2023-2024 SGA ELECTIONS
Senator Candidates

testing close Thursday at 5pm
At-Large seat to represent the Undergraduate Student Body

Thomason Clayton
I am running to be an advocate for what students want and need. There needs to effective comprehensive change to improve campus life for all students. Inflation and affordable housing have hit students hard. There is no reason for the University to hit students’ pockets hard when it comes to the cost of room and board, tuition, books, food, and parking. International students pay three times the tuition rate compared to domestic students and do not reap the full benefits. I am here to fight for every student and lay out the groundwork to work with the Administration to improve campus life and education. Mental health is important. Students should receive the resources and support they need for self-care. Finances impact mental health with students feeling vulnerable. That is why I am running for senator to introduce resolutions to safeguard students’ pockets to make the University more affordable. Students are the stakeholders and are the reasons why the doors at the University stay open. Students deserve to have their voices heard and receive the education they are paying for. Vote for Thomason to be your next student senator.

Daisy Pulliam
I would like to use my position to ensure other Non Traditional Students are well represented. I was the 2022-2023 Non-Traditional Student Rep and saw the many different ways we could be more inclusive for Non-Trads. I would like to see more reach-out events in collaboration with OCSS. We need more education in who is a Non Traditional Student and how that affects their education but also their support system as a whole.

Jeremy Garza
My main goals in an office position are safety and getting more students involved with the various organizations around campus. College can be very isolating without the help of friends - this includes security! I want to ensure that everyone is involved in some organization so there’s more to college besides just going to class. College is a holistic experience, and I firmly believe that everyone should take advantage of the resources available. Additionally, college is the first time most of us are alone - it can get lonely. Therefore, I want to implement ways for organizations to become easier to find and join! I also want to encourage people to leave their comfort zone and try something new! I also want to focus on campus safety and the negative impacts of hazing within Greek Life. As a member of Greek Life, I have seen how other colleges treat hazing, and I want UNT to be different and safer. We all deserve the chance to enjoy the University of North Texas to the fullest; the best way to achieve this is through prioritizing safety and promoting the many organizations our campus has.
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**Jaidyn Watkins**
My campaign to have better campus security and state and federal election accessibility. For campus security I hope to create a platform for alerts information about crime throughout the school that tells when and where crimes happen and gives an alert system for students. For federal and state election accessibility I would like to make a specified day during election where students have optional attendance or excused absences so that they will be able to vote, and participate.

**Bryce Green**
I believe that there are many programs within UNT that need more support and awareness among the student body. There are many students, especially those who transit to and from campus from outside Denton who I feel need to be better incorporated into the student body. We need to set up more events or clubs or pieces of comfort so that they can stay on campus more and feel better incorporated into the Student body.

**Joseph Harrison**
My platform will be focused on Greek Life and the advocacy of the Jewish faith within the UNT student body. There is a significant disconnect between Greek Life and the student body. My platform will focus on bridging the gap between the main student body and Greek life, whether through the advocacy of Greek life through legislation or making the general student body aware of the greek events taking place. Additionally, the Jewish faith is underrepresented in SGA. As a member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, the Jewish fraternity on campus, I am equipped to represent the Jewish members of the UNT general student body. Whether it be through diversity legislation or helping Jewish students on campus find resources, I will support the Jewish community in any way possible.

**Preston Pekowski**
If elected as a Senator for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, I would advocate for efficiency, safety, and fairness. To accomplish these ideals: I will create and support any methods to ensure parking for all students. This includes methods that have reasonable walking distances and enough space to prevent any car damage. Furthermore, I will work towards raising on-campus jobs to a liveable wage, with hopes to increase the quality of life here at the University of North Texas. Additionally, I will strive to increase resources for those struggling with mental health and provide awareness against drug & alcohol abuse. I will seek to create resources where students can gather knowledge in regard to harm reduction (such as naloxone training, recognizing overdose, etc.) and free mental health support groups. Also, expanding and designing increased measures to allow students to vocalize their concerns in a more accessible manner. Overall, I will guarantee my utmost effort to bring these ideas into action and will make every effort to accurately represent all students.
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Lujain Masoud
I want to help in improving student life, cost affordability, inclusion, campus safety, and transparency at UNT. I've grown such love and spirit for this school! I'd love the opportunity to utilize my perspective, experience, and cultivated skill set to give back and serve our student body, and work to make our university even better.

