THE PHOENIX PARTY

UNITE -ENGAGE -TRANSFORM

Who are we?

The Phoenix Party is dedicated to revising the landscape of the Student Government, breathing new life into its structures, processes, and priorities. We believe in fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusivity while championing the diverse voices and needs of our student body.

At the heart of the Phoenix Party lies a commitment to innovation and progress. We envision a Student Government that is responsive, **proactive**, and truly representative of the student community it serves. Through collaborative efforts and bold initiatives, we seek to create a more vibrant, equitable, and engaging university experience for all.

Accomplishments this Year

- Launched USG First ever Quarterly Reports to increase transparency on campus.
    - USG Winter Quarter Report
    - USG Autumn Quarter Report 2024
- Greek Life Representation: USG introduced Greek Life Liaisons, appointing Amelia Gibbs (‘25) and Isaías Vilato (‘26). This new role strengthens communication and collaboration between USG and Greek organizations, marking a milestone in inclusivity efforts.

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- Expanded Membership: Welcomed approximately 45 new committee members, selected from 68 applicants, increasing active participation within USG to around 75 members.
- African Language Expansion Program: Successfully introduced the first virtual Igbo language course at the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Chicago Language Center and Division of Humanities.
- Startup Spotlights – Launching Quarterly Startup Spotlights on Instagram to showcase the amazing ventures created by UChicago students
- Laundry Assistance Program: Launched a subsidized laundry card initiative to alleviate financial burdens for students, continuing a project initiated by former VP Campus Life Nina Hafner (‘24).
- Transportation Feedback and VIA Rideshare Program: Worked closely with Transportation Services to collect student feedback and improve the VIA rideshare program.
- Advocated for the Expansion of 24-hour study Spaces on Campus, leading to additional capacity for late-night study spaces during finals week with Mansueto.
- Promoted documentation for students to fill out if they experienced housing insecurity to waive fees associated with winter break housing and continued to work on that expansion.

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Candidates

Executive

President: Elijah Jenkins ‘26

- Major: Law, Letters, and Society & Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity
- From: Chandler, AZ
- Odyssey Scholar
- Experience: Current President of USG and former College Council Chair and 2026 College Council Rep,
- Worked as a direct liaison with the Center of Student Success, representing UChicago at the 1VYG (FGLI) conference and connected with administrators to help improve campus FGLI resources.
- Launch the very first USG initiative of Greek Life Liaison in USG to increase collaboration.
- Key Project: Met with key administrators of University of Chicago Language Center in creating transparency/efficient policies for students wanting to take languages not offered on campus (i.e CourseShare). Advocated for the hiring of UChicago’s first ever Igbo Professor for Autumn 24 .
- Fun Facts: On campus I work at the Center for Student Success, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and a member of Kababayan, but in my free time I enjoy doing photography and faithfully listening to Spotify’s Discover Weekly.

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Executive Vice President: Alex Fuentes ‘26

- Major: Political Science and Economics
- From: Silver Spring, MD
- Experience: Current Chair of College Council, former 2027 College Council Rep
- Key Projects: Ensuring students who are facing housing insecurity have support and resources for winter break housing, facilitating for Students with Title IX cases have alternative transportation options from Via, and training Undergraduate Student Government for effective advocacy.
- Fun Facts: I spend way too much time at the Institute of Politics, assisting with Secretary Buttigieg’s programing during his fellowship and as a member of the Leaders of Color Cohort. Additionally, I enjoy running, even if the Chicago weather does not want me to.

VP Campus Life: Annie Yang ‘26

- Major: Environment, Geography, Urbanization Studies (CEGU) and Physics
- From: Eastvale, CA; Hong Kong
- Experience: Current Chair of Committee on Campus Sustainability
- Key Project: This year, as chair of the Committee of Campus Sustainability, I worked to expand composting programs on and off campus, implement more water bottle filling stations on campus (specifically in Max Palevsky, to be introduced over this summer), improve cycling safety, and promote collaboration between USG and environmental RSOs. As VP Campus Life, I plan to continue and expand these initiatives, with specific focus on mobility and RSO collaboration. I will push for UPASS+ (so that the UPASS covers the Metra in addition to the CTA) and continue working with Facilities & Planning on improving campus street infrastructure. Additionally, I plan to work toward

centralizing RSO communication and activities. Currently, there is no centralized platform for learning about all the awesome events, projects, and opportunities happening across campus, and I hope to work within USG to provide such a service.

- Fun Facts: I worked on a permaculture farm in rural France the summer before UChicago where I learned about regenerative agriculture (through WWOOF, highly recommend it!) During the winter season, you can catch me skating on the Midway ice rink every other day (I used to play ice hockey).

