Student Council election speeches begin today

Tiangiang Huang

'I want everybody to have the most fun possible'

Why are you running for all-school president?

I've been the class president, then every single year since then, going into high school, I've been the class president, so I guess I would want to do that as much as possible, and how much we can change or increase, and cause 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 my high school president and then, going into high school, I've been the class president, so I guess I would want to do that as much as possible, and how much we can change or increase, and cause of that knowledge and because I would like to see things change at this school, I decided to run.

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, and I don't exactly know 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 this school, and how much we can change or increase, and cause 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 my high school president and then, going into high school, I've been the class president, so I guess I would want to do that as much as possible, and how much we can change or increase, and cause of that knowledge and because I would like to see things change at this school, I decided to run.

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

Well, obviously I am not like the kids on Student Council. I am not the perfect model of a student. I am just kind of a goofy guy. I 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, but I am not like that. I feel like there's something is being 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 want 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. Their'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 a little 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 whole 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 GEORGE-KARRIN

Fionn Stamatakis

'I am not your average Student Council rep'

Why are you running for all-school president?

I am running for all-school president because I think there has been a lot of changes recently in the school. The way in which the administration and the students work has changed, and I feel like there's something is being 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 want 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. Their'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 a little 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 whole 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 GEORGE-KARRIN

Vacancy on election ballot is just Campos

The Student Council constit­u­tion has no provision for what would happen in a scenario with­out an 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 student in seek­ing 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 hadn't had this prob­lem other than this year, but this year 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.

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 ASLA. 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.

I want to reach out to new students about prospective funding opportunities and diversify the extracurricular life at Lab. Although I have never 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 the club scene rise and fall over the years, and I’d like to see more of people’s interests blossoming and growing, even 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 try 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.

I don’t have much specific experience to champion for, and I 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 the face of Student Council. The VP is not the face of the school; the student body gets to speak. At the same time, however, they can see the impact that they’re making.

My experience is definitely one of the big factors. Another thing is that I identify as a liberal work style better. President. VP just fits my personality and my work style better.

I will probably bring in new events and fundraisers, such as Marion appreciation night. I am running for all-school 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 fairly good at understanding people, and I believe that I can add humor or excitement to almost any situation.

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

I am running for all-school Culture Union because I genuinely love planning activities that bring out the best in everyone. I have been on Student Council for a year as a Cultural Union rep, and I also help plan other activities like the Lab-Woodmond partnership and our November event—every event to be fun for anyone who wants to come! For the dances, I plan on rethinking the idea of catered food and standing tables for those who want to come but don’t have dance.

I am running as I have become very passionate for Student Council over the past year as freshman president. I have experience with how it 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. I feel I still have a lot to contribute to our school.

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.

I am running to improve our school counseling and extracurricular life. Some previous experience in running a library advisory board in the middle school. We worked to improve the library and provide the funds and 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.

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 fun planning events, dances, and being a leader in the school community. I also think that student council is a lot more organized, 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 one attending school events, so being on the other side of Student Council will make my opinion valuable. I think 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.