



Student Government  
Association

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# 2026 SGA Election Info-Sheet

Welcome to the 2026 University of Colorado Colorado Springs’ Student Government Association (SGA) General Election Info-Sheet. As a student you have the right to be informed about the background and campaign positions of candidates and referenda.

This info-sheet is formatted to match the order of the General Election Ballot for ease of reference, however candidates within specific positions will appear in a random order.

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## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Business

### **Bri Maddox**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am running for Senator of the College of Business because I am as passionate about business as I am about leadership. My goal is to help make the College of Business a place where every student feels empowered to succeed. I will champion student voices so that each student feels valued, heard, and represented. Through the Student Government Association, I hope to leave the university in a better place than I found it and to make students' experiences on campus more impactful, inclusive, and rewarding.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
I am a great candidate for the Student Government Association because I have direct experience in leadership, student advocacy, and the Student Government Association. I have held many leadership roles throughout middle and high school, which taught me valuable lessons on how to lead, support others, and foster growth. I have also served as a student representative on district and state boards, advocating for students' needs and championing policies that support them. Additionally, I have already served in the Student Government Association as a Student-at-Large, giving me direct experience that has taught me many valuable lessons that will help me be the best possible representative.
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
I am involved at UCCS through Model United Nations, CRU, and the Student Government Association. My hobbies include debate, dog training, and business. I am incredibly passionate about leadership, policy, and advocacy. In short, I enjoy making the world a better place and seeking out opportunities that allow me to do so.

## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Education

### **Teri Kear**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am currently on SGA as the Senator of Education. I would like to continue what I have been doing this school year 25-26 to the 26-27 school year.



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- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

As a senator of education, I helped pass bills to financially support clubs in their activities, I proposed a bill for upcoming freshmen from the local high schools to come and learn about SGA on the college level, I am part of the committee with Winter formal. I'm also on the committee to help with the safety of our school drivers to get students home safely. Committee to make UCCS safer in conjunction with the school police.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, both two legged and four legged. I like to hunt, fish and travel. I have been to over 20 countries and if possible, I would like to continue and go to more countries this summer.

## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Engineering & Applied Science

### **Shivani Sharma**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

Through my previous terms, I have gained a deep understanding of how the Student Government Association operates and how student voices can effectively translate into action. I want to continue advocating for students, strengthening collaboration between students and administration, and ensuring that decisions made truly reflect student needs. This role has allowed me to serve with impact, and I am motivated to build on that work rather than start over.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

My past experiences demonstrate my ability to turn student needs into meaningful action. Last semester, I hosted a free breakfast for students in the College of Engineering and Applied Science (EAS) with the support of EAS and SGA, to support student well-being and community building. The initiative was well received, and I am now working with the Dean of EAS to establish this as an ongoing tradition. Building on that success, we are planning to expand the free breakfast initiative to serve all students. This experience reflects my ability to collaborate with administration, manage initiatives, and deliver programs that directly benefit students.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*



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My hobbies and interests are centered around leadership, community building, and mentorship. At UCCS, I am actively involved in IEEE and the Indian Student Alliance (ISA), where I contribute to organizing events, supporting students, and fostering a strong sense of community. I serve in leadership roles within Women in Cybersecurity and Feminist Club, where we organize events, mentor students, and create opportunities for collaboration. I also enjoy initiatives that promote student well-being and inclusion, such as hosting community events and working with campus leadership to build lasting traditions that strengthen student life. Additionally, I currently work as a Graduate Assistant for Student Engagement, where I support student programming and collaborate with campus partners to enhance the overall student experience.

### **Lerry Lara**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I want to help my community.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
I have an associate degree in business, and I am a current engineering student.
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
I am involved with AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Aerospace).

## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences

### **Jae Brown**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am running so that I may help my fellow peers in the College of LAS in advocacy and representation.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
During my undergraduate studies, I was the president of the UCCS Billiards Club and the History Club, as well as being an ambassador for the History Department. As a Graduate student I am the presidential representative of the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Program). These experiences reflect my dedication to the College of LAS and to the advocacy and representation of my peers.
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*



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I love reading, listening to music, language development, and billiards! I am pretty involved at UCCS, I liked planning events for my previous clubs, and plan to continue that with Phi Alpha Theta (as we are working to revitalize our chapter).

## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences

### **BreAnna Fraker**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs is a wonderful school—not only to attend, but also to make an impact on every day. Being on the Senate and several committee boards this year has allowed me to see the inner workings of the university and truly make a difference, which is an opportunity not many students can say they have. I can proudly say that I enjoy advocating for my classmates and friends, and I look forward to the future that UCCS is growing toward and my small but vital role in it.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I already have experience in this exact role, as I previously served as the Senator for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, along with holding several other leadership positions. Some of these roles include acting in leadership roles for clubs such as Global Medical Brigades and the National Society of Leadership and Success. I am also part of organizations like the Pre-Health Society and the Student Health Advisory Board, and I am a certified nursing assistant. I remain in constant communication with my peers through these different activities—whom I represent as the Senator for Nursing and Health Sciences—to ensure they are properly represented and their voices are heard both within and outside of SGA.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

As I mentioned before, I am involved in five different clubs and committees at UCCS, and I am constantly participating in just about anything happening around campus—especially if it relates to medicine. My hobbies and interests include working out, hiking, and playing any type of board game. My favorite pastime is traveling to different countries, national parks, and anywhere I've never been before and can explore.



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## Candidates for the Senator of the College of Public Service

### Ben Moses

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am indeed running for Senator of College of Public Service due to the notion that I believe with my experience having served on positions to include UCCS Senator of Multicultural Affairs, Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), Rules and Orgs Committee (RaOC), University Center Advisory Board Committee (UCAB), Black Student Union (BSU) Secretary, Polemarch of the Omicron Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honors Society), and a campus Engagement Leader that I possess an understanding in regard to how I can effectively represent the student body within the College of Public Service while simultaneously incorporating the input of recommendations from student and staff in order to ensure that every constituent throughout campus feels that they are being adhered to.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

UCCS Senator of Multicultural Affairs, Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), Rules and Orgs Committee (RaOC), University Center Advisory Board Committee (UCAB), Black Student Union (BSU) Secretary, Polemarch of the Omicron Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honors Society), CSPD Victim Advocate (VAU), Behavioral Health Technician (BHT), and campus Engagement Leader.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I enjoy volunteering and collaborating throughout the Colorado Springs community while currently serving as the Advisor for the Black Student Union. In addition, I currently serve as a CSPD Volunteer Victim Advocate (CSPD) while simultaneously being employed as a Behavioral Health Technician at a Teen Residential Rehab Facility.

## Candidates for the Senator of Multicultural Affairs

### Gift Faleru

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am running for Senator of Multicultural Affairs because I genuinely care about making sure students from all backgrounds feel supported and represented on



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campus. Being involved in multicultural organizations has shown me how important it is to have spaces where students feel safe, heard, and included.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I have been involved in student organizations that focus on supporting students from different backgrounds, including serving on the executive board of the African Student Association and being active in the Black Student Union. Through these roles, I have worked closely with students, helped plan events, and made sure people felt included and heard. These experiences have taught me how to listen, communicate clearly, and follow through. I have also seen where students feel disconnected from campus leadership, which is why I want to help bridge that gap and represent student voices in SGA in a real and meaningful way.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

In my free time, I enjoy watching shows and doing hands-on or creative things to unwind. I also value having quiet time to recharge. At UCCS, I serve as the Vice President of the African Student Association. I also work as an Orientation Leader, where I help new students register for their classes. These roles keep me connected to students and being involved in campus life in an impactful way

**Adonis Leach**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I'm running for Senator of Multicultural Affairs because I care deeply about creating a campus environment where every student feels seen, supported, and valued. As a disabled student who uses a wheelchair, a military dependent, a transfer student, and someone engaged in a same-sex relationship, I understand firsthand how identity, culture, and lived experience shape a student's sense of belonging. I want to use my voice to advocate for students who often feel overlooked, and to help build a more inclusive, accessible, and culturally aware campus community.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

While I'm new to student government, my background has prepared me to be an effective advocate. I previously worked as a respite provider, which strengthened my ability to listen, support others, and navigate complex needs with patience and empathy. My social work training has taught me how to approach problems through a systems lens and speak up for those who may not feel empowered to speak for themselves. I'm also comfortable engaging in difficult conversations, when necessary, especially when advocating for fairness, accessibility, and equity. These



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experiences give me the skills and perspective needed to represent multicultural students with authenticity and commitment.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
I'm passionate about advocacy, community engagement, and supporting underserved populations. Outside of academics, I enjoy learning about different cultures, connecting with diverse communities, and exploring ways to make institutions more inclusive. As a new transfer student, I'm excited to get involved at UCCS and build connections across campus. Running for SGA is one of the first ways I'm choosing to engage, because I want to contribute early and help shape a welcoming environment for all students.

