

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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Student Council election speeches begin today

BY KATERINA LOPEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

Election day is just around the corner! Speeches will begin today with Class of 2019 candidates during lunch in Café Lab. On Thursday, current Class of 2020 and Class

of 2018 candidates will give their speeches during assembly period. All-school candidates will give their speeches during lunch Thursday. All speeches will take place in the cafeteria. Finally, voting will take place Friday from

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school lobby. Students will vote using an online system created last year by Jonathan Lipman, who is now all-school president. They can use a Student Council-provided computer or their own. Results will be posted online between the

end of school Friday and lunch on Monday, according to Jonathan. No campaigning is allowed within 20 feet of the voting area on election day, and candidates are not allowed to serve as an election judge during any period.

Three juniors vie for all-school presidency

Tiangang Huang
‘I want everybody to have the most fun possible’

Why are you running for all-school president?

Because I really wanna serve the U-High community to the best of my abilities. I’m kind of a goofy guy. I like to have fun, so I want everybody else in the school to have the most fun possible. They don’t necessarily need to have fun my way, but as student body president I am able to listen to everybody and know what their opinions are and be able to make school and life as fun as possible.

What experiences do you bring to the table?

I was student representative for two years out of the four years at my old school, so I know how student government works. I already know quite a few people in the school, and I want to listen to them and talk to them. I feel like that is an important skill for a student body president because that way I will know what people like to do. In Boy Scouts, I was a patrol leader at one point. It was a pretty small group, but I have some organizational experiences.

What are your three main goals as president?

To make life fun.

What would you like to see change about Student Council and how would you change that?

I haven’t had too much experience with U-High Student Council, so I am not exactly sure what I would want to change. I think I might just go with it and if there is stuff that I feel was not appropriate, then I guess I would change it. I think that my time here this year has been pretty good with all of the events put on by Student Council, so I think they are doing a pretty good job already.

— INTERVIEWED BY SAM FLEMING



Elizabeth Van Ha
‘I’ve seen how much students can do for school’

Why are you running for all-school president?

I am running for all-school president simply because I really care about this school. I think just being on Student Council for the past four years, I’ve just seen how much students can do for the school and how much we can change or influence, and I think, because of that knowledge and because I would like to see things change at this school, I decided to run.

What experiences do you bring to the table?

So I was my middle school president in eighth grade, and then every single year since then, going into high school, I’ve been the class president, so that’s helped me learn how to work with administrators. Outside of Student Council, I led Social Justice Week this year, so that was also super helpful in understanding, because our theme was “Crossroads,” so we had to do a lot of civic engagement outside of Lab, which helped develop my social skills and my leadership skills. I’m also part of two varsity sports teams, and this sounds like a cliché, but on a sports team, you just learn so much more about who you are and how you can contribute to a community or group.

What are your three main goals as president?

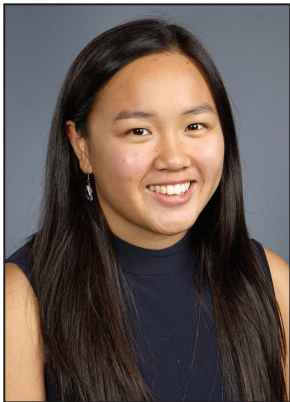
As running for class president, it’s always been student accessibility and student convenience, and transparency. This year, I’ve been trying to push for feminine hygiene access, which kind of has received some pushback, so that’s something I definitely want to continue.

I think, though, as an all-school president, my intentions shift a little bit in how I can help make other students fill those roles. How can these freshmen who have this idea pursue it? It’s basically advocating opportunity for student leadership. I went to a conference with other independent schools a few weeks ago, and I think it would be a really good idea to introduce some official diversity council, or a multicultural group. I know Student Council addresses these issues, but it’s certainly not the only thing we’re held accountable for. I think having that group, in addition to Student Council, would be really useful.

What would you like to see change about Student Council and how would you change that?

