



Dakota's Responses

Candidate Question #1: Why do you feel that you are qualified for the position for which you have declared your candidacy?

Growing up on a family farm in rural Illinois taught me the value of hard work, responsibility, and community. As a first-generation college student, I know what it's like to navigate challenges and forge my own path, balancing academic success with running my own small business. These experiences have shaped my leadership skills, my ability to solve problems creatively, and my commitment to representing diverse perspectives.

Since arriving at USC, I've become deeply involved in a variety of campus organizations, from student advocacy groups to leadership initiatives. These roles have given me insight into the unique needs of our student body and the ability to collaborate across different communities. Whether advocating for more accessible transportation options, like expanding Fryft services to include The Grove, or pushing for greater tuition transparency, I've consistently worked to make USC a better place for all students.

My background, both on and off campus, has prepared me to bring a strong, solution-oriented approach to the USG Senate. I'm ready to put my experience and passion to work for every Trojan, ensuring that our voices are heard and our needs are met.



Candidate Question #2: Why do you want the USC Undergraduate Student Government position that you are running for?

I'm running for USG Senate because I believe USC students deserve a government that truly listens to and advocates for their needs. As someone who has experienced both the opportunities and challenges of being a Trojan, I've seen areas where our university can improve—and I want to be part of the solution.

One of my biggest concerns is transparency. Students pay significant tuition and fees, yet many of us have little understanding of how that money is spent. I want to advocate for greater tuition spending transparency, ensuring that students can see where their contributions go and have a say in how they're used.

Another priority is expanding accessibility and convenience, particularly with transportation. Expanding Fryft services to include key destinations like The Grove would not only make life easier but also safer for students exploring Los Angeles. Additionally, I aim to address issues with dining dollars, advocating for rollover options as well as more donation options.

USC is a remarkable institution, but there's room to grow. As your USG Senator, I'll work tirelessly to ensure that our voices are heard, our concerns addressed, and our campus becomes a better place for every Trojan.



Candidate Question #3: What changes would you like to see at this university, and why?

As a student, I've experienced firsthand the financial pressures that come with a college education, and one area that urgently needs attention is textbook affordability. Many students struggle to afford the required materials for their courses, which hinders their ability to succeed academically. I'd like to see USC implement a campus-wide initiative to promote more affordable textbook options, such as expanding the use of open educational resources (OER) and increasing access to rental programs as well as placing every required textbook in a digital library that can be accessed by all students at no additional charge. No student should have to choose between paying for textbooks and other essential needs.

Another key change I'd propose is reevaluating the annual \$269,000 spent on USG stipends. Today, I am pledging that as a senator, I will not take a stipend to show my support for this initiative. While student leaders deserve recognition for their contributions, these funds could be better allocated to programs that directly benefit the student body, such as enhancing mental health resources, improving campus facilities, or supporting food insecurity initiatives. Public service should be driven by a commitment to the community rather than compensation.

These changes reflect my belief that USC should be a place where every student feels supported, where resources are accessible, and where financial barriers don't stand in the way of success. By focusing on affordability and equity, we can create a stronger, more united Trojan community.