**Sofia Voicu**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am running for Senator of Multicultural Affairs because I have a strong passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am not afraid to go in front of a crowd and fight for rights and equity. This position may allow me to stand as an equal with the students of UCCS and be an advocate and representative for all groups of students.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
I have experience with standing in front of a school board fighting for the right to education. Parents and board members were creating a petition to ban books in our library, and my good friend and I fought back with a rival petition and spoke in front of said board to defend why banning books is an inhibition of the right to education and what these books can teach us. Another experience would be a debate in my English class. The question was "would you rather give up your rights if it meant children would no longer suffer, or keep your rights, but children suffering would still exist?"; and my teacher and I were the only ones willing to give up our own personal rights if it meant children would no longer suffer. Lastly, I've educated myself on the difference between equality and equity. I delivered a 15-minute speech on how, as a society, we need to reach equity before equality, and my 3 main points were how equity can be shown in the black community, people with disabilities, and women. I know what it is like to fight for human rights on a group discussion level to a systemic level.
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
I love to travel to different countries, I volunteer, and I love to spend time with friends. I'm very interested in government and law on an equitable level and always



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educating myself on policies and laws that affect human rights. I volunteer at Tessa as a safe line advocate and with the children of women who are seeking assistance. Unfortunately, I have not been involved in UCCS clubs for my first semester because I wanted to set a ground of learning in my new environment and build friendships around me.

### Candidates for the Senator of Innovation

#### **Keison Morales**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I want to make improvements and be a voice for students of not just the innovation program but all students.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
Being a Senator of Innovation 25-26', IFC President, ΣAE Vice President, Swim Club Vice President are many experiences that would make me a great candidate
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
Swimming, Photography, Music, Film, Greek Life

### Candidates for the Senator of the Arts

#### **Jordan West**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
A huge goal for me as a student this year is getting more involved at UCCS. Although I am specifically running for senator of arts because of my enthusiasm for the arts. Community is incredible and can lead us to finding our passions, and the arts are a great way to do that. I have strong leaderships skills, and through learning, I know that I can help make a great senator for the arts. This position would benefit me as a student as it helps me grow and learn as well as benefit the VAPA program.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
I have experience with student government in my secondary education. As well as I have been teaching for over five years now. Teaching has taught me leadership skills, how to solve problems, and how to act quickly on my feet. Other leadership



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opportunities I have had in my past include producer of broadcast team, team lead in many different positions.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Some of my interests and hobbies include reading, politics and dance/theater. In the past semesters, I have been involved at UCCS by attending many performances that amazing students have done here at the Ent Center for the Arts. Such as the film festival in the fall, the winter dance recital, and many theater productions. This semester, I have joined the UCCS dance club and will be more involved in leadership.

## Candidates for the Senator of Commuter Students

### **Savannah Storms**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am a commuter student and a low-income student and I want to help make higher education accessible to all.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I have lived in Colorado for seven years and I do delivery driving for work, so I am very familiar with the city's issues with roads, parking, etc. I am also a low-income Pell grant student and a transfer student, so I plan to advocate for those who struggle to complete their degree for financial reasons.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I am involved with the Sociology Club and The Law Society at UCCS. I am passionate about economic equality and am a member of CPUSA off campus. Many of my hobbies include traveling and political advocacy

## Candidates for the Senator of Clubs, Organizations, and Fraternity & Sorority Life

### **Olivia Abeyta**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I'm running for Senator of Clubs, Organizations, and Greek Life because I genuinely believe these communities are the heart of student life at UCCS. When students find a club or organization that feels like home, they're more connected, more confident, and more likely to stay engaged on campus. I want to help strengthen