This year, Student Council has probably been one of the most organized years, so I think continuing that sense of organization, creating a more formalized schedule, which is something we’ve struggled with this year. In terms of school spirit, I know it’s not officially my responsibility as all-school president, but sometimes it felt that one branch was heavier than the other. You have the government branch and the [Cultural Union] branch, which we all work on everything together, but one is heavily weighted than the other. Just making sure there’s a more equal balance on what gets more attention during meetings.

— INTERVIEWED BY MARISSA MARTINEZ



Fionn Stamatakis
‘I am not your average Student Council rep’

Why are you running for all-school president?

I’m running for all-school president because I think there have been a lot of changes recently in the school. The way in which the administration and the students work have changed a lot, even since I was a freshman. I used to look up at the high school as a second, first grader and think “wow.” I think there is something to be said for this change and there needs to be some representation of the students... It feels like this has really gone over our heads with what the administration is doing, and I think the students need some control... I think they need some change in the established leaders of our school.

What experiences do you bring to the table?

Well, obviously I am not like the kids on Student Council. I am not really your average Student Council representative. I am not the perfect model of a student. I’m just kind of an average guy who has changed a lot through high school. I do not get perfect grades... I am just a kid who used to do bad stuff, but I am reformed. A lot of the Student Council representatives have not had to deal with the administration because they are kids who get perfect grades and perfect 36’s on their ACTs. I feel like there’s something to be said for the people who make mistakes, and I have made mistakes. Those are the people that are not seen here. I want to speak for the people who have no voice because they are the people that need to be spoken for.

What are your three main goals as president?

My main three goals are to give the students a bigger voice within the school. My second goal would be to effect a change. If another average Student Council member gets elected, they are just going to do the same thing. I want to make the change that they are not making. And, the third goal would just to give everyone what they need. There’s a lot of people who are deprived of things that they want... Students pay enough tuition at this school, and we need to give them what they want. They should be able to get what they need and want.

What would you like to see change about Student Council and how would you change that?

I think there needs to be some more transparency. Right now, people see Student Council and say, “Oh there they are, we have no idea what they are doing.” I think there is a wall between Student Council and the rest of the school... We do not know what is going on in Student Council meetings, and I think there is a lot that they are not telling us about. The students need to know what is going on in their school. They need to understand the changes, and that is what needs to change with Student Council.

— INTERVIEWED BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON



Vacancy on election ballot not an issue, Campos said

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

By the April 20 deadline, no candidates had filed for the position of all-school Cultural Union president, leaving the race open for write-in candidates in this week’s election. An open race is unusual, but not unprecedented, according to Dean of Students Ana Campos.

The Student Council constitution has no provision for what would happen in a scenario with no official or write-in candidates. However, Ms. Campos said in that scenario, Student Council members would hold a special election for the empty positions.

Write-in candidates are allowed, but they are not eligible to give

public speeches to the student body and their names are not published on the ballot, according to Ms. Campos. Otherwise, write-in students are able to confirm their candidacy after the deadline in order to approve campaign posters with Ms. Campos.

Several students have launched a write-in campaign this year. At

least one is running for the open all-school Cultural Union presidency, and other students seek class positions.

Student Council revised its constitution last year to regularly update the list of candidates on the official website during the filing period. This way, students could see how many candidates had

already filed for each office and which positions were still open.

“Before that happened, it was a secret,” Ms. Campos said. “Nobody knew until the campaigning started. We haven’t had this problem other than this year, but the problem this year isn’t because of lack of interest, it was a different reason.”

All-school candidates want to support student passions

This student election guide features responses from candidates for schoolwide positions. Students were surveyed on why they are running for a position, what their goals are and why they're the best person for the job. All responses edited for length and grammar.

ALL-SCHOOL TREASURER

I'm running because I will be able to keep the finances of Student Council in check and ensure that the funds are being used in the most efficient way possible. I've served on Student Council in the past and I continue to serve on a number of committees. I am a member of the Finance Club, putting me in a unique position to work with money in a way that puts the interests of the students above all else.

