

Isaac Muir

Candidate for 2026 Senate – USG

Candidate Platform

My name is Isaac Muir, I'm from the Chicago area and I'm a rising sophomore at Fordham College Rose Hill Honors. I'm an International Political Economy and Sociology Major with a Minor in Spanish. As someone who values friendships with students whose backgrounds run a wide spectrum of experience across gender, race, sexuality, religious and class perspectives on campus, I have been listening closely to a broad range of perspectives on navigating our first year here at Fordham. I took great solace in my community and want to pay that forward by fighting for real and practical changes that notably improve our experience next year here at Rose Hill.

In engaging with the class of 2026, I've heard both universal concerns and also concerns specific to certain groups. I have worked hard to make my platform reflect all these concerns by introducing hands-on upgrades to enhance student life, uphold Fordham's reputation (which will be our reputation when we're on the job market) and combat some of the more systemic challenges here on campus.

One issue in regards to our experience that I will tackle in my time serving as senator for the class of 2026 is improving outside communal spaces. The winter is long here in NY and cabin fever can be a real downer. You've told me you want more outdoor heated eating spaces and I'm on it! As a member of the Dining and Facilities Committee, I will help make plans to weatherproof outdoor dining at Fordham. If given the opportunity to serve you, I will introduce **HEAT LAMPS AT URBAN AND COSÍ SEATING.** Costs for heating lamps that heat up to 250 square feet and table umbrellas are in the hundreds of dollars (which is quite manageable) and I will fight for this on the USG floor. I will work with the joint committee of Budget, Student Operations and Student Experience as well as the Vice President of Finance and Budget to create funding so that students can comfortably eat outside at Rose Hill – rain, cold or shine!

In listening to the student body, one universal complaint I've heard a lot is the artists Fordham brings in to perform. Fordham brings in artists who we don't connect with and aren't excited about. That's why I want to allow you to **VOTE ON THE PERFORMERS YOU**

WANT COMING TO FORDHAM! In being elected senator, I would make sure that the student body has the largest say in who comes to campus to perform. I recognise there are financial constraints on who can come to Fordham but seeing as coveted artists coming to Fordham excites students, boosts morale, improves school spirit and student togetherness, Fordham could stan to let us pick from the group of artists they are looking at and also improve the budget they are using for artists.

Coming from Evanston, Illinois, the home of Northwestern, I remember going into nearly every restaurant as a kid and seeing bold advertisements in the windows emphasizing that NU students eat for a discounted price. However, this opportunity is not as present as it needs to be in our setting. Fordham area discounts only exist for a small number of Italian restaurants, most of which aren't the most popular among students. That's why if I'm elected, **WHETHER IT'S PIZZA, TACOS, OR TERIYAKI, NEVER EAT FULL PRICE ON ARTHUR AVE AS A FORDHAM STUDENT AGAIN.** As your senator, I will work with the Facilities Dining Committee to reach out to restaurants unencompassed by our limited promotions and broker deals with these restaurants who are missing out on the opportunity to have an influx of hungry college students dine at their restaurants. I will also work with the Communications and Marketing Committee to make students aware of these new discounts that we offer. With our tuition, I want to make you never pay full price for Fordham area restaurants.

As a member of USG, I will look to improve the housing lottery system that is frustrating students across the board. I will reach out to The Office of Residential Life at Fordham to initiate a proposal that high-demand housing is released in waves so that everybody has a chance, no matter the random timeslot you're assigned (barring student athletes who often move in early). During the 2022-2023 school year, O'Haire Doubles were filled up as early as 11:00 AM. Many who were assigned later time slots, not by any fault of their own, did not have a fair shot at their first choice; and some even ended up in overflow housing. In order to reform this policy and make the class of 2026's experience better with housing selection, we must use multiple entities to fight for this resolution. Using my connection to RHA, other students including board members and I will advocate for this issue on the RHA floor, which is in line with their stated purpose as "an outlet for residential students to raise concerns about issues happening within the residence halls and serve as the residential

student voice, advocating for their needs and desires within the Office of Residential Life and the United Student Government.” My fellow senators and I would push reform on the USG floor so that both USG and RHA collaborate along with The Office of Residential Life to release housing in waves, in order to more effectively distribute the chance at securing high-demand housing to all timeslots.

Additionally, as a senator for my class, I will place a strong emphasis on making sure all students have access to **AT LEAST ONE FREE THERAPY SESSION A WEEK.** Stress, isolation, anxiety, depression, and pressure is REAL for the student body. But you’re telling me that we are NOT getting the support we need here at Fordham. Let me explain: Our academic calendar divides semesters into 14 and 16 week periods for fall and spring semesters respectively. However, Fordham only allots 12 free therapy sessions per semester which is not a frequency that lets students effectively connect with their therapist or even have enough cushion in their timeline to find another one, if the first wasn’t a fit. As a senator, I will take the initiative to work with the Committee of Student Affairs (CSA), specifically the Counseling and Psychological Services to advocate for students’ right to more of this critical and sometimes life-changing resource. We all know therapy not only improves academic performance and mental health, but overall health and happiness as well. As a student body, we must ensure that the on-campus/remote therapy offering is expanded to make us feel seen and to meet the demand of any emotional and psychological challenges that the student body may be feeling - so that we can get back to work, shaping our best selves at Fordham.

Another need I plan to address as your senator is the implementation of **free eco-friendly laundry detergent in our residence halls.** Using my connection with the Residence Hall Association (RHA) as well as work with RHA’s delegate who is a voting member of The Senate, I will work on a joint resolution to provide free eco-friendly laundry detergent. Along with my fellow senators in the joint budget committee under the Student Life Council, and I will initiate and help and lead dialogue with RHA’s e-board members, as well as participate in any conversations that need to happen with RDs regarding the specifics of the resolution.

Furthermore, as a member of your class who not only values diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, but also recognises the need for marginalized communities to have a seat at the decision making table, I will **propose a bylaw that says USG must meet with a club approved by OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs) at least every month. Examples**

of these clubs include Leading Women of Tomorrow, ASILI (The Black Student Alliance), Asian Cultural exchange (ACE), El Grito, Middle Eastern Student Association, PRIDE alliance among others. . This way, we as a senate can avoid scrambling to collaborate with clubs during their history months and instead actually support marginalized students for the long run. Many of these groups on

campus don't feel like their voices are heard by the student government, or feel that the student government doesn't represent them well enough. In order to remedy this, one specific structure within this bylaw I propose, is a student representative selected by a majority vote of a club's e-board, (or in the case of a club not having an e-board, the president of the club will be asked) who not only would be invited to attend USG meetings to voice concerns facing their community, be also kept up to date about policy developments that could affect their club/community, and if necessary OMA clubs will be in a more proximate position compared to other clubs to advocate for additional funding from USG in tandem with CAB or another entity.

As your senator for 2026, I will work with the Committee on Sustainability to make all cutlery at on campus restaurants sustainable. I'm sure many of you find yourselves throwing away multiple packs of salt, paper, napkins and forks that come with a Cosi meal or on-campus dining spots. Not only is this wasteful and bad for our carbon footprint, it's a bad look. If we want to be seen as a high-level research and academic space, then we need to act like an institution that cares about the data and the science. According to the New York Daily News, "Plastic cutlery is not uniformly constructed and such items are often too small for most recycling machines, which means they're deemed unrecyclable." As a member of the Dining and Facilities committee, and in cooperation with the Budget Committee, I will focus on implementing cutlery that can be recycled and decreases our carbon footprint. If necessary, we will be advised by Fordham's CCL (Citizens Climate Lobby) and the other climate related organizations on campus such as Rose Hill Environmental Club.