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that experience by making sure student leaders feel supported, their voices are heard, and their organizations have the resources they need to thrive. I'm also running because I've seen how much potential there is for better communication, smoother processes, and more collaboration across student groups. I want to be someone who listens, advocates, and helps remove barriers so clubs and Greek organizations can focus on what they do best, building community. This position is a chance to uplift the groups that make UCCS vibrant, and I'm excited to step into that responsibility.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I served in this same Student Government position this past year (2025–2026), and I would love the opportunity to continue the work I've started. Over the past year, I've built strong relationships across the UCCS community, and I've discovered that this is truly where I thrive, connecting students, supporting leaders, and helping organizations feel seen and supported. My experience on the Mountain Lion Leadership Council and the University Center Advisory Board has allowed me to represent the full spectrum of students involved in clubs, organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. I've learned how to advocate effectively, collaborate across departments, and bring student voices into decision-making spaces. I also spoke at the Greek Forum for FSL life to ensure my connection with them. Right now, I'm leading the Winter Formal, an event designed to bring the entire campus together. I've been intentional about making it inclusive, accessible, and welcoming, especially for commuter students who often feel overlooked. That commitment to inclusivity and community-building is exactly why I want to continue serving. I am a great candidate because I care deeply about strengthening student involvement at UCCS, and I want to keep creating spaces where every student feels connected, supported, and proud to be part of this community.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I love to golf, spend quality time with my friends, and paint; it's how I recharge and stay creative. Outside of that, I'm extremely involved at UCCS. I've served on three SGA committees and two University Committees, and I'm constantly taking on new initiatives that help strengthen our campus community. Being on campus is genuinely one of my favorite parts of college. I love meeting new people, building connections, and being someone others can count on. Whether I'm working on a committee project or helping a student navigate resources, I'm always looking for ways to contribute and make UCCS a more welcoming, engaged place for everyone.



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### **Maraya Tejada**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am running for Senator of Clubs, Organizations, and Greek Life because I genuinely love the UCCS community. Student organizations are where students find belonging, mentorship, and purpose, and I have experienced that firsthand. Through my involvement in Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Incorporated, and other campus initiatives, I have seen how much work goes into maintaining strong communication with Student Life, managing budgets, coordinating events, and supporting members. I want to serve as a bridge between SGA and student organizations to ensure that clubs feel heard, supported, and empowered. As a first-generation student, I understand how important community spaces are on campus. I want to advocate for stronger collaboration between organizations, clearer communication with university leadership, and more accessible resources so every organization can thrive.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I have held multiple leadership positions within Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Incorporated, including Vice President, Treasurer, Community Service Chair, Social Chair, and Recruitment Committee Member. These roles have given me experience in budgeting, event planning, recruitment strategy, accountability, and team management. As Treasurer, I managed chapter finances and improved financial transparency. As Community Service Chair, I coordinated meaningful service opportunities aligned with our mission. As Vice President, I supported executive operations and ensured communication across the chapter. Outside of Greek life, I work as a Lab Assistant in the UCCS Biology Department and serve as a hospital volunteer and trainer with over 800 hours of service. I am also EMT certified. These experiences have strengthened my leadership, professionalism, and ability to stay organized under pressure. Together, these experiences have prepared me to advocate effectively for student organizations and manage the responsibilities of this position with accountability and care.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Outside of academics and leadership, I enjoy crocheting and photography. Crocheting allows me to express creativity and patience, while photography helps me capture meaningful moments within my community. At UCCS, I am highly involved in Greek life leadership, volunteer service, campus events, and academic work within the Biology Department. I regularly participate in community service



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initiatives, including hospital volunteering, campus beautification projects, and outreach events. My involvement reflects my passion for service, leadership, and building strong communities, which is exactly what I hope to continue fostering as Senator for Clubs, Organizations, and Greek Life.

## Candidates for Senators-at-Large

### Catalina Clay

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

Throughout the past year of being a member of SGA, I have enjoyed being able to understand more about UCCS and how student voices are valued. I do my best to be a representative for student voices and make sure that all students are considered in major decisions, initiatives, and events on campus.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

Aside from spending a year in the Student Government Association, I have lived on campus at UCCS for the past two years. As I spend most of my time at this school, I feel that I understand student concerns from first-hand experience. Along with that, I see the great parts of the school and the things that can be improved. Since I have about two more years left in my degree, I believe that I can work to make progress, changes, and events that are helpful and engaging to the student body.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I am deeply interested in human psychology and general social sciences. I love yoga, Pilates, swimming, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family. At UCCS, I have been involved in SGA for the last year, and I am a resident on campus.

