

# OLIVIJA

FOR  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



**Hi! First, a little bit about me.**

I use she/her pronouns and I'm from Chicago, IL. I'm a sophomore majoring in business administration with a theme in sustainability, and a studio art minor.

On campus, I'm involved in the Student Government Association (finance committee), Club Water Polo, Alpha Delta Pi sorority, and the Grossman Student Advisory Committee (GSAC).

Visit my campaign Instagram @olivija.vp for some fun facts!



## **About my campaign:**

**I have a vision for an SGA that is accountable, transparent, and productive.**

### **Accountability:**

**There is virtually no framework in place to hold elected members accountable for finishing their projects, reaching their goals, and bettering your student experience. I want to fix this.**

**I will work with the Senate to outline all-Senate goals and project ideas, as well as action items to accomplish them, all at the beginning of the term.**

**I will attend individual committee meetings periodically to offer support, help complete projects, and contact resources who can aid in doing so.**

**I aim to implement a framework to hold senators and VP/P accountable in the projects and goals they outline at the start of term.**



## **Transparency:**

**Currently, there is very little transparency between SGA, what we do, and the resolutions we pass, and the general student body. This has improved a bit through the PR committee this year, but students still do not have access critical information about the actions of SGA unless they attend the weekly meetings.**

**In order to make SGA more transparent, I will update the SGA website with resolutions, updated policies (like the new flagpole policy!), updates to the constitution, and weekly Senate updates.**

**I will create a better system for hearing from students. Currently, there is public forum during our meetings and a form students can fill out with their ideas, but there is extremely low student engagement. By streamlining the process of hearing from you, we will be able to elevate your voices and work on what you want to see change, ultimately bettering YOUR student experience.**



## **Productivity:**

**In line with the accountability aspect, there is currently very little framework keeping Senators and P/VP productive. Besides for a few positions, most senators are given free rein over what they want to focus on in regards to their committee and "passion projects." This freedom is great, but sometimes results in little getting accomplished. There needs to be increased updates and check ins on individual projects so they actually get accomplished.**

**Currently, there are different committees, all with different areas of interest. Many senators view them as separate groups with little overlap. In reality, it is so hard to get anything done as an individual senator. We need to shift our focus to all-Senate, or multi-committee goals, so we have more people working on them at once.**

**Overall, I would like to encourage increased collaboration as a group and between committees to get more done as an SGA.**

**By implementing framework for increased accountability and transparency, productivity as a whole will increase.**



## **So what??**

**You may be asking yourself, why does this matter? Who cares about SGA?**

**I would answer that there has historically been a large chunk of the student body questioning SGA and its effectiveness. It's true! We can only work within the administration and what they want us to do. But that doesn't mean we can't do everything in our power to push the boundaries.**

**I think that SGA's role is to uplift other student voices and really push the administration to change things to better our experience on campus.**

**By revamping the internal structure of the student government, we will make SGA more efficient and effective. Which will allow us to implement more of the changes YOU would like to see on campus.**

**I have continuously worked on this throughout my time as a Senator on the Finance Committee, if you'd like to read about that below.**



## **My year as a Senator:**

**Throughout the past year, I have been a Senator on the Finance Committee. The role of the Finance Committee is to allocate the nearly 2 million dollar student activity budget to the 200+ clubs on campus.**

**Our goals as a committee were to increase transparency, patience, and overall communication during the budgeting process. In addition, we wanted to get to know individual club signers better, so we could better understand where the money was going.**

**We accomplished this through increased communication, eliminating the fines for messing up part of the budget, increased budgeting hearings and meeting availability, and overall being more patient.**

**We were instructed by the preceding Finance Committee to keep a straight face, be serious, and to act professional. We instead wanted to be approachable, kind, and understanding throughout the process.**

**My goal for my year as Vice President is to expand my successes on the Finance Committee to the entire SGA.**

**The best part of the budgeting process was getting to know dozens of club signers, and I hope to be able to get to know clubs and students further during my time as VP.**



## **My year as a Senator:**

**In addition to my time on the Finance Committee, I acted as the chair of a new committee, the Social Justice and Action Ad-Hoc Committee.**

**I established contact between administration and identity organizations on campus, through SGA's connection with administration.**

**This has, in turn, increased transparency between administration and students.**

**As I mentioned earlier, our role as an SGA is to uplift student voices and help bridge the gap between administration and students.**

**I was able to do this by helping individuals schedule meetings with the Provost and other administrators.**

**This is something that I value very highly and will keep at the forefront of my time as Vice President if elected.**



**If you've made it this far, thank you for reading! I hope you consider voting for me, Olivija, for SGA Vice President.**

**Please follow my campaign Instagram @olivija.vp to stay up to date and informed about my campaign.**

**Feel free to reach out to me directly! My email is olivija.stephens@uvm.edu and my personal instagram is @olivijastephens**

