Student Government: Meet Your Candidates

Voting Period: April 27-April 30

TO VOTE: sfsu.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/election/start/404404
FB: Facebook.com/asisfstate
IG: @AS_sfstate
About The Positions

President
The chief executive officer of AS and is responsible for providing strategic direction on student-related issues, policies, and services that affect SFSU students and is the main representative for the Associated Students Board of Directors at university functions, both on- and off-campus.

VP Internal Affairs
Responsible for the publicity and communication of AS’s programs to the student body as well as the coordination and oversight of AS’s personnel, in conjunction with management.

VP External Affairs
Responsible for serving as the primary representative for AS before the California State Students Association (CSSA), United States Student Association (USSA), boards, commissions, and other policy making groups.

VP Finance
Responsible for overseeing and monitoring AS’s budget as the treasurer of the corporation. Who shall perform such executive functions for the financial management of the AS Board of Directors.
VP Social Justice & Equity
Shall serve as a liaison between students and University Departments on matters regarding Shared Governance, transparency, and social justice.

VP Facilities & Services
Serves as the primary representative with matters concerning programming structure, student representation and student organization accessibility.

Graduate Representative
Responsible to act as a liaison for SFSU Graduate Class Students and AS.

College Representatives
Comprised of one member from each individual academic college, responsible to act as a liaison for a specific academic college.
President

Andrew Carillo
Students First, Students In Solidarity
Hello everyone! My name is Andrew Carrillo and I am running to be your next Associated Students President. I am running for multiple reasons, but they are centered around my belief that Associated Students should be serving the needs of every student on campus. Whether you are a first year student just arriving at SFSU or a graduating senior who is ready for the next chapter of life you should feel supported by your student government. One of my main priorities would be to establish a Basic Needs Program that focuses on supporting students who are in need of groceries, hygiene products, and especially provide a centralized hub where students are given information and options for affordable housing in the area. I will work tirelessly to increase funding and resources for AS Programs like Project Connect and the Women’s Center so they feel supported by their student government. Lastly, I believe there needs to be greater access to space for student organizations. There needs to be more space on campus where student organizations can gather for meetings, store their organization materials, and host events free of cost.

Student voices are powerful when we stand united in a common cause. We at San Francisco State know this too well, we are the change makers, the reformers, the activists who throughout the decades have fought and demanded for a better educational experience. I would be truly honored to have your support and vote in mission to make San Francisco State a more equitable campus.
Zoram Mercado
Students First, Students in Solidarity
Being involved as a student organization leader for my entire college career, has taught me 1st hand the lack of representation and involvement students have in decisions that directly affect students. As VP of Internal Affairs, my focus will lie in updating students, making meetings accessible, and physically making sure the voices of students are heard and implemented. There are far too many resources that students are not aware of. I will ensure that students understand what is available to them and implement their feedback for the resources that do not satisfyingly meet their needs. College students in San Francisco lack basic needs, such as food, housing, health wellness, and legal resources. There are many young efforts on campus that are tackling these issues but must be enhanced and unified with the help of students to be fully effective. My experience as a community organizer has taught me how to bring students together and apply their strengths to the collective vision. I always make sure that I bring ideas to the table as well as keep my vision flexible. I do not have all the solutions nor answers, but I do not hesitate to reach out to people and collect perspectives from students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds. Perspective derives from the intersectionality of sexuality, gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, residency status, job status, career of interest, socioeconomic class, and religion. Making an effort to understand and apply these perspectives is key to executing a goal towards a healthy community.
Being involved in student government has shown me how important it is to make sure that the voices of the students are being heard. It is my mission that there is an equitable representation for all the SF State students and our surrounding community. I would like to continue to learn from my peers and grow as an individual and a servant leader. I know that with the help of my community and the voices of the students, our needs will be met.

Throughout my college experience, I strive to be involved and well-rounded. I am eccentric about trying new activities and learning more about the community that makes SFSU a place that individuals choose for their college experience. I will ensure that my role as a servant leader will be welcoming for all individuals. My aspiration is to have an engaging community at SF State.

One of my main goals for the next academic year is to implement more mental health resources on our campus for our students. It is important to be able to have these resources for the success of SF State scholars. Alongside, encouraging the SF State community to participate in the free resources Associated Students provides.
The reason why I choose to run for VP Internal Affairs because I love working behind the scene; and give all the credits as a team. As much as I love working behind the scene, I love working with people in front, with this will help me as oversight of AS’s personnel.