### Logan Smith

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I love being engaged in student government and serving the students at our university. It is my goal to provide services to the UCCS Student body that will build a community of care at UCCS and create a safe environment for students to reach the highest level of academic excellence. Every day at UCCS, I meet wonderful people, and I look forward to working with them on improving our university.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

For the last six years, I served our nation honorably in the U.S. Air Force, an experience that helped me develop the work ethic necessary to achieve all the goals



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I set for myself last semester. Despite fierce competition, I secured a seat as Senator-At-Large in the SGA and went on to champion the U.N.I.T.E Act, a resolution supporting the collective voice of workers on our campus. I also work closely with the current SGA Vice President, Isabella Polombo, to host events such as last semester's Winter Thrift in the MOSAIC. Currently, I am working with fellow senators to host a weekly breakfast table in the engineering building and to develop a program to introduce a first-aid cart in the wellness center. Isabella and I are actively planning our events for this semester and looking to build on the successes we enjoyed last fall.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I am one of the founders and co-chairman of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chapter at UCCS and a Senator in the Student Government Association. Every day, you can find me in the MOSAIC lounge between classes, talking with students and working to find ways to improve our university and our community. Each week, I try to attend at least one club event after my classes to meet new people and learn about the communities on our campus. I even make it a point to seek out viewpoints that oppose my own so that I can broaden my horizons and listen to my peers with opposing viewpoints. I engage with our community and bring everything I have learned to our student government and community. I dutifully fulfill the role as representative of the student body, empathizing and experiencing as one of you. I look forward to representing you and embodying your voice as I continue in my role as Senator.

**Nate Mushlin**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am running for the Senator at Large position because, as a student who cares deeply about others, I want to be someone students can go to talk about both the positive and negative aspects of their experience at UCCS and work toward making it better. I was involved in student government in high school, where I had the opportunity to plan events and represent the student body. While planning events was enjoyable, what meant the most to me was representing the student voice and collaborating with other SGA members to share ideas and create improvements. Additionally, I have a strong interest in policy and rulemaking because it allows student leaders to create meaningful and lasting impact. If elected as Senator at Large, I will be a leader who is committed to helping others, advocating for students, and making a positive difference within the association and across campus.



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- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

Other than serving as Treasurer in SGA during high school, I have gained several leadership experiences that make me a strong candidate for the Senator at Large position. Currently, I serve as the Vice President of SMAC (Sport Management Activities Council), where I support the president while also helping market and promote the Sport Management Department. In this role, I have helped lead initiatives such as Sport Management Networking Night, the March Madness Bracket Challenge and Watch Party, increasing student attendance at SMAC meetings, and developing advertising through posters displayed throughout Dwire Hall. Additionally, my internships with Air Force Athletics and UCCS Athletics, as well as my experience working in baseball, have helped me develop strong communication, teamwork, and organizational skills. These roles required me to work in fast-paced environments, manage responsibilities on strict timelines, and collaborate effectively with others to execute events successfully. Through these experiences, I have learned how to manage my time efficiently, stay organized, and contribute to a team in meaningful ways. Overall, my leadership experience, strong work ethic, and commitment to improving the student experience are why I believe I would be a great fit for the Senator at Large position.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Some of my hobbies and interests include watching and playing sports, going to the gym, and going on hikes. At UCCS, I stay actively involved by attending student life events whenever possible. I currently work for the UCCS Athletics Department and Recreation Center as an SYP Intramural Sport Official, and I serve as the Vice President of the Sport Management Activity Council. Additionally, I pride myself on being a genuine and friendly presence on campus.

**Ben Campos**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I'm running for Senator-at-Large because I want every voice on campus to be heard, not just a specific group of students. Student government should represent everyone, not just the most visible or involved populations. I've seen how decisions impact students in different ways and I want to advocate for policies that are inclusive, transparent, and helpful to all students. My goal is to make sure every student feels represented and knows they have someone who will listen and act on their concerns. I believe serving as Senator-at-Large would give me the opportunity to help create a campus where all students feel valued and supported.



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- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I think one of my biggest strengths is that I already work closely with students every day. In the Financial Aid Office, I help students figure out FAFSA, loans, scholarships, SAP issues, and billing questions, so I see firsthand how school policies affect people. That's given me a real understanding of what students are going through, especially when it comes to finances and stress. As a business major with a finance emphasis, I'm also comfortable looking at numbers, budgets, and making practical decisions. At the same time, working in customer service has helped me become a better listener and communicator.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Outside of class, I'm involved in Global Medical Brigades and the Reisher Scholars Club, which have helped me connect with service-oriented and driven students on campus. I also like attending Beekeeping Club events when they happen, and I try to go to SGA events whenever I can to stay involved and informed. As for hobbies, I enjoy watching TV, playing my PS5, cooking, and honestly sometimes just rotting on social media to unwind. I think having that balance between being involved and taking time to relax is important. It keeps me grounded and helps me connect with other students who are just trying to manage school and life at the same time.