VP of Advocacy: Andrea Pita Mendez '27

- Major: Law, Letters and Society + English Language and Literature
- From: Miami, Florida
- Experience: Current Vice President of Advocacy, Former College Council Representative Class of 2027 and Chair of the Academic and Career Advising Committee
- Key Project: Next year, I want to spend time creating an Economics minor in the College, continue to work to streamline Stellic in the Pre-Registration process to facilitate students getting the courses they need, expanding education surrounding the Chicago principles, and advocate for low-income students access to proper funding to pursue their education without worries.
- Fun Fact: On campus, I work at the IOP as an outreach specialist (that just means I'm taking photos and working on social media), I compete on the Mock Trial team and write for the Undergraduate Law Magazine. When I'm not busy, I love to spend time reading, hang out at the Point (when it's warm), and try new restaurants in Chicago!

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VP of Student Affairs : Malaina Culbertson (Write In)

- Major: Public Policy and Human Rights
- From: Keystone, Indiana
- Experience: Community Service Fund
- Key Project: My goal for next year is to strengthen communication both within USG and between USG and the broader student body. I want to create more accessible avenues for students to share their concerns with USG members, and for committee members to collaborate with and bring concerns to the cabinet.
- Fun Fact: Over the course of my first year the IOP has definitely become one of my most visited spots on campus, between W+ and events related to my AY Internship with the Office Illinois State Senator Robert Peters. If not at the IOP for some event or another, you might find me in Hallowed (or some other coffee shop on campus), decorating doors for birthdays in my house, or reading a book on the quad (weather permitting).

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The Phoenix Party Platform

Unite Engage Transform

Unite

1. Countine our open “Office Hours” at specific times each week where students can drop in to discuss concerns or ideas with USG members.
2. Schedule events with RSO leaders to discuss best practices regarding the USG funding process.
3. Hold standing Zoom office hours to accommodate remote or off-campus students and provide accessibility to a wider audience.
4. Allocate a dedicated time slot during each cabinet meeting for a brief presentation from USG representatives, outside of the cabinet, to share updates and gather input
5. Establish a USG Committee on Greek Life

Engage

Transparency

1. Collaborate closely with The Maroon to ensure accurate and timely reporting on USG activities and provide quarterly updates on internal programs and initiatives.



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2. Create a routine release of resolutions passed in College Council posted on Instagram
    a. Regular updates on the goings-on of the College Council on Instagram
    b. Quarter-in-review posts detailing what Student Government has achieved each quarter

RSOs

3. Conduct regular surveys or feedback sessions with CAT RSOs to identify funding needs and priorities and actively seek ways to address them.
    a. Create a guidebook to help inform the RSO on campus to obtain sponsorship from other departments on campus
4. Establish joint committees or task forces with College Council and Cabinet members to develop and implement shared legislative policies pertinent to RSO needs/wants.
5. Increased focus on RSO leader training, such as how to fundraise, request funds, and organize events
6. Organize roundtable discussions or focus groups with race/ethnic/cultural affiliate RSOs to explore potential collaborations, events, and ways to support diverse student communities.
7. Increased collaboration with campus startups that aim to connect the UChicago community
    a. Continue our Start-up Spotlight on Instagram

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Transform

Current Initiatives

1. Finalize the establishment of the Student Activities Fund and implement a clear application process to support low-income students financially.
2. Increase USG outreach among campus partners on the South Side through connections with Local Officials.
    a. Continued advocacy for the Black House Campaign
3. Continuing narratives with Divvy/Lyft, to pursue
    a. A continued increase of Divvy stations on and around campus (resolution)
    b. A general student discount, rather than one only for students on financial aid
4. Pursuing improvements to places of learning on campus
    a. Pushing for improved Wi-Fi connectivity in areas with high concentrations of students, such as in libraries or in large classrooms (such as those in Kent, Saieh, or the Social Science Research Building)
    b. Expanding library access hours
5. Pushing for the implementation of an improved RSO events calendar to improve RSO outreach to the student body
6. Continual regular meetings with Advising Office prior and after Pre-registration to express student feedback and monitor current initiatives

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Future Initiatives

7. Collaborate with race/ethnic/cultural affiliate RSOs to create inclusive events and initiatives that celebrate diversity and promote cross-cultural understanding.
8. Continue advocacy efforts to diversify the Humanities core curriculum and ensure the representation of marginalized voices and perspectives.
9. Adding course feedback options for withdrawn students to create a more holistic picture of a course for potential students
10. Work closely with relevant departments and stakeholders to advocate for increased diversity within language departments, including hiring practices and course offerings.
11. Implement measures to address Reading Period violations, such as increased monitoring and enforcement of academic policies and providing resources for student support during high-stress periods.
12. Continue discussions with university administration and relevant departments to advance initiatives aimed at diversifying faculty and course offerings within language departments,
13. Develop a comprehensive training program for USG chairs and representatives, covering topics such as effective communication, conflict resolution, and project management skills.
14. Work directly with the Provost Office and Housing and Residence Life to provide financial aid support for students who stay during Winter Housing