I am a YouTuber - I take my video, edit, and publish them every week. I am a youth leader, and I have been the Media Coordinator at my church for the past six years of my life. I do a lot of promotions through a different type of social media and communication as to bringing the best service to people. I am also an active fellow member of the Career Services and Leadership Program (csld) here at SF State as of Spring 2020. I serve passionately with a purpose that is to love all people. With that, I strongly desire to use all these platforms as a representation of my candidacy as the VP of Internal Affairs for the San Francisco State University students’ benefit.

If I were to be elected as VP of Internal Affairs, I would take this great opportunity to stand and speak for people. I would help promote all the benefits of what the campus has to offer in helping the students succeed.
Joshua Ochoa
Students First, Students in Solidarity
Here at San Francisco State, students often feel unrepresented and unheard by our university and student government. Too often, students struggle with food insecurity, housing insecurity, financial insecurity, and the lack of financial aid.

Our students continue to feel that they don’t have a say in the decisions being made on campus, and student government doesn’t do enough to reach out and hear students’ voices directly. These are the reasons why I’m running to be the Vice President of External Affairs.

As your next Vice President of External Affairs:

1. I will fight for students’ voices against powerful interests, and protect our student rights.
2. I will fight for more financial aid and basic needs resources for SF State and for the entire CSU.
3. I will fight for a more affordable CSU, and fight against any increase in CSU tuition.
4. I will fight for more affordable housing and transportation for our students.
5. I will fight for more financial resources for our student clubs, organizations, and programs.

If elected, I will stand up for you and every student on this campus to make sure that your voice is heard, and that our student government fights for, and is held accountable, to the students.
I would honored to have your vote and your help to make positive change here at San Francisco State University.

In Solidarity,

Joshua Ochoa. #Ochoa4VPExternalAffairs
Hello, Fellow Gators! I’m Rashid Abdul Rahiman and I am currently a Junior in SF State. I’m majoring in Finance and minoring in Decision Science. I’m running to be your next Vice President of Finance because I want to make big impact by making productive changes.

As an international student, SF State has become my home away from home. The diversity at SF State is represented by all the different clubs and organizations we have on campus. I believe they help shape students’ experiences by offering a sense of belonging and campus involvement. Student organizations are a vital part of the campus and I’m determined to strengthen the relationship between the organizations and Associated Students. I ensure to help our clubs and organizations are well advocated for by ensuring better funding resources and proposal to ease the funding process.

If elected as VP of Finance, I hope to bring major change in the communication process and encourage better facilitation of student org. funding. Student’s currently pay two different student fees to Associated Students and students should have the right to know where their money is going. I’m dedicated to maintaining transparency in regards to the budget that will be given to me when elected. Vote for Rashid Abdul Rahiman as your 2020-2021 VP of Finance. He will ensure transparency and advocacy in the AS Budget.
Chantel Bermudez
Students First, Students in Solidarity
As the daughter of an Immigrant, and the product of an education system which has failed me countless times, fighting is what I do. As VP of Social Justice and Equity I will remind our administration what they have consistently forgotten: who has built this campus: fighters like you.

My past activism on this campus has been comprised of successfully serving students through:
- Creation of the first Planned Parenthood organization on this campus
- First hand written policy on behalf of SFSU and CSU Students opposing oppressive federal laws under Trump Administration
- Fixing the Title IX system- Confronting the Title IX department head on & demanding equity
- Ensuring health services are equitable- fighting for more counselors (specifically those who represent our diverse student population)
- Modeling a space, for students by students, dedicated to serving survivors of assault on this campus
- Grassroots outreach and organizing.

My future main goal and objectives if elected is to tackle the issues YOU experience. An issue you feel is not being represented or your story which you feel is consistently unheard. This position was made for YOUR voice and YOUR inequities to be heard. Do not let them take away your voice, we will be heard.
VP Social Justice and Equity

Saloni Bhatia
Hello Gators! My name is Saloni Bhatia. I am a junior majoring in computer science here at SF State. I am running for the position of Vice President of Social Justice and Equity for the election term 2020, and hope to be the voice that ensures that our University runs with fairness, transparency, and open communication.

I have been a part of various student organizations and served in leadership roles that have helped me become a strong and determined leader. I am confident that my candidacy will be beneficial for the student body at SFSU as I will ensure to always put their needs first, addressing their concerns and striving to provide a solution for them.