**Keira McWilliams**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am running for a senator at large position as I feel a large population of our campus follows a pre-health track, but there's very little representation for these students in senate besides the one college chair. Additionally, I am heavily involved on campus and feel my input will reflect many of the students on campus.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

In the past year, I have been involved in Global Medical Brigades as an executive member as well as a scholar of the Chancellor's leadership class. Both experiences have helped grow my leadership skills, while also showing me the importance of networking here on campus.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Outside of UCCS, I love to play video games and have been exploring cooking! Besides the previously mentioned involvement in Global Medical Brigades and Chancellors Leadership Class, I also work two jobs in the University Center. I split



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my time evenly between the information desk as an attendant and event services as a student event coordinator specialist.

### **Hunter Roren**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am running to be a Senator-at-Large because I want to continue advocating for students and their interests. My experience as a student-at-Large for SGA, which began last semester, has shown me how meaningful student government work can be. By proxying for several senators, I have had the opportunity to engage with legislation, hear student feedback, and support initiatives that directly impact both the campus and the wider UCCS community in a truly inspiring way. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of a senator's responsibilities and motivated me to take on a more active role in representing students and advocating for their needs. As our university enters difficult times, I hope to work to preserve and strengthen the student experience at UCCS and protect our community. I also hope to serve as a voice for all students and effectively advocate for their interests.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
Outside of SGA, my position as president of the German Club and my role as a German peer tutor have helped me connect with students from a wide range of backgrounds and better understand the issues that matter to them. Additionally, before coming to UCCS, I served on my high school's Student Council, where I developed my work ethic and gained experience as an advocate and planner.
- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
My hobbies include board gaming, hunting, whitewater rafting, and reading classic books. I like to think that I am very involved at UCCS, serving on SGA as a Student-at-Large and working as the German peer tutor in the ELC.

## Candidates for Director of Finance

### **Bennett Schafer**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I'm applying for Director of Finance in SGA because I want hands-on experience managing a real budget and making responsible financial decisions that directly impact students. This role gives me the chance to practice budgeting, planning, and accountability in a leadership position, while making sure student funds are used



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wisely and transparently. It's a great way for me to build practical finance and leadership skills while contributing meaningfully to the campus community.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

My professional experience assisting with managing funds for student support with Clyde's Cupboard has helped me form a better understanding of managing and properly allocating funds.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I am heavily involved with the Office of the Dean of Students, as well as partnering with several different campus partners, like Student Life & Leadership, SGA, Wellness, Sustainability House & UCCSFarm.

## Candidates for President

### **Cienna Daniels (with Zachary Hoffa)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I am running to be elected to the Student Government Association so that I can have a greater impact on the Student Body than I would through serving as a Senator. My time serving as a Senator for the School of Business has taught me a lot about signing, sponsoring, and creating legislation, accessing campus resources, holding office hours, meeting with the Dean Dr. Thomas Aicher, serving on committees such as the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), High School Ad Hoc Committee, the College of Business Fee Advisory Committee, senate meetings, and promoting student involvement on campus. Therefore, I believe that I am now ready for an increased role in leadership, which will provide me with opportunities to impact a larger audience and allow me to make strategic decisions from a campus-wide perspective. While I have been in SGA, I have made it a priority to create opportunities for students; I have focused on creating and promoting initiatives and events that help build a community at our university. A perfect example of this is the recent voter registration initiative that I was involved with; I would hope that my past participation in this initiative demonstrates my dedication to increasing student participation in shared governance. We need to have a voice in who runs our institutions and how they are run, and I believe that true change will only occur through student participation in levels of government. Aidan has also served as a great inspiration to me throughout my time in SGA. His leadership has shown me that the proper mix of intentionality, professionalism, and courage will increase the



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effectiveness of SGA. I have watched him lead and have learned from him that by having the right mindset and a commitment to doing the work it takes to lead well, we can positively influence our community in all areas of our lives. I am running to continue his example and to continue moving SGA forward in ways that empower students, create a stronger representation for students, and foster a supportive environment for students to become engaged and to create opportunities for themselves.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