Ray Roberts
I want to be a voice for my college, especially with being a black woman at a MSI, I want to be able to speak for other black women and men who want change but aren’t able to or vocal enough to say it. I feel my experiences as well as upbringing gives me knowledge as well as the tools to be able to help senate as a whole and even more so within my college.

College of Business

Joshua Patterson
I believe wholeheartedly in UNT, it's mission, and it's students. Having said that, I believe in a future in which students feel more connected to this university and to one another, a future in which attending UNT is a point of pride no matter your degree path. I believe I can take the first step towards effecting that reality in my own college, the Ryan College of Business. We have a successful school with great programs but I aim to better connect students to the resources, support, and community which is already offered for them. Far too many services offered by UNT go unknown and unused and I would like to help students succeed by enabling them to access these resources through better student outreach from the student government.

Matthew Hailu
My undergraduate years at North Texas have been nothing but astounding. Only getting better and better as time goes by. After seeing the opening for this position, I was intrigued to see what it was about. Although I don't have a complete understanding, I can for sure say that I can make an impact. My goals will consist of listening to and making sure to represent all students from the college of business. From the ones that are here from out of the country to the ones that are struggling in classes. I feel that it's necessary to understand and listen to what everyone has to say and I plan to use all my skills in order to accomplish that.

Nayely Alejandre
My campaign platform surrounds three common and overlapping ideas: 1) Access, Inclusivity, and Accountability. If appointed to the position of Senator for the College of Business, I would seek to address many of the concerns business students have shared with me including increasing availability to advisors as well as working with RCOB faculty to
set up a pipeline for students to secure summer and/or semester-long internship positions. For the campus at large, I also want to introduce legislation that would target low-income and first generation students like myself familiarize themselves with the resources available to them as part of their tuition (i.e. First-Generation Student Success Center, Student Legal Services, etc...) as well as legislation that targets student safety and well-being on campus (Introduce more lighting along pedestrian crossing sites and sidewalks, work to establish a 24 hour self-serve dining hall, Have the UNT shuttle make frequent stops at late night student hubs such as Willis Library and Pohl Rec Center) to and from the dorms.

Janel Cole
My goal is to make sure that we gain more student involvement. We can do this by doing more automated emails. This will help students be aware of all the events that are to take place. I plan to help other students find themselves and do anything I can to help them on their career path.

College of Education
Lindsay Kisivuli
My name is Lindsay Kisivuli and I am running for re-election for the 2023-2024 school year with the college of education. I feel that I am qualified for this position because I am passionate about the college of education and about the students that are apart of thus college. As a past senator I advocated for change in my college my speaking to the students and asking them what needed to get better in the college and I truly feel that with yalls help change will happen.

College of Engineering
Sunita Abbasi
My goal as a Senator is to be a listening ear for students on campus who want change and want to be heard. I would also like this opportunity because I want to be able to expand my leaderships skills and learn skills I can take with me after college. This opportunity will allow me to grow as a student and connect me with students who have similar plans in college and after graduation. Not only am I here to listen to the student body, but I also plan on bringing new ideas for all future students at UNT.

Rutwik Duggireddy
The reason I want to run for senator at discovery park is because I spend all my time there with class and work booth being at DP, so I have a good understanding of what DP needs and wants. some of my top goals and wants are better and more unified internet connective along with better guide signs so students can better find there way also to have better transportation to and from main campus especial during peak hours. Theas are my main goals but there many more things i would like to do to improve discovery park
College of Health and Public Service

Mim Southard
As a member of the college of health and public service, I aim to represent my student body and uphold university values. My goals for the office are to help provide students with more mental health resources and help nurture and build long-lasting relationships between students and the university.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Evan J Welch
I believe that CLASS has some fundamental issues because of its size. By specifically working with individual majors, I believe that I will be able to identify and understand the problems on a more personal level, allowing situations to be heard and properly dealt with in an efficient manner. Additionally, I’ve spoken to people about anti-Semitism on campus, specifically my roommate who is a board member for AEPI, and I’ve found it to be a serious problem for both him and his brothers. I hope to spread advocacy for those who are frightened by this issue and provide support for the Jewish community. Next, I want to address the issue with the UNT parking system and suggest an overhaul of the system that would benefit students and staff, which has been a prevalent conflict for both groups. Finally, I would like to address overpopulation on campus, as well as the insecurities surrounding the unaffordability of student housing for non-freshmen. Some of these conflicts affect me and the ones around me personally and I hope through Senate, I will be about to find resolutions for these pressing problems, in order to make a safer and more accepting campus here at UNT.