As your VP of Social Justice and Equity, I aim to
1. Be able to provide a safe environment for students where they feel included and not alienated or discriminated against.
2. Ensure that the university’s resources are being shared and distributed equally.
3. Ensure that the student body gains an answer if they ever feel lost regarding the functioning of a University department.
4. Bridge that gap between University departments if there is any lack of communication.
5. Support the students in any way they need, may that be mentally, emotionally, socially, etc.

I inspire to lead by example and with your support and be the leader that 30,000 Gators deserve.
VP Social Justice and Equity

Jaline Chan
As vice president of Social Justice and equity, my role will establish a school system in which I will voice the needs and concerns of students and the school’s department. In the past, the school has faced various issues that have negatively impacted the students and the departments. Such issues involved school closures that require many students to attend online classes that were caused by unwanted causes. Nevertheless, throughout this process, we all found ourselves freaking out and unsure of what to do. Concerns like housing and the removal of students caused worry. Many students asked for their financial aid money back. All these issues arose and students were unsure of what was going to happen and as a candidate I want your worries and questions to be answered. It is time we create a plan and get our questions answered, and communicate them to the University departments. There needs to be a voice of communication for an agreement to happen. There are many of our students who identify as homeless and I want to be an advocate and have a support system for them. As a candidate, I will not only create a plan for students who face various educational barriers but address concerns that have been ongoing such as class availability. I want to advocate for the lack of class availability and the acknowledgment that many of our students are going through financial issues. I want to advocate for every student that has not yet been heard.
VP Social Justice and Equity

Janneth Gasca-Lozano
If you watch the news or scroll through your social media feeds, you’re given every reason to worry about our future. I, Janneth Gasca-Lozano, a first-generation Latina am running for VP of Social Justice and Equity. I am running because I want to unify this campus by helping lead change against all rhetoric that seeks to divide us in this country and on this campus. Being a student of the College of Ethnic Studies, social justice has been at the forefront of my education and the reason I feel passionate to take on this leadership position. We are living in unprecedented times and now more than ever we need to hold our university accountable to us. Before students, we are humans with basic needs and rights. We cannot thrive in institutions that don’t put equity for all in everything; from their policies to their classrooms. Building Unity makes us stronger. As your VP of Social Justice and Equity, I commit to building unity by embracing individuality; giving every student a voice at San Francisco State University. If elected my main goals will be to (1) Create more awareness and student engagement for the committee of social justice, in order to strategically address issues on this campus, (2) Better the connection between Associated Students and campus organizations, (3) Increase protection and accessibility for marginalized communities. Through my leadership I will help to create a more safe environment at San Francisco State so that every student can thrive and feel represented.
VP Social Justice and Equity

Aman Kumar
It’s our time to do the right thing as students of San Francisco State University. And with power make sure it happening in the right way. We need to make the right changes and have equity among everyone.

Hey! I am Aman Kumar a third-year Computer Science major, Recreation Park and Tourism minor, ASI employee, part of SFSU family and most importantly I am YOU. I am your voice, I’m your experience, I’m your stories, I’m your voice that needs to be heard.

I am running for Vice President of Social Justice and Equity because I want to address the lack of support and retention among the groups at SFSU. I know that true diversity comes from everyone have a seat and able to speak on the table. Every race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexuality, and community has a right to have their voice heard.

My goals to bring everyone upfront are:
To share and establish more student-focused resources.
To establish identity-based student groups and organizations.
To encourage direct outreach between students, staff, faculty, and administration.
To commit myself to the voices of all students.
To do the right thing.
To do the thing right.

I want to create an environment that upholds everyone’s values and is an intersection of all the identities. I want to be the voice that echos you and stand in solidarity with your support.
Hello Gators! I’m Alondra Esquivel Garcia and I’m running to be your next VP of Facilities and Services for Associated Students. Currently, I’m third year double majoring in Political Science and Race & Resistance Studies. As a first generation college student, I have learned that advocating for others and public service is necessary to make change. I’m passionate about helping those in need and getting projects started.

To ensure success and inclusivity, SF State needs to start to provide more basic need resources.