During my time as the Senator of Business in the Student Government Association (SGA), I have gained a lot of experience relating to the position, experience with how to develop legislation, and collaborate with others. My work on legislation such as authoring bills is to benefit all students and to increase student involvement by encouraging participation in our school decision-making process year-round. Also, by sponsoring Friendsgiving and Winter Formal to provide a place to feel part of our larger school community: this provides opportunities for all students to belong. Along with my completion of the legislation that demonstrates my commitment to improving student's experiences, I have attended office hours and campus-wide SGA events and participated in Dean, SGA Committee, and SGA full senate meetings to gather information regarding the current needs of the student population in order to effectively provide students with appropriate resolutions about the issues they face. I have built relationships with university administrators and other SGA elected leaders because I have built a reputation as a good communicator by establishing trust and reliability with my constituents. I am passionate about providing support to those who wish to make positive changes in their lives by going back to school, becoming involved in leadership roles at school, or becoming involved in SGA. I want to empower people as this is one way I hope to make positive contributions to society, and I have demonstrated my commitment to serving others for being accountable for my actions and creating initiatives that will benefit a larger group of students than just some students.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I have many different interests, including creating and developing innovative business ideas, traveling and exploring the world, shopping, spending time with my family and friends, and anything to do with cats or kittens. A particularly unique interest of mine is personalized license plates; I enjoy spotting creative ones, taking pictures of them, thinking of different combinations that carry a unique meaning,



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and encouraging others to get plates that reflect their personality. I find that sometimes the smallest details, like a personalized plate, tell the greatest stories about someone's identity and creative expression. As an active full-time Honors student at UCCS, I am currently the Senator for Business in the Student Government Association and work as a Teaching Assistant for Marketing Professor Paul Yankey, and I am also an Ethics Ambassador for Professor Tracy Gonzalez-Padron. In addition, I have participated in numerous engagement events and classes through the Honors Program, including writing a business plan for what I hope to become a future jewelry company called Silver Sage Jewelry. I can show the business plan in my portfolio class and am excited to have developed this throughout my time at UCCS. Another way for me to become engaged on campus is by attending the College of Business Career Networking Night events every semester. I also enjoy completing surveys and being part of focus groups because I believe that by giving my opinion, I can help to make a difference in the university community.

**Dionisio Marcelo (with Benny Curtin)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
I am running for SGA President because I genuinely care about students feeling seen, supported, and empowered at UCCS. As a first-generation college student, an immigrant, a veteran, and a nontraditional student, I understand how overwhelming college systems can feel when you don't automatically see yourself reflected in leadership or know where to turn for support. Throughout my time at UCCS, I've learned that leadership isn't about having the loudest voice in the room, it's about listening with intention, showing up consistently, and advocating for others even when it's uncomfortable. I want to be a president who bridges the gap between students and administration, increases transparency in decision-making, and ensures that students from all backgrounds feel that SGA is for them, not something happening around them. I'm running because I believe UCCS students deserve leadership that is compassionate, organized, accountable, and deeply invested in student success, both inside and outside the classroom.
- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*  
My experiences have shaped me into a leader who is adaptable, people-centered, and mission-driven. I served four years in the U.S. Army, where I learned discipline, teamwork, and the importance of advocating for people under pressure. That experience taught me how to lead with integrity while balancing competing



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priorities, skills that translate directly into effective student governance. At UCCS, I am actively involved in leadership and mentorship roles, including the MOSAIC Mentors Program, the Honors Program, and the Chancellor's Leadership Class. Through these spaces, I've worked closely with students from diverse backgrounds, supporting them as they navigate college life, access campus resources, and build a sense of belonging. I also intern with Judi's House, a nonprofit that supports grieving children and families, which has strengthened my skills in communication, empathy, and ethical, trauma-informed leadership. Across all of these roles, I have consistently been someone who listens first, follows through, and brings people together. I don't shy away from responsibility, and I take accountability seriously, qualities I believe are essential for serving effectively as SGA President.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*  
Outside of academics and formal leadership roles, I'm deeply interested in storytelling, mental health advocacy, and community building. I enjoy creating video projects and interviews that highlight people's lived experiences, especially voices that are often overlooked. This creative side of me helps me connect with others and communicate ideas in ways that are engaging, accessible, and inclusive. I'm also passionate about wellness and fitness, including running and training toward long-term health goals, which keeps me grounded, disciplined, and balanced. At UCCS, these interests show up through my involvement in MOSAIC mentoring, leadership programming, collaboration within the Honors community, and my support of student-centered initiatives that promote inclusion, equity, and overall well-being. Ultimately, my hobbies and campus involvement reflect the same values I bring to leadership: curiosity, empathy, consistency, and a genuine commitment to helping others thrive.

