

Hello class of 2020!

My name is Olivia Yanchik and I am eager and excited to be running for class senator for the 2017 Fall semester! Although some of you may know me, others may not. This brief letter will hopefully be a comprehensive introduction to who I am, and some of my ideas and core values. With an international studies focus and a background in Model UN, my interest in policy has driven me to run for student senate. I hope that I can successfully represent you and your ideas throughout the semester and would be honored if I were elected as one of your class senators. As a candidate for student senate, I am focused on two initiatives. Safety and sustainability. I plan to make myself fully available for collaboration on your ideas and initiatives within the community. I strongly believe that in order to promote change, there needs to be an open discussion on campus about areas of the community which require improvement and expansion. As wisely stated by a sustainability educator on campus; Dickinson is only a community of twenty-three hundred people, and the vast number of micro systems within the community make for functionality. However, there is a lack of flow in information. I suggest that improvement in the flow of information can be accomplished by monthly meeting sessions between clubs and organizations representing different areas of interest on campus.

I believe that there is room for improvement in safety on campus and off campus. Like every college, drinking is a prevalent culture actively engaged upon by a large portion of students. It is a fact that a percentage of student drinkers on campus should not be drinking at all. The school is aware of this and actively takes steps to prevent some of the dangers which come with underage drinking such as alcohol poisoning, volatile behavior etc. However, there is another prevalent issue which requires particular attention. In the first weeks of college before Thanksgiving, Freshman drink and socialize within a period of time known as the "Red Zone." This period represents a time of vulnerability in which students are at an increased risk of sexual assault. As a facet of every drinking culture, sexual assault generally goes undetected and stigmatized. It does not always attract attention and it is very rarely combated effectively. It is my belief, that due to a lack of support by the school for those who drink while underage, certain safety measures are neglected. As a result of a lack of infrastructural support for underage drinking habits, there is also very little support on campus to prevent sexual assaults. I believe that in order to increase safety on campus, a support system needs to be implemented among individual students of the community to create a more comprehensive system of preventative measures.

The road to sustainability is still an ongoing journey for our community, waste disposal is still to be desired. Although there is plenty of opportunity for recycling, I believe that there is a patchy network for mindful waste disposal on campus. I feel that the lack of recycling is particularly the case in dorms, where multiple floors share one recycling bin, often on the first floor. Recycling and sustainability are often successfully increased with the creation of incentives such as sustainability challenges or prizes. I believe that an even more effective way of increasing environmental mindfulness is through the creation of more accessibility. More opportunities for mindful disposal of waste, automatically increase the likelihood that they will be disposed of mindfully. This is not a complex idea, it is rather simple. However, sometimes the most straightforward answer is the solution we need. It is also my belief that the farmer's market should be a cornerstone of the Dickinson community. Having so many fresh, accessible goods at our disposal should be more of a priority for the Dickinson community. Not only does the farmer's market provide a more diverse array of healthy fruit and vegetable options but it gives back to the Carlisle community. Again, I would be honored to represent the Sophomore class, thank you.

