student body we need to have more introductions for class officers in terms of what their specific roles are. That's something I worked on with our constitution this year outlining the specific roles of each of the officers... Additionally, what I'd like to focus on is communication. Last year in Student Council, we hosted two conversations that were open to the entire U-High community in which we discussed freedom of expression and how to have productive conversations. I think that conversation is one of the most productive tools to understanding and to mitigate problems at U-High.

What experience do you have?

Jonathan: I was sophomore Cultural Union [representative]. ...

The Student Council website came about after I realized we were wasting so much time doing small tasks... like royalty voting. It took us forever to organize forms, get nominations and count the votes, but now you click a button and it's done. ... In our grade, 70 people out of the 120 or so had Facebooks and the only way we were communicating with our grade was through Facebook. So that 50-odd people simply didn't get any information... So what I did, working with Katherine, was use MailChimp so we actually email everybody in addition to posting on Facebook... This year, I was All-School Treasurer. My main job is chair of the budget allocation committee... Because there hasn't been much to do as treasurer, it's allowed me to work on the freedom of expression, course review, advocate for student assemblies (STEM, social justice, etc.).

Christos: I've never been on Student Council before but one leadership position for me is SABC. I'm on the board of directors with four other juniors and we run a club to support the fight against brain cancer... That's where my leadership skill would come from. Also, I come from a Greek background and being in the U.S., I've been exposed to a lot of rich and varied cultures. I think because U-High is so diverse, that knowledge of diversity will help me to understand every student's point of view.

Taylor: I've 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 facilitators about our class dynamic 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. If a majority of students want 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 uniform opinion, and that's actually great. I think what a student leader needs to do at that point is something we did at the beginning where we had the discussion about free speech and discussion on discussions. And it's that type of thing that is really important because then we can hear what different people are saying... I'm really a big fan of student-run assemblies because if a student wants to hold an assembly that means 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 opinion 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 them speaking to me or messaging me, but the idea is that I would always be open to them and any interest that someone in U-High has for the school's good. I haven't really looked at these issues from a student government point of view, but I remember there was some tension at the beginning of the year... We're here to prevent that and bring our student body together. That's all I want, to bring people together. I know for sure that everybody at Lab has his or her own uniqueness and we can only benefit and make the most of our high school experience if we accept everybody's point of view in this society.

Taylor: One thing that's unique about me is that I am a part of various different clubs and teams. The great thing about all these different teams, such as swim team, track team and MUN, is that we have members of all grades present... I've been able to form bonds with people throughout these grade and that has helped me with reaching out to every member of the U-High community. That is no exception to what I am going to do in terms of reaching out to the entire student body if I were to become All-School President.

Friday's vote isn't just to pick officers

If approved, Constitution revision will clarify procedures, structure

BY SARAH PAN
NEWS EDITOR

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

"There were only a few major changes," senior Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest, Student Council president, said. "For the most part, it was clarifying small procedural questions like what happens when people resign. That can cause a lot of trouble if it comes up and you haven't planned how to deal with it in advance."

The school year began with three officer vacancies, for which there was not an 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 Lipman, Student Council treasurer, said. "It also creates formal rules for proposing and passing bills, and formalizes the relationship between Cultural Union and Student Government under the Student Council umbrella."

The proposed constitution was passed within Student Council, but the Council wants it 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," Fabrice said.

The revised document has been published and is available on the Student Council website at sc.ucls.uchicago.edu/pages/index.php?p=8

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

View the constitution
sc.ucls.uchicago.edu/pages/index.php?p=8

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

"It's been a really long road," Fabrice said, "and I think what's particularly special for me is that I feel like all the Student Councils that are going to come in the future will have this great foundation to efficiently accomplish whatever they want to accomplish."

Appointed student will manage website, voting

Among the various changes in the Student Council constitution, a new position has been created. This officer, the director of student technological services, will manage the technology aspects of Student Council such as the website and the election process.

If the constitution passes, next year's Student Council will appoint a student to this office.

This year and last, junior Jonathan Lipman, current Student Council treasurer, voluntarily and unofficially held this position.

"While I was Sophomore Cultural Union [representative], we spent a huge amount of time doing routine tasks and I saw the opportunity to automate these projects," Jonathan said. "As treasurer, I further worked on them and hope to train and transition the projects to the tech officer next year. It is good for the school to create them, and it's fun, so I work on it a lot."

The officer next year will have a wide range of duties.

"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 statements, to a calendar showing all Student Council meetings and events," Jonathan said. "My job, or at least the one I have taken on, is creating, maintaining, and running, with the exception of the election program, all of these services."

The new office is a move by Student Council to keep up to date with their services.

