Dear Dickinsonians,

My name is Samantha Lodge and I am running for Senate Vice President of Student Life so I can represent your interests and needs. I’m running on a ticket with Austin Davis, who’s campaigning for President, so make sure you check out his platform, too, because he’s also got a lot of great ideas and initiatives.

For those of you who don’t know me yet, I’m a Political Science and Environmental Studies double major and an Economics minor. I’m a member of Pi Beta Phi and Syrens, worked as a Liberty Cap, and have served as a Senator for the Academic Programming and Standards Committee (APSC) and, more recently, I sat on the Senate Cabinet and Carlisle City Council as the Carlisle Borough Ambassador to Student Senate. I’ve had a very close working relationship with Emily Pryor, the current VP of Student Life, for a long time and we’ve had many discussions about her position and how to make Student Life better, so I know what it takes to be an effective VP for Student Life.

Even though I’m currently abroad, I’ve been hearing from a lot of you about your concerns on campus. I want you all to know that my first priority is to make student life more enjoyable and fulfilling by listening to anything and everything you have to say and *acting* on it as best I can. Through my experience on Senate, my past three years as an engaged member of Dickinson, and your input, I’ve come up with a list of things I think we need to focus on next year. I am always open to suggestions and any input, but as your VP for Student Life and member of Senate Cabinet I want to:

* Fix some of the issues with Dining Services and undertake new initiatives, including:
	+ Starting a DIY or “Create Your Own” section of the caf where you can make your own smoothies, omelets, and desserts (to start!) and take part in a continual pasta bar.
	+ Expanding late-night food options by extending hours at the Quarry all week long and keeping more dining options open later.
	+ Keeping the Biblio open until the Library closes (we all know we need that coffee fix!)
	+ Continuing my work with Food Trucks last semester so we can enjoy really great late night munchies more often.
	+ Updating and expanding the flex program to restaurants in town, as well as making sure we’re getting the most for our money.
	+ Making sure we have more diverse nutritional and allergy-friendly options.
* Improve/fix the furniture in the HUB and streamline the new cushies.
* Start a permanent Senate Committee on Housing to make sure our complaints and suggestions are truly heard and responded to.
* Start a permanent Senate Committee on Social Life that can address things like Greek Life, Posse, and other social groups to make sure we have open communication and a more student-friendly conduct process.
* Expand access to Allison Hall so student groups can have more time and freedom to use this wonderful new space!
* Create a “Declaration of Minor” form so students with minors can have priorities when registering for classes.
* Getting gym credits for working out solo at the gym
* Getting more printers in academic buildings (we’ve all done that late dash!)

These are just the tip of the iceberg! With your help, Austin and I want to greatly improve student life at Dickinson and make sure it’s a place we’re all happy at and proud to be from! I want to emphasize that I am very interested in taking action on these issues, not making empty promises. I am always open for a chat or suggestions, so feel free to contact Austin or me at any time. I can be reached through Facebook or at lodges@dickinson.edu any time! I’m also happy to Facetime or Skype with anyone who has something they’d like to discuss with me.

I look forward to hearing your feedback, and hopefully serving you and your interests next year as the VP of Student Life!

Warmly,

Sammy Lodge