For the most part, students don't know about the funding that Student Council provides for student clubs. There are two budgets for this — one that is allocated at the beginning of the year and another allocated to new clubs. However, if the budget for new clubs is not used, there is a process in place for existing clubs to apply for those funds. This process hasn't been used in quite a few years, but it's important, so I'd ensure that this procedure is followed.



Otto Brown

I am running for all-school treasurer because I want to use my knowledge and experience along with the financial and executive power of treasurer to positively influence and impact our school and community.

I was once on Cultural Union my freshman year. I also participate in Refugee Club, DICE and ASA. If I were to be elected as all-school treasurer, I would make sure to establish connections between and among the different clubs with similar principles. The unity of clubs, people, finances and ideas will educate and enrich the minds of students in the Laboratory Schools and others in our community.



Hongjia Chen

I want to reach out to new students about prospective funding opportunities and diversify the extracurricular life at Lab. Although I have not held a position in student government before, I'm a unique candidate because of my determination to support the student body's creative interests, my passion for extracurricular activities at Lab, and my experience as a junior. I've seen clubs rise and fall over the years, and I'd like to see more of people's interests blossom and thrive, especially for newer students who want to try new things and have new ideas.

I want to make sure newer clubs and programs receive as much of my care and attention as possible, while also appealing to the interests and needs of thoroughly developed clubs that are highly respected. I am determined to fight for any student's funding, regardless of grade or experience, and I'm here to help bridge the financial gaps between the students and the administration.



Jacob Shkrob

ALL-SCHOOL SECRETARY

I've always wanted to be involved in Student Council one way or another. I think it's a great organization and I've seen a lot of my friends have fun planning events, dances, and being a leader in the school community. I also think that student council could use a lot more organization, so I'm running for all-school secretary to help do that. Although I've never been on Student Council, I'm involved in other leadership positions in the school. I've always been the one attending school events, so being on the other side of Student Council will make my opinion valuable.

I think that there should be more transparency between [Student Council] and the class they represent. A lot of times, I think that input from students about grade events they want to host, or changes to the school they want, would be really helpful. I also think assemblies should be much better organized and engaging, so that students don't always feel the need to ditch them.



Teresa Xie

ALL-SCHOOL VICE PRESIDENT

I don't have much specifically planned for if I am elected, and I think that's OK. My main goal is making Student Council more accessible to the student body. I like the idea of VP because it's very behind the scenes. The VP is not the "face of the school," so to speak. At the same time, however, they can see the impact that they're making on the U-High community. I think that the main factor is that I'm very approachable. If everyone's ideas are to be heard, then they have to feel comfortable with voicing their opinions. Also, I'm very proactive and will make sure that the new ideas are being implemented. It shows the student body has a tangible impact on their community.

My one legacy is that I hope to create an online platform in which students can make suggestions and then vote on them. It will give everyone the sense of impact and an equal say in the decisions made at our school.



Tomer Keysar

Student Council members have two roles: a quarter of the job is to come up with the ideas that students can't see for themselves, three-quarters of the job is listening to people. My main goal is being an ear for the school. I want to increase communication flow.

The VP does more behind-the-scenes work while the president represents more of a face of Student Council. I work really well in small groups, and while I'm not running with anyone, I do think I would work well with all of the people who are running for all-school president. VP just fits my personality and my work style better.

My experience is definitely one of the biggest factors. Another thing is that I identify as an introverted leader. I think just being quieter and more laid-back has allowed me to connect with people in other ways and has allowed me to listen extremely well.



Rachel Schonbaum

CULTURAL UNION PRESIDENT — NO CANDIDATES FILED

CULTURAL UNION VICE PRESIDENT

I am running for all-school CU because I genuinely love planning activities that bring our school together. I have been on Student Council for a year as a Cultural Union rep, and I also help plan other U-High activities like the Lab-Woodlawn partnership and Artsfest.

I want every event to be fun for anyone who wants to come! For the dances, I plan on refocusing the budget to allow for catered food and standing tables for those who want to come but don't love dancing.