**Walat Gozeh (with Asher Early)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*  
UCCS is at a crossroads right now. As our campus faces trying times, every decision our Student Government Association makes carries real weight for students' daily lives, their opportunities, and their sense of belonging. I'm running for this position in SGA because I believe we need leadership that doesn't just make decisions for students, but with students. SGA needs a president who listens, really listens. SGA needs someone who cares deeply about our community and understands what it feels like to be in students' shoes, because I am one of them. I'm running because students deserve transparency, honesty, and a voice who will fight for them, even when they are not in the room. Too often, students are disconnected from the



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decisions happening around them. I want to bridge that gap by opening clearer lines of communication, making sure students know SGA is doing what students asked for, and creating more opportunities for students to be given a platform and be heard.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

Current Speaker of the Senate in SGA; Current College Mentor for Educating Children of Color; Current Student Activities Assistant; Founder and President of Middle Eastern Student Association; Varsity Member of UCCS Model United Nations. I'm a strong candidate for SGA because my experiences have given me a well-rounded understanding of student leadership and campus life. As Speaker of the Senate, I've learned how to elevate student voices, build collaboration and lead a successful branch. My work as a College Mentor for Educating Children of Color and as a Student Activities Assistant has strengthened my commitment to equity, student engagement and driving to come and stay at UCCS. Founding the Middle Eastern Student Association showed me how to build a community for others and competing in Model UN developed my diplomacy and problem-solving skills. Together, these roles have prepared me to lead this organization with purpose, empathy, and integrity.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I love college football (We Are Penn State!), Golfing, and engaging in pop culture (Please ask me about Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter or anything memes). I also love going to concerts and collecting foreign currency!

## Candidates for Vice President

### **Zachary Hoffa (with Cienna Daniels)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

Cienna was taking applications for her VP nominee, and I think that she is an incredibly smart and capable person, and it would be an honor to serve alongside her.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*



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I was previously a senator-at-large, am currently president of the Speech and Debate and Recreational Dance Club, was a member of the Mock Trial club, and have strong public speaking skills.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I have already mentioned my extensive club involvement and how I previously served as a senator-at-large, but I have also attended the UCCS Game Changer a couple of different times. My hobbies and interests include anything having to do with law, reading, and community service (I have community service engagements outside of campus, please let me know if these are important to you)

**Benny Curtin (with Dionisio Marcelo)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*

I love being involved on campus, and bringing about positive change is something I am driven to do. I care about the community at UCCS, and I love how amazing our campus and student life are. However, I see the university and its students struggle- especially with connection- and I want to be the support for the students around me.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

Leadership has been something that I have been passionate about for years. During high school I acted as the Student Government Treasurer for a semester, Vice President for two years, and President for a year. As well as a term as treasurer and a term as Vice President in the NHS. When finalizing my decision to attend UCCS last year, I knew that leadership was something that I would continue to pursue. I am proud to be part of the Chancellor's Leadership Class, and I am dedicated and excited to grow my leadership.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

Psychology is a huge interest of mine, and it's so much more than just my major. I am excited to be a part of the undergraduate research assistant program in UCCS' psychology department. I love researching and reading psychology journals, and I'm so glad I'm pursuing a career in the psychological sciences. Besides that, I love music and art. I spend a lot of time practicing violin and listening to music; my favorite genres are rock and classical-- but I will listen to almost anything. I also love to enjoy visual media, especially photography and film.

**Asher Early (with Walat Gozeh)**

- *Why are you running for this position in the Student Government Association?*



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I want to run for Vice President of the Student Government Association because I really care about improving the student experience and making sure that student voices are not only heard but acted upon. Throughout my time at UCCS, I have consistently sought leadership roles that allow me to advocate for people, build meaningful connections across campus, and turn ideas into outcomes.

- *What past experiences would make you a great candidate for the Student Government Association?*

I have held multiple roles that required collaboration, organization, and a commitment to representing diverse student interests. As former Vice Chair of the University Center, I worked closely with administrators and student leaders to improve shared campus spaces, making sure they were inclusive, functional, and fit student needs. This role strengthened my understanding of institutional processes and how to advocate effectively within them.

- *What are some of your hobbies/interests and how are you involved at UCCS?*

I love music, listening and making on occasion. I love watching movies and rating them in my free time. I love cycling and staying active and making a difference in the lives of my friends.