

Dear USG Election Commissioners,

My name is Ava Cascella, and I am currently a junior at FCRH and the executive vice president of the United Student Government at Rose Hill. I am running for a class of 2026 senate position in this election cycle. My experience in student government has been extremely meaningful, and I want to continue representing not just my class but the entire Fordham community.

As a senator this past Fall and now as Vice President, I have centered my work in USG around issues directly facing students in their day-to-day lives. Whether that was the inconvenience of not having payment savings for the Ram van, inadequate commuter meal plans, or frustration with health center testing prices, I have worked to address and correct these issues. In my efforts to better the lives of students I have learned that oftentimes, a senator does not need to produce a detailed proposal rich of research to make a change happen. Oftentimes, going directly to the source of the issue and communicating this concern effectively and repetitively will result in a change much faster. I plan to address issues that don't necessarily require a formal research plan frequently during my senate term and believe this will result in USG making more frequent accomplishments.

For my next term as a class senator, I plan to continue working on initiatives by effectively communicating with department heads. I have found that building strong relationships with faculty has aided the success of resolving issues. In addition to this, I want to bridge the gap between the student body and administration and reiterate to students that faculty is more accessible to us than we think. In regards to specific issues I want to address, I specifically want to focus on creating more employment opportunities for students across Fordham departments. I. Currently, many departments on campus need help—they need more workers to delegate the volume of work they do daily. On the other hand, students need jobs on campus; although the solution seems obvious here, this issue continues to perpetuate throughout each semester.

As a class senator next semester, I would prioritize expanding student employment opportunities across all departments, such as the Ram Van, ODS, public safety, etc. By expanding job opportunities on campus, I hope these departments will be more efficient and become equipped to tackle issues that burden students daily. In addition, students can gain more practical work experience in their areas of interest. Since I have already built strong rapport with many department heads, I am very confident that I can push initiatives through. In my different USG positions I have learned that building trust with members of the Fordham community is the key pillar of tangible and informed change. I will be a senator that is an effective communicator, persistent in proposal efforts, and willing to collaborate with the broader Fordham community, beyond USG.

I'm confident that as a class senator for FCRH, I will enact real change for generations of Fordham students to come. I am ready to make a difference in Fordham student life. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Ava Cascella