Megan Moran

I am running for all-school Cultural Union vice president because I would like to see what Cultural Union is like and I have experienced running for vice president numerous times. I am unique in the sense that I am very good at understanding people more deeply and that I can add humor or excitement to almost any situation.

I will probably bring in new events and fundraisers, such as Maroon appreciation night.



Alex Pietraszek

Class presidential hopefuls share goals

Why are you running for president?
What makes you a unique candidate?
What are your goals?

CLASS OF 2018 CANDIDATES

AYAAN ASTHANA, PRESIDENT:



"I'm running for this position because I want to give back to a class, a group of people, and a community that has shaped my life over the last four years. If elected president, I would bring leadership and team-

work experience from Model UN, tennis, DICE or theater. I have also gained a distinctive perspective through collaborating with administration, listening to student groups, and actively participating in discussions around how to make Lab more student-oriented."

GIACOMO GLOTZER, PRESIDENT:



"I am running for this position because I have a vested interest in the Class of 2018. I have seen the stress that seniors experience and want to do my best to alleviate as much anxiety as possible. I believe that I will

bring a sense of care for every student that makes me unique. I highly encourage conversation between the student body and Student Council. I want to make 2018 the best year of our high school careers."

OTHER SENIOR OFFICES:

VICE PRESIDENT

Cole Summerfelt

CULTURAL UNION

Nicole Horio

Michael Rubin

CLASS OF 2019 CANDIDATES

SHIVA MENTA, PRESIDENT:



"I have been interested in Student Council since around the third grade. I mainly participate to funnel my grade's ideas toward a leadership body in order to better the school. I'm qualified

because of my experience in many different types of leadership activities. This year, I want to host more idea sessions of some sort to get people more in touch with Student Council. I also want to continue working on the student tutor bill, which creates a student tutor society, which I have been working on for the past year."

OTHER JUNIOR OFFICES:

VICE PRESIDENT

Emma Trone

CULTURAL UNION

Aly Latherow

Elena Liao

Eddy Rose

Mitch Walker

Nate Westneat

CLASS OF 2020 CANDIDATES

ANANYA ASTHANA, PRESIDENT:



"What sets me apart from the other candidates is that I transferred to Lab in eighth grade. I've had two years to understand Lab's community and I know what it means to have to integrate and adapt at Lab. I bring my ability to connect with different people. I want to capitalize on the size of our grade and create events where we can come together. I hope to offer one last stress-free, end-of-school event!"

CONSTANTIN CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT:



"Lab has done so much to accept me that I want to try to give back and help bring new ideas to the school. I was a big part of my middle school's Student Council. I think what makes me a unique candidate

is how much of an extrovert I am. I really would like to focus on the merging of school spirit, and the ability of our school to raise awareness and serve the community."

BENJAMIN CIFU, PRESIDENT:



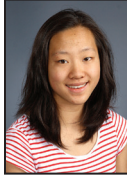
"I am running to improve our lives as students and the school. Some previous experience is running a library advisory board in the middle school. We worked to improve the library and guide decisions. I am a unique candidate because of my vantage point. I consider myself both an athlete and someone who engages in the academic and diversity sides of Lab, allowing me to understand views and problems from most anyone."

JEREMY NG, PRESIDENT:



"I am running as I have become very passionate for Student Council over the past year as freshman president. I have experience with how U-High's Student Council works, and I have gained many valuable ideas through meeting other schools at Student Council conferences. Therefore, I am nowhere near done with all that I can do for our grade and our school."

DONNA TONG, PRESIDENT:



"This community has helped me develop as a person so much (as cheesy as it sounds). I want to give back. I am so proud of this school and all of the people in it. I like to consider myself as an approachable person, someone you aren't scared to talk to. As president, communication with the people is key."

OTHER SOPHOMORE OFFICES:

VICE PRESIDENT

Suleyman Ahmed

Nolan Issa

Franziska Wild

CULTURAL UNION

Kepler Boonstra

Grace Brady

Anyu Hariprasad

Yuyu Katahira

Sarah Lurye

Ava Wilson