

Executive Council Candidate Statement for Jacob Walden

Dear student:

This statement will not make aspirational promises about the future of Colorado College that lie outside of the powers of the head of student government. Frankly, I find politics degrading and discouraging, and after being in CCGSA before I originally thought it would be best to stay out of it. It is the type of activity that discourages the best candidates to stay as far away from it as possible and the which often brings ego-filled passions to run, which result in at best, self-aggrandizement, and at worst, unethical behavior.

I am running for one reason: I think CCSGA has been clouded by bad judgment of people who have taken their positions too seriously, and I believe that has led to the funding mismanagement and a sense of busyness without productivity. James Richardson writes: "it's easy to renounce the world until you see you pick up what you renounced".

Statements like "increased transparency", "more accountability", "new directions", "reaching out to the student body", and "visions" have become meaningless. In an attempt to clarify my position, let me list my concrete, realizable goals in student government:

1. To end, completely, the \$30,400 in payments it issues to its members in pay annually in all future years. I cannot change this year, but I will not be accepting my paycheck offer of \$4,000 for taking this position and I encourage all other candidates to make the same commitment.
2. To stop making CCSGA an organization that attempts to manufacture work for itself. Instead, CCSGA should focus on being an active voice in proposing resolutions in support of student issues and defending them. If this involves removing the funding part of CCSGA and putting it elsewhere, so be it. For example, CCSGA should have been a far more active voice in issues surrounding Ferguson and Campus Assault this last semester, when no action was taken.
3. And above all else, to preserve personal humility and to always endeavor to maintain balance and moderation with CCSGA, my involvement in it, and its activities at Colorado College.

I cannot change college or city policy, but in whatever capacity I will advocate for the following at CC and in Colorado Springs:

4. To pursue greater inclusion of topics of socio-economic diversity in college planning.
5. To revive the campaign for a living wage for all CC staff, and the staff of its contractors.
6. To provide robust support for sexual-assault awareness and response campaigns.
7. To bring segregated bike lanes to Cascade Avenue and improve pedestrian crossings of Nevada Avenue.

If you believe in concrete, realizable ideas, and if you want someone who will pursue the above goals, then I ask for your vote. I promise this: for all of my distaste of politics, I will speak and defend fervently these issues and those voted on in support of by student government next year.

Sincerely,
Jacob Walden