My goals if elected are to:
Establish an Off-Campus Housing Resource Center. Currently, 17% of students attending SF State are housing insecure. Students need a reliable and safe office that can help them find affordable housing in the Bay Area.
Expand Multi-Stall Gender Neutral Restrooms. Students who are non-binary need a safe and non-gender confirming multi-stall restrooms that they can use at all hours a day. The single stall restrooms are being used as ADA compliant, family restrooms, and gender neutral. Students fear using these restrooms because there are others who need to use them as well.
Provide FREE Menstrual Products in EVERY Restroom Not only do females menstruate, but others who are non-binary and male menstruate as well.
By providing free menstrual products in every restroom, we can ensure we are helping those who menstruate and combating the stigma.

I know I can devote my time and effort to get these goals done within the next year. Vote Alondra for VP of Facilities and Services.
VP Facilities and Services

Vandit Malik
Students For Empowering Gators
A great leader once said, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way”.

I am Vandit Malik, a junior majoring in computer science at our university, SF State. I am standing for the position of Vice President of Facilities and Services for the election term 2020. I hope to have the privilege of representing you and voicing your concerns.

Coming from an entrepreneurial background, leadership, decision making, execution, and promptness are my key skills. With my extensive knowledge of working with administrators, staff, and students through multiple leadership roles, I have not only used my skills to be productive for the organizations, but also have interacted with students from different backgrounds. Thus, I have first-hand knowledge of the concerns and challenges being faced by the students.

So, to address those concerns I propose the following actions:

1. KNOW YOUR RESOURCES - Spreading awareness of the campus resources.
2. NO DARK ZONE- Lighten up the dark zone on campus to increase safety.
3. AFFORDABLE PARKING- Reducing hourly parking charges.
4. MORE STUDY SPACES- Creating more study spaces across campus.
If or when elected to the position, I would strive to maximize the opportunities, services, and facilities available to the students. With your support, together we can walk towards the development of a memorable and successful college experience.

Go Gators! I know you want to see actions more than just promises. If I were to be trusted with the position, I would not disappoint you.
Graduate Representative

Nicole (Nikki) Morrison-Fountain
I decided to run for the Graduate representative in an effort to become a graduate student advocate and active member of our student government. Graduate students are a minority often overlooked and in need of additional support. I am a graduate student myself and am aware of the many struggles my graduate peers are faced with daily. I want to be a voice and help represent the needs of our graduate students to advance education at SF State.

Elected, I promise to serve my graduate community to the best of my abilities by (1) create more opportunities for graduates to pay for schooling, (2) extend and create more supportive services for graduate students, (3) seek to help with advancing better graduate housing, and (4) maintaining transparency, open communication, gather community feedback, and communicate about updates with academic policies and directives.

In the past, I have been involved with creating buttons for different political student movements on campus, and was an active intercollegiate speech and debate competitor. I would be honored by your support to be elected as the Graduate Representative. Thank you.
Graduate Representative

Brittany Nguyen
Students First, Students In Solidarity
I believe my candidacy will benefit SFSU campus because I plan on advocating graduate student voices to be heard and be included in topics of discussion that will support them as well. My 3 main goals if elected is to provide more transparency and open communication with graduate students so that they are aware of what AS resources and services they are able to utilize, provide a communal space for all graduate students to build community with one another and collaborate together for future projects, and establish an alumni networking event where graduate students can connect with alumni who are out in the field.
Business Representative

Samīksha Nehra
Students First, Students In Solidarity
Hello Gators, I am Samiksha Nehra, and I am running for an Associated student Business Representative. During this time at San Francisco State University, I have learned the knowledge of different functional areas into business solutions is most important in the college of business. I will try to increase the number of counselors for the college of business. I will also try San Francisco State University business alumni to meet current students to help them with the job opportunities and to guide them to a successful path after they graduate from San Francisco State University. Student alumni can help the student with business ethics, business solutions, and sustainability issues in business. I will try everything that will make the college of business more interesting overall.
I VOTED!

Ethnic Studies Representative

Ja'Corey Bowens
Students first, Students in Solidarity
Hello Gators, I’m running for this position because I believe I can bring a voice to the ethnic studies college that has been long been silent. If elected I would become an advocate for the students of our college and make sure we have a voice in important decisions such as funding and class availability. I believe that in working with the elected administration and peers within the college, together we can secure the resources and funding we deserve.
Hey y’all, my name is Torrie Christopher and I am a 4th year Sociology major and Business Administration minor transfer student from sunny San Diego. I have participated in a combination of organization on campus such as the African Student Association as an Event Coordinator, an active member of the Black Student Union, and a participant of SOAR Trio. If elected my goal is to improve the experience of students at San Francisco State University far past the classroom setting. It is an important factor in students’ lives to not only get the education we deserve but also the opportunities we need to allow for us to go into the field we so desire to be a part of. To achieve my goals I am ready to work with a team of different individuals and use not only my own voice but the voices of my peers, classmates, mentors and even the outside community to enhance the campus.
Health and Social Sciences Representative

