To my fellow Dickinsonians:

It is with much enthusiasm that I write to you to submit my candidacy for Student Senate President for the 2014-2015 academic year. I’ve been a part of Student Senate since my first days as a Dickinsonian, serving first as Class Senator, later as Class Vice President, and most recently as Vice President of Operations and Engagement, and I am very excited to continue serving the Dickinson community in a new capacity this coming year.

I have decided to run for President, because I believe the most effective leader is one who can relate to those that he or she serves. In my three years at Dickinson, I have tried to take advantage of as much as I could of what our institution has to offer. I know Dickinson. I know student life. In addition to Senate, I’ve worked in the Office of Religious Life, was an OA, interned at the War College, performed in the Vagina Monologues, danced in two DTG concerts, played in intramural flag football games, am a member of Pi Beta Phi, have served on the Spanish majors committee, have done a work-study job, participated in community service, and studied abroad in South America. Though if elected, I would limit my extracurricular activity so that I could focus my efforts on serving you as President, these vast experiences give me unique and valuable insight into our community, that goes beyond understanding how Student Senate functions. I know where we are strong, and where we can improve. I’m also ready to listen to you, work with you to create a stronger community together, and make Dickinson a place of even more collaboration and progress.

I pledge to act on these promises, by setting aside one weekend a month to meet with each and every club president. With these meetings, I can check in and make sure that not only are the clubs’ needs being met financially, but also open up space to collaborate on larger school-wide projects that Senate can help facilitate. I am passionate about foraging stronger bonds between Student Senate and the community we serve, and though my commitment to making this a reality is not limited to meeting with club presidents, I am excited to see where these meetings take us next year.

I believe that Student Senate should be a body of students dedicated to serving our larger community. In that capacity, we should constantly work to give you what it is that you want. For that reason, I plan on putting in place a permanent late-night food option, and increasing the number of Allison Hall Friday Pub Nights to promote campus-wide dialogue and use these Friday events in Allison as a means to highlight our unique culture at Dickinson. My plans include serving food typical to the countries in which Dickinson has study abroad programs, as well as allowing space for events such as open mic nights, town hall meetings, or casual discussions about current events of interest to us. I also have plans to improve the wifi in places with weak Internet connection on campus, as well as getting more laptops and laptop chargers that can be rented from the library.

Another idea I have would capitalize our student body’s passion for a more sustainable campus without sacrificing convenience. I plan on putting in place a system where students can take mugs out of the cafeteria to use across campus, and when they’re finished using them, can deposit them in various receptacles across campus where they could be taken back to the cafeteria to be cleaned and re-used. That way, it would no longer be necessary to use paper cups when getting coffee from the Biblio or Quarry, and would be a great convenience for sustainability-minded students who forget to bring their own mug with them from time to time.

What I’m most excited about for the coming year is the prospect of working with a student body that has already done so much. The Dickinson College I’ll be returning to in the fall of 2014 has changed drastically from the one I knew in the fall of 2011, and I know this change has been for the better. For that reason, I know that there is much we can achieve in the upcoming academic year, and I’m here excited to be your ally and your most dedicated advocate to improving our college in as many ways as we can.

Thank you; I hope I can count on your vote.

Respectfully yours,

Nicole Wasson