

Hello, Class of 2027! My name is Brandon Macaluso, and I am currently seeking election as your next class Senator. To speak lightly, I am a prospective finance major at the Gabelli School of Business and a resident at the lovely Queens Court. I am quite the history buff and a lifelong student. I have loved theater since I was a little, timid sixth grader, and so far, my time here at Fordham, like many of you, has been great.

But great doesn't mean perfect. When we tell our family and friends at other schools and far away communities, we often neglect to mention the feelings of despair, loneliness, and isolation that come with college life as a freshman. I, myself, am no stranger to these feelings. I share the same personal experience as many of you. I come from a town outside of Hartford, Connecticut, and went to a Catholic High School where everyone knew everyone, and no one was a stranger. But now I'm in the Bronx, hours from home, and you cannot help but feel dropped into a cold world. I know I am not the only one who feels this way. This is why I am running on a simple, concise platform summed up in one phrase, "A voice for the mute."

Student Government at Fordham is so much more than what it was in high school. USG makes changes, their meeting has an impact, and it is undoubtedly not a clique. But no one knows that unless they ask. And who will tell that to the quiet kid in the back of the room, side of the lounge, or alone in the library with headphones on? How are the hundreds of timid young adults here at Fordham supposed to know when they are too afraid to find out? I, again, am no stranger to these fears and emotions. However, I have forced myself to evolve from an introvert to avoid falling behind. Others might need more strength and so are left behind.

Fordham administration, Campus Activities Board, USG, and the orientation committees all work tirelessly to give students opportunities to meet people and form their groups. But that doesn't make it any easier to find people like you.

My goals as a senator are simple: speak for the uninvolved, the quiet, and the reserved. Speak for the lonely and speak for the ones who study, practice, rehearse, and learn in isolation. That I may be a friend to them, and an avid representative of their needs, wants, and suggestions in this student government.

Thank you,
Brandon Macaluso