Letter of Intent: Director of Financial Strategy

Fellow Dickinsonians:

The Student Senate is one of the distinguishing features of Dickinson college. The level and value of student input on Dickinson’s campus in unparalleled in other similar institutions, and the Senate serves as one of the key forums for students to engage with each other, the college, and the greater community. I have had the distinct pleasure of serving on the Student Senate as a representative of the class of 2016 for my first two years at Dickinson, and am incredibly proud of the work we did. By listening to the voices of my fellow students, and being a voice of the student body, I helped to shape the campus we see today. In my two years on the Student Senate, we approved a wide variety of clubs on campus, ranging from the Student Investment Group, to the Dickinson Dog House. We implemented new programs that improve Dickinson’s relations with the world beyond our limestone walls, with programs like the providing of free editions of the New York Times to students, and helping fund the new Carlisle Circulator Bus. And I have helped voice the desire of students to the Faculty and Administration of Dickinson on issues ranging from new meal options in the caf, to issues with the Sexual Assault Policy. Helping to implement these lasting changes on Dickinson’s campus has been one of my greatest pleasures at Dickinson.

To continue my service to my fellow students, I am running for the position of Director of Financial Strategy. The job of the Director of Financial Strategy is to oversee all Student Senate Finances, and to help shape the near and long-term financial goals of the Senate. I feel that I am particularly qualified for this position, due to my time serving on the Finance Committee in the Senate, where I learned about the purposes that the Senate finances should serve, as well as the importance of the position of Director of Financial Strategy both within the Senate, and in the college as a whole. Additionally, my experience with an Economics major has given me the tools needed to work through complicated financial and monetary data that is need to successfully fulfill the job of Director of Financial Strategy.

As Director of Financial Strategy, I will have three main focuses for the next year. These focuses will be to ensure that resources are available to any student club or organization that enhances the student on campus. I will also serve as a crucial voice of the Student body to the Faculty and Administration to ensure that the Senate maintains its legislative and economic independence that allows it to be such a successful institution. My third goal will be to renew and expand on the Senates legacy of using its financial and institutional power to create lasting capital projects that greatly improve life for Dickinsonians both currently on campus, as well as Dickinsonians who will enjoy this campus for years in the future.

Student Senate has had a long history of providing funding for major projects on campus that have greatly shaped the student experience at Dickinson. From the beach volleyball courts on the KW lawn, the the Quarry, Student Senate has funded projects throughout campus that students use every day. As the Vice President of Financial Strategy, I will continue this legacy of special projects. I will ensure that funding for popular programs such as the Circulator Bus and the New York Times continues. I will work to provide opportunities for funding for student projects, such as bicycle racks and repair stations around campus to promote bike riding around Dickinson and Carlisle. I will also work on a large-scale project to fulfill the role of a late-night hangout space on campus that has been missing since the closing of the Depot.

As the Student Senate’s Director of Financial Strategy, I pledge to be fair and equitable in my job, and to ensure accountability for all of the Senate’s spending. As the only organization at Dickinson that collects funds from all Dickinson students, I will ensure that those funds are used to improve the experience of all students on campus.

Voting will occur on Gateway from 9am on April 23, until 4pm on April 24.

Ben Kaufman