

Valentina Resano Senate Platform

Fordham is special because of its diverse and caring community and I believe that the individuals on this campus deserve to be top priority. My term in office would reflect this idea by considering the well-being of students of the utmost importance. As a first generation international student, I have not always felt entirely supported by the university, which is a view I think many other students share as well. This lack of support, in my opinion, begins during the summer before freshman year when we are thrown into the student class registration process with little guidance. Though it may seem small, beginning your college experience as well as every semester after that with this stress and frustration of the registration process can put a dampening mood on your whole college experience overall. As a senator, I would strive to simplify this process for students and thus eliminate a big stress in their lives. This could be done in a variety of ways, such as different selection times based on random grouping within each graduating class. There should not be hundreds of students trying to simultaneously select the same classes on one server that crashes every single time.

Further, I would seek to improve the mental health resources for the community. When I reached out for help during the first semester, my file was lost and I was not contacted for months. Upon discussing my experience with other students, I realized I was not the only one. I want to make more mental health resources available to the students on campus. On the topic of health, I also noticed a big issue with the excused absence for medical purposes system. Students are not able to get an excused absence from class without attending the health office. Even while being on the school's health insurance it costs money to get an absence excused. This is especially harmful to lower income students who may have to choose between their own well being and academic success, especially considering attendance plays a big factor in final grades for numerous classes. Many students end up going to class sick which creates a negative environment where students are not able to take care of themselves and puts other students' health at risk.

One of the things that has impressed me the most about Fordham is the amount of students organizing events and taking initiative to make this school so amazing. I want to take my time as a senator to promote, celebrate, and support the many amazing organizations that are going above and beyond to plan and execute events for the student body as well as the neighborhood of the Bronx as a whole. I love being a part of the Fordham community and I just want to help turn attending here into the experience that everybody deserves.