

Hannah Kwak Statement of Candidacy

A year ago today, I was diligently planning for the most exciting day of my senior year: Senior Day. With decorations nearly done, auction items bought and packaged, and skit rehearsals underway, my class was ready to put on an exciting Monsters Inc-themed festival for our school. Little did we know that day, March 13, would be our last “normal” day of high school, unsullied by mask mandates and quarantine guidelines.

This is not the college experience I dreamed of, and I HIGHLY doubt it’s the college experience you anticipated either. I could write a dissertation on all the times I’ve felt disheartened and disillusioned this year, but the truth is, in this weird hybrid year at Loyola I’ve made memories and connections that I wouldn’t trade for the world. If I hadn’t stayed home in the fall, I wouldn’t have felt compelled to go to the virtual org fair and learn about SGLC. If it weren’t for your trust in me and your vote, I wouldn’t have had the incredible opportunity to serve you all and advocate for issues of racial equity, accessibility, safety, and transparency in our community.

In SGLC this year, I served as a member of the Safety and Wellness Committee and supported my fellow senators as they tackled initiatives surrounding representation in the wellness center, cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department, and more. In October, Senator Riopedre and I took the lead on an initiative calling upon Campus Safety to implement racial sensitivity and cultural competency training. After months of drafting and several meetings with Campus Safety, we passed a piece of legislation in early March that called for a webpage detailing training procedures, the employment of a zero tolerance policy, annual follow-ups to ensure the effectiveness of trainings, and most importantly, the implementation of training modules covering the sole topic of racial sensitivity.

Additionally, I served as a student representative on the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Council, which is an external committee that meets monthly to discuss curriculum changes. I’ve also taken on a leadership role within the organization as Chairperson of the Governance Committee. Governance is an internal committee in SGLC that is tasked annually with updating our constitution to maintain its relevancy and functionality. As chair of the committee, I was excited to co-lead an initiative to restructure the standing committees in the legislative branch. Among many of our changes is the formation of a new Sustainability Committee. This committee will house any and all initiatives regarding environmental justice, sustainability within our facilities, and anything else that arises as Loyola becomes more focused on issues of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

As I look towards next year, I’m reminded of all the initiatives I want to pursue. I hope to advocate for intersectional wellness and increased accessibility in the wellness center, help implement self-defense classes in Halas, continue to hold Campus Safety accountable, and create opportunities for students to connect with one another and our community as we return in-person. At the end of the day, I want Loyola’s students to feel supported, safe, and proud to be a member of this community. If you have any questions, ideas, or want to get to know me more, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me via email (hkwak@luc.edu) or Instagram ([_hkwak_](https://www.instagram.com/_hkwak_)). I’d love your vote next week. Stay safe and take care of yourselves!