"We added the position of a non-voting technology officer because we recognized that computers are becoming a bigger and bigger part of our lives every day, and Student Council is a part of that national trend," President Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest said. "We have voting online, we keep meeting minutes on our website and we all communicate through our Facebook page. This year, Jonathan Lipman was willing to take care of all these issues for us, but we wanted to institutionalize that position in order to ensure that once he graduates we will have an official member who can keep Student Council up to date on the latest technological trends."

This position will become a staple of Student Council's modern progression.

"I am absolutely thrilled that the website and other technological innovations will continue to be expanded so that Student Council can remain modern and cutting edge," Jonathan said.

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 faculty... I could 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.



Alex Azar

I want to run because I've gotten the feeling this year that a lot of people are discontent with the administration and feel like they don't know what's going on. The student body should feel like Student Council represents their voice and what they want in our school.



Olivia Cheng

More transparency and greater student input are key. Having more open meetings where students know they're being heard, online forms for submitting student-written legislation to be considered, and a streamlined process for the administration to let us know about certain possibly sensitive things going on in our community are just some measures I plan to accomplish.

I want to hear directly from students themselves. That's why open meetings and students submitting their own bills are so important. Student Council should be accountable to those they represent.

SOPHOMORE PRESIDENT



Grant Fishman

I have attended Lab for my entire life, and I have never been a part of our 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 needs and desires.

I will try to make our events more popular and exciting, and I will work to reignite school spirit. I will be the voice of the sophomores, and I will bring new enthusiasm and ideas to our school.

I will be available through texting, email, and Facebook messaging for any suggestions or comments that students may have regarding Lab's policies. If students reach out to me, I will do my best to represent their needs during Student Council meetings.



Shiva Menta

I can make real changes in Student Council that will affect the whole student body positively... I enjoy planning parties and dances because it lets you be creative, and help your grade grow closer. I also believe I have leadership ability and the experience needed.

I plan to create more interesting grade-wide events that everybody will come to, such as a lock-in... I believe that individuals who play sports should not be required to go to gym class, something common in many schools, and I want to bring this to Lab. I also want to make sure that freshmen have the opportunity to go off-campus during free periods, so they can adjust to the new society better.

The way I plan to represent the interests of my grade is to have some place for individuals in my grade to send suggestions to the Sophomore Student Council. I believe that an effective way of doing this is through sending out emails... that encourage individuals to contact the Sophomore Student Council.



Roshni Padhi

I am someone who cares deeply about and is committed to our school. Many students think that the level of communication between students, Student Council, and the administration is lacking. I have seen promises left unfulfilled and students left unhappy. I want to change both of these things for the better 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, out-of-the-box solutions to solve problems. If something 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 students and the administration and compromise and optimize to find the best solution. I always follow through with what I say and deliver what I promise.

Candidates for other offices

All-School Treasurer
Mathew Ferraro

All-School Cultural Union President
Katherine Zhang

All-School Cultural Union Vice President
Pascale Boonstra

Senior (2017) President
Alec Kaplan

Senior (2017) Vice President
Benji Wittenbrink

Senior (2017) Cultural Union
Ilana Emanuel
Imogen Foster

Junior (2018) President
Elizabeth Van Ha

Junior (2018) Vice President
Rachel Schonbaum

Junior (2018) Cultural Union
Florence Almeda
Megan Moran
Tia Polite

Sophomore (2019) Vice President
Otto Brown
Al Dines
Seamus Flannery
Alexander Pietraszek
Emma Trone

Sophomore (2019) Cultural Union
Hongjia Chen
Sofia Kouri
Aly Latherow
Elena Liao
Sarah Polson
Eddy Rose
Alyssa Russell

ALL-SCHOOL SECRETARY

I want to run because I believe I'm organized and I fit the criteria of the position and I have leadership skills that I definitely would love to bring. The other thing is — not that I haven't seen work done in the past — but I would love to work on it myself and improve this school as much as possible... Particularly, I would like to focus on having a fun year for every student.



Chavon Hussey

My primary goal is to make it entertaining and fun for our student body. I plan to accomplish events that completely surround that and have positive energy and a supportive environment through fun activities for our student body.

I plan to represent the student body as a whole by being positive and supportive and truly being a friend to each and every person. I would like to be someone students can turn to while also being a leader. I would like to bring in an aspect of fun and different qualities and a unique vibe.

It is my utmost desire 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 U-High community by giving clubs and student organizations an active voice in student government via weekly meetings between officers and club leaders. I plan to improve transparency by making, in the position of secretary, accurate, concise records of Student Council meetings. I plan to combat issues like sexual harassment by passing student council legislation to ensure that the discipline code in the student handbook is upheld by both teachers, administrators and students alike. ... I plan to represent the interests of my grade and the entire student body by advocating the rights that students desire, such as freedom of expression, and by forwarding the causes they (and I alike) support, such as the feminist movement, the social justice movement for racial equality, and the movement for LGBTQ rights and equality.



Xander Tyska