Mostafa Mostafa
I am choosing to run for an AS position because I take pride in attending SF State and I see room for improvement around me. I believe my ideas could help improve the campus or the current standard operating procedures and would love to be part of the process for change. If elected, my experience as both undergraduate and graduate student here at State (specifically in the College of Health & Social Sciences) could help support and guide the new AS President as she/he maneuver to make decisions affecting our College.
Health and Social Sciences Representative

Tatiana Madison
Students First, Students In Solidarity
Hello everyone! I’m Tatiana Madison and I am running as your next Health and Social Science Representative! I am currently a second year and majoring in Health Education! As a first-generation student, I am aware of the many obstacles that students face to get to this point in our lives. My goal is to act as a liaison to bring awareness of the many issues we face as students, departments, and campus-wide. I am committed to hear everyone’s voice and advocate for students’ rights to have a more inclusive campus for all! If elected I would dedicate much of my time trying to hear your concerns within the department and make decisions that would benefit our student population. I believe as students we have a right to be making the majority of our decisions as they impact our academic and personal lives. I look forward to meeting you throughout the academic year!
Liberal and Creative Arts Representative

Diego Cazares
I am running for the AS position because I am very passionate about the arts and would love to make the community more known and help provide chances to grow. Back in my high school career, I served as the representative for performing arts with an additional 2 years involved in general student leadership. The platform I have going for me is my social connections; I am very much willing to get to know, hear from, and learn from the performing arts community. I believe my experiences grant me the knowledge for the “business” side of administrative work mixed in being part of the passionately involved community which makes a perfect liaison between the community and the administration. I understand performing arts has difficulty making their events and programs known to the University and being known to the performing arts community themselves, my first goals are to fix that lack of presence just as I did similarly with my previous roles of high school. I think I will be a positive representative based on my commitment, work ethic, and enthusiasm knowing that what I do can help a passionate community.
Tyler Lewis
Students First, Students In Solidarity
Hello! My name is Tyler Lewis and I’m currently running to be your next Associated Students Representative for the College of Liberal and Creative Arts. I am currently a third-year student here at SF State where I am majoring in Political Science, with plans to pursue law after graduation. My platform is focusing on the needs of the students here at SFSU, and more importantly, the needs that aren’t being met. Some students lack access to basic needs items while some have more specific needs within the department. Regardless, students deserve to come first and should, but that is not always displayed amongst our institution. I am a firm believer in advocating for those who are unable to advocate for themselves, and that is what I intend to do. If elected, I will use this platform to ensure that your needs as students are being heard.
Im currently a freshman going into my sophomore year and i feel that I prepared to take on this position because of my previous experience being in the student government in highschool and based on that I have a pretty good idea on how I can bring our department together and help out students that need It I have a variety of great skills which include organization, leadership, planning, and most important communication. My goal is to build a connection between our students and make sure that their voices are heard, because at the end of the day they make up our community.
Science and Engineering Representative

Jainam Shah
Students First, Students In Solidarity
For me, being a member of the student government means channelling the energy that we all bring along to trigger a positive change in everyone’s life here in SFSU.

My name is Jainam Shah and I am a junior studying Computer Science at SF State. My focus, if elected, would be to make the existing resources and inventory more accessible and prominent and to increase the networking and inclusivity within the gator community.

I was surprised to find out that many of my associates were unaware of the amazing resources and services like online tutoring and the AS food pantry offered by our university. So instead of introducing something entirely new, I would like to make the existing amenities more recognised so that its utilisation is maximised! I would do so by advocating the shortcomings which lead to the underutilisation and act to overcome them.

Secondly, I want to promote the connectivity and networking aspect of our community. I want to build strong interconnections within our community to create a help and support chain that could guide us in hardships, as many of us may currently be in, and cope up. To accomplish that I would promote and encourage organising inclusive events and activities hence defining and strengthening our gator community.
All statements were written by each individual candidate. There were no adjustments to any of the text.

A complete list of candidates, including write-in candidates, are available for viewing online at asi.sfsu.edu/candidates
Vote
for your chosen candidates
from April 27-April 30

sfsu.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/election/start/404404