Sven Soli
I am honored to run for the senate in student government! Once elected I intend to proudly serve the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences on my respective committee/s. I will fight for equity reform and legislation, fairly enforce rules, and help to create a successful academic and school environment at UNT. My platform intends to help increase the minimum wage for workers to $15 dollars an hour, improve mental health services, and effectively balance the relationship between the students and facility. Most importantly, I intend to fight for the benefit of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences within my respective role. I will value the word of my constituents and attempt to reach out and heed their word as reliably as possible. Finally, as a student that lives on campus I will understand and merit the word of the smaller group of those that live on campus, ensuring and enforcing safety standards and cleanliness for dorms and fighting for those who rely on them for housing.
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Aretha Raibon

As a Senator for the University of North Texas, my goals are to prioritize student needs and concerns, promote diversity and inclusion on campus, and work towards creating a more sustainable and environmentally conscious community. Areas I am interested in are the availability of resources on campus for mental health support and ensuring that students have access to fair and equitable on campus job opportunities. When getting a position I am committed to actively listening to my constituents and advocating for their best interests.

Sandra Nwankwo

As a senator, I will advocate for my constituents and my college by representing the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and work with my college’s community to address any concerns and bring changes only for the better of this college and the students within this diverse community. I am big on mental health, especially being a psychology major. I know having a healthy mind is important not only for success within a college environment but also for one’s overall well-being. As a senator, I would hope to contribute to more resources and awareness for CLASS especially as there’s a large body of students to represent within this college also meaning many voices to be heard. I also believe this will be a position that will also help me see growth within myself and expand my knowledge within my college and community as a whole as I work alongside other peers.

College of Music

Dylan Garcia

I am running on the fact that no matter what race, sex, origin, sexuality, gender, or any other defining factors you are, everyone should have a vote, and as your incumbent College of Music senator, I will strive for not only for the voices of the College of Music to be heard but everyone's voice to be heard campus-wide.

Ayanna Randall

I want to make sure that everybody has a voice. Not just a certain demographic, but everyone, plain and simple. I don't want to just hear that everyone is treated fairly and equally; I want to see it, I want to feel it, and I want to be a part of a body that enforces it and helps to ensure that all students are heard. Not just this, but I will also aim to help students to feel comfortable in who they are and embracing the imperfect parts of their journey at UNT and in life. People should feel comfortable when they need help, be it academic, mental or just decision making, no one should feel afraid to ask for help. I want to help create a safe space for students to do that.
College of Science

Faith Falana
I am running as a Senator for the Student Government Association because as a current first-year council member, I strive to continue to represent the majority freshmen class, especially those in the College of Science. I want to be able to support all students by creating resources and aiding them in their undergraduate years, which is pivotal for where they may end up in the future. I want to promote basic life skills with an emphasis on health and mental well-being, which may often be neglected during stressful times.

College of Visual Arts and Design

Javontay Donaldson
Hello, I am Javontay Donaldson and I would like to run for senate because I would like to better my college, which is the college of visual arts and design or CVAD. The main issue that I would like to address at CVAD is the lack of accessibility for those who are disabled. There is a lack of elevators as well as majority of the doors doors are not automatic, and the layout of the college in general can make it hard to move around as well. I believe these to be the most prominent matters in our college as of now and I can guarantee that I will work to the best of my abilities to get these problems fixed.

Honors College

Braden Dahlem
I want to continue into the next semester as a senator to pursue passing legislation to create new honors sections for classes with higher demand. Along with that, I want to create a more inviting honors experience.

