

Annie Woodward

Student Government Association

Through my involvement in various student organizations, both academic and extracurricular, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges student organizations face when working with the Student Government Association (SGA). Even as a sophomore without a formal position on these boards, the inefficiencies of our student government financial management are startlingly apparent. There seems a significant disconnect between student satisfaction and the effectiveness of government, which should be dealt with. I am hoping to close the gap by addressing the concerns of students in a more transparent and responsive system of governance.

One of the largest issues I have encountered relates to the allocation of funds within the SGA, particularly when it comes to essential services such as campus safety, medical funding, and resources for student organizations. I believe that involving undergraduates who are willing to openly express their concerns and collaborate with the government is an essential first step to solving these issues. Students who have a genuine understanding of the issues they face, can contribute to creating more practical and efficient solutions. My personal passion for public health makes me especially invested in ensuring that the administration of medical resources and the operation of the Center for Wellbeing are looked over.

As a Public Health Science major, I am particularly interested in the health and wellbeing concerns of students on a day-to-day basis. After speaking with classmates and friends, I have come to realize that there is often a significant miscommunication between where funding is placed and where it's needed. A clear example of this is the limited hours of operation at the medical center and the strained capacity of the nursing staff. Given the rigorous academic schedules of students, the limited hours and availability of healthcare services become a major source of stress for many. Though the SGA has supported the Center for Wellbeing for years, there is a clear need for more informed advocacy and a reevaluation of resource distribution. The issue of funding is not simply about securing more money, but about directing them toward the areas of greatest need. This means particularly in health professional wages and hours of operation.

Without a strong understanding of where the greatest need is, it is difficult to make informed decisions about how to best place resources. As someone with a passion in healthcare, I feel ready to advocate for a more systematic and evidence-based approach. My approach is to create a more coordinated effort between the SGA and the Medical Center, one that ensures transparency and input directly from students. This approach would involve conducting regular surveys to identify areas where services are lacking or where demand is growing.

My goal is to help shape a student government that fosters continuous improvement, prioritizes transparency, and is genuinely committed to listening and addressing student concerns. By empowering students to raise their concerns regarding university resources, wellbeing, and governance, we can create a more engaged community. Senators must acknowledge that no system is perfect, but through collaboration and honest work with the population, we will build a more responsive, effective, and trusted government. By embracing a culture of transparency, and collaboration we will ensure that the student body is actively involved in shaping the future of our facilities and organizations. In doing so, we will

create a stronger sense of community, increase student satisfaction, and improve the overall quality of campus life whether that be sick or in good health.