

Riopedre Statement of Candidacy

My name is Mereya Riopedre and I am running to be one of your senators for my upcoming sophomore year. This past semester and a half has been absolutely nothing like what we expected it to be. From online classes to moving into dorms halfway through the year, it almost feels like we're not in college. I have no idea what my Loyola experience would have looked like without this year without COVID, but I am beyond grateful to all of you for electing me and shaping it into what it has become. I am excited to continue working towards an inclusive and equitable community, and I hope part of that work can be through a second term in SGLC.

This year, I served on the Allocations committee, allocating funds from the Student Activity Fund to all student events through Registered Student Organizations. Our primary focus is keeping the student body safe, and we have looked at every event through that lens, strictly following COVID protocol. I was also involved in formatting event structure for the upcoming academic year, and I am incredibly excited to start funding outdoor, in-person events and tabling with the committee! Outside of Allocations, I took on a leadership role as the chair of Budget Review Committee, designating all of Student Government's internal funds for the upcoming year and pursuing initiatives such as equitable scholarships and fund reorganization.

I have also pursued many pieces of legislation this past year. Working with Senator Hannah Kwak, we produced *Racial Sensitivity and Cultural Competency Training* legislation to restructure Campus Safety training and ensure focus on racial sensitivity, cultural competency, transparency, and communication. As a result of that initiative, students can now view a comprehensive list of Campus Safety trainings on their webpage and will continue to see developments within their training program. Through my role on Governance committee, I wrote legislation to establish an Associate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer to help continue SGLC's critical work surrounding inclusion and support for all students. I am also looking forward to providing a re-orientation program along with Senators Nanda and Brist for sophomore students to provide the resources we need to succeed as unconventional second years.

Looking ahead to this year, I am ready to continue working on racial justice initiatives, keeping student events safe and inclusive, and fully investing myself in the organization. If you would like to contact me, to ask questions or just say hello, my email is mrriopedre@luc.edu and my Instagram @mereyariopedre. Thanks for reading!