

I am Erla Dervishi (she/her), and I am so proud to announce my candidacy for the office of Vice President of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago (SGLC) for the 2021-2022 term.

My running mate Margaret Bronec (she/her) and I would like to begin this statement by saying thank you. Thank you for your time and persistence this year. You've taken zoom classes, formed friendships, and have been an essential member of our community, from home. As your peers, we see you and understand that this year will bring new opportunities and challenges for each of us.

For those of you that don't know us, we are community and coalition builders. Like many of you, we've found this year extremely difficult to connect with our peers and we've struggled with our mental health. We've tried our best to navigate being students during a global pandemic that uprooted our lives and have, fortunately, failed forward. As we return to campus in the Fall of 2021, we feel called to serve.

I currently serve as SGLC's Chief of Staff and also operate as Alpha Chi Omega's Chapter President. I am familiar with leadership on a large scale and feel confident in successfully operating an executive board. As the Chief of Staff, I successfully co-chaired our Fall Retreat and Spring In-Service, consolidated our archival efforts, organized our internal communication, and facilitated community building.

As we move into this next chapter together, we are advocating for an intentional return to campus, one that is centered upon the needs of all students. We know that the Loyola we left doesn't have to be the Loyola we return to. Our platform advocates for University-wide growth and accountability within the following guiding principles: **Equity**, **Accessibility**, **Return to Campus**, **Safety**, **Wellness**, and **Sustainability**. None of these issues exist in isolation, and as a team, we are dedicated to addressing the intersectionality that exists between them.

Listening to other students will continue to be at the forefront of our campaign. BIPOC student leaders continue to advocate for a better Loyola, investing emotional labor so their demands can be heard at an administrative level. Making sure every student feels safe, heard, and cared for will guide our conversations with administrators and students alike. Centering the voices and demands of BIPOC students is a priority for this term, which includes advocating alongside students to ensure they are justly paid for the equity work they do.

We would like to commend the student leaders and friends that have come before us and cannot wait to expand the capabilities of the Student Government as we return to campus. We hope to make a more accessible Student Government, one where everyone can feel understood. We encourage you all to take the initiative to vote in this year's election, thank you.