Alex Chanaa
I would be proud to serve as the next Senator for the Honors College! As Senator, I would push for a more equitable playing field for all UNT Students and more liveliness across campus. My platform includes the improvement of transportation services at UNT, A commitment to raising the minimum wage of all UNT workers and faculty, and the improvement of mental health resources and services at UNT. As a commuter who takes the DCTA A-Train and the Route 7 bus every single day, I understand the importance of having our transportation services, both on and off campus, stable and arriving at consistent times. As a UNT worker, it is shameful that the current UNT Administration cannot raise the minimum wage from a measly $8.25 an hour to a livable wage of $15 an hour to support our hardworking and admirable workers and faculty. This is where the Student Government Association needs to step up, by openly advocating for a livable minimum wage of $15 an hour. As a UNT student, I understand the need for more mental health services and advocacy.
Mayborn School of Journalism

Paola Redding
Hi Eagles! My name is Paola Redding, I'm seeking to represent you as the Student Government Association of Mayborn School of Journalism for the 2023-2024 term. I'm currently a freshman majoring in Digital and Print Writing hoping to pursue a career in professional writing. I was born in Monterrey, Mexico and a proud Latino student who’s the oldest daughter of a hard-working immigrant family. Previously, I was President Girl Up, Executive Member of my school's Journalism/ Yearbook Class, and Founder of Come Forward For Kids where we provided aid to children at local hospitals. I am hopeful to have the opportunity to not only represent my fellow classmates, but contribute to the culture being harnessed at the UNT. To advocate for concerns students have and bring about action. Not leave any stone unturned and commit solely to success and integrity for the university and its students. If given the opportunity, I wouldn’t take it for granted. Instead, I would make it my mission to put forward the solicitudes you may have to the highest authority at the university if necessary. Wishing you all a great semester and don’t forget to vote for Paola Redding for 2023-2024 SGA Mayborn College!

Alfred Dozier IV
“Let me help write your story.”If elected into the Student Government Senate I plan to fiercely advocate for students of all backgrounds, creeds, and identities especially those from the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism. I want to help students write their stories, by listening to them and seeing what they want to be changed. My goals for office are to help pass legislation that helps students succeed, and achieve their own goals. At the end of the day, everything I’ll do is for the students. I want to create and promote a dialogue where students feel free to share their wants, needs, and problems with me and the Student Government Association at large. Allowing students to feel as though they have a voice and stake within the University.

Jazlyn Drake
One of my goals for my time in the office will be to host more career fairs within the school of journalism. It’s required that students in the college of journalism must obtain an internship before they can graduate to obtain in-field experience. The college of journalism hasn’t hosted a career fair for only journalism students. I would also want to focus on professional readiness courses or workshops that journalism students can take. Such as learning resume tips, how to dress for an interview, and how to conduct yourself as a professional. These skills are something we’re not learning in our required classes and if we want to be prepared for an internship or a job. I think it should be something that journalism students are learning.
Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Tejas Rajagopal
As a senator in the SGA student government, I hope to advocate for policies that will help my constituency at TAMS continue to grow and succeed. My key priorities will be to continue advocating for more funds that can be allocated towards TAMS related programs and events. Moreover, I hope to provide a general voice for TAMS as a whole in a SGA dominated by UNT students.

Advay Vyas
As a member of the Student Government Association, I would push for change across various aspects of student life. As a member of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS), I know firsthand that our population is separated from UNT. Still, I’d like to foster collaboration similar to the partnership between TAMS F1RE and UNT Formula SAE. Through these unique UNT experiences, TAMS students can diversify their interests, from bladesmithing to cycling to creative writing. While opportunities at TAMS are wonderful, the entire expanse of UNT clubs and social activities is waiting to be discovered by the TAMS population. In addition, on behalf of TAMS, I’d like to pass legislation to give more care to the environment and preserve the UNT campus for future generations. SGA could introduce legislation that provides for wildlife near construction projects such as the site near College Inn. Overall, I’d like to campaign and advocate for TAMS involvement in UNT and preserve the UNT campus for generations to come through more sustainable practices.

Om Kulkarni
I'm running on a platform of making the TAMS experience optimal for all academy students by giving TAMS a better standing among the university populace. I intend to focus on improving the experiences of all students by supporting changes such as menstrual equity and mental health awareness. College can be stressful, and students need access to resources that support their mental and physical well-being. I will work to ensure that UNT provides accessible and affordable mental and physical health services to its students. In addition, I would like to focus my campaign on environmental sustainability. As a community, we have a responsibility to protect the planet for years to come. I will work to ensure that UNT adopts sustainable practices that promote environmental sustainability and advocate for renewable energy sources, reducing waste on campus, and promoting sustainable transportation options.