

## **Ariel Filion Personal Statement**

I am running to be the Vice President of Finance to promote transparency among the Finance committee, the rest of CCSGA, and the student body. I think it is important for students to know how their events' funding is spent and the rationale for spending the money that way. I want to make sure that all students and groups feel comfortable asking the Finance committee for money. After all, it is the student body's money. I want to establish a better relationship between the Finance committee and the rest of CCSGA, because it seems as though the Finance committee feels that their only responsibility is fiscal concerns, but I think that other issues and students' concerns on campus are not separate from financial issues. In the 2016-2017 year of student government, I want to make it a year of inclusion rather than separation when it comes to CCSGA, the rest of the campus, and Finance. I want to bring up issues that are sometimes silenced on campus, like diversity. Diversity plays a role in financial decisions, and it is my personal goal to make sure that marginalized groups on campus feel not only welcomed, but also encouraged to come to CCSGA with any problems that they encounter, to ask for funding, or even to give feedback on our process. Furthermore, I want every student to know what CCSGA is and what we have the power to do. This year on CCSGA, I was able to create a bill that helped the non-financial committees of CCSGA have input as to where the events funding of over \$5,000 goes. That way, it is not just a secluded, homogenous group making the large financial decisions. This bill allowed CCSGA to vote on funding over \$5,000, but I think that with decisions concerning any funding in general, it is important to let CCSGA (and furthermore, the student body) give their input. This year, I helped make strides toward greater transparency on CCSGA, and am

currently working on addressing diversity and inclusion issues. Right now, I am not even on Executive Council, so if I was given the opportunity to be on Executive Council, I would have a greater say with administration. With this new influential position, the progress I could make is unparalleled.

My activities on campus help with my approachability and work ethic. On campus, I work at the gym, which gives me the ability to meet with and talk to a lot of the student body. My job is to greet people and make them feel welcomed into the facility. Similarly, I want my enthusiasm and positivity to help ensure that the students feel as comfortable as possible asking for funding. I think it is important to mention that with all my activities, I have mastered time management skills and know how to prioritize my commitments, including my potential position as Vice President of Finance. The Vice President of Finance does a lot of crucial tasks and has to pay attention to detail, which I am very familiar with from my position as a secretary on Chapter Council in Kappa Kappa Gamma. I know the importance of details and I like spending a lot of time ensuring accuracy in all my tasks. In addition, Diversity is important to me primarily because I am a part of the First Generation College student group and Bridge Scholars group on campus. These two groups are very close to my heart because they house some of the marginalized groups on campus who really deserve to have their voices heard.

My greatest concerns on campus revolve around school spirit, student to administration relations, and diversity. Regarding School Spirit, I think it is important for CCSGA to go to the events that we fund and really interact with the student body. Going to the events would make me more available and show that I care about the things we fund. Students tend to live in different pockets on campus, and I want to bring them

together with open discussions centered on thought provoking questions. We talked about this on CCSGA this year, but I want to make sure it gets implemented. I also want to ensure financial questions get asked in this forum. Recently, I have been working toward creating an executive council position that would help come up with tangible diversity solutions, meet with the Butler Center, as well as remind everyone on CCSGA that their positions should all be concerned with diversity on campus, even Finance. I also want to ensure that CCSGA meetings have a designated time for students to come in and state their concerns regarding finances and all college issues. CCSGA and Finance can be inclusive and transparent, but I believe we first have to make CCSGA a platform for change.