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## The Utah Statesman, February 22, 2021

Utah State University

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Utah State University, Logan, Utah  
Week of February 22, 2021

[vote.usu.edu](http://vote.usu.edu)  
**Aggies  
Vote**™

2021 USUSA  
Voters Guide  
Special Edition



*A message from USUSA President Sami Ahmed:*

# Why USUSA elections matter

In 2019, I was participating in my first USUSA election and I had an interaction with a student I often reflect on. I approached this particular student and asked for his vote to which he responded with, “student elections don’t matter, and I won’t waste time in a useless vote.”

I was annoyed with his response, but I found a part of me agreeing with him. Now after spending two years in student government, I see the flaw in that student’s statement. I wish I could have conveyed to that individual the level of power and influence elected USUSA officers have.

Election week is upon us and for most students USUSA elections are closely associated with candidates harassing them around campus in the cold. Most try to avoid rival opponents vying for their attention as they do their best to make it to class without making eye contact. Students might be able to avoid election week, but the impact elected officers will have can never be avoided. I urge students to resist the natural instinct to avoid and engage with candidates and vote for those with the best platforms.

You might ask, why are USUSA elections so crucial and why should students care and vote? Like it or not student officers are the voice of students to the rest of Utah State University and the community at large. Officer opinions, thoughts, and campaign goals shape the direction of student life at USU.

For example, the USUSA Student Body President is a voting member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees. Often other trustees look to the USUSA President to convey overall student feeling and opinion on a matter before taking a vote or making policy recommendations on a particular issue involving students.

The person students elect for USUSA President will have a direct impact on what the Board of Trustees hear as the student opinion. The President is just one example; all other officers will have a significant impact in their own spheres of influence. It is worthwhile to take your time and vote for those you feel comfortable with making decisions on your behalf.

All students who attend USU are funding USUSA student government through student fees. Most of the scholarships officers receive and the budgets they are allocated come from individual students pockets. Similar to paying local, state, and federal taxes by virtue of being a citizen of a given country, attending USU comes with a cost of paying student fees. Just like a citizen of a country may vote to put in lawmakers to be stewards of taxes, USU students can vote in officers to be stewards of fees. Essentially every student is directly supporting every elected and appointed officer financially.

Additionally, you might wonder who makes the recommendations to decrease or increase student fees to the President of USU and the Board of Trustees? The student fee board, which is almost entirely composed of elected student officers, vote to recommend increasing or decreasing fees. Every officer on the board is responsible for holding each fee receiving area accountable with the allocated portion of student fees and reporting to the board.

Lastly, I want to highlight the importance of wide voter participation. Thomas Jefferson said, “We do not have government by the majority. We have a government by the majority who participate.” A small group of the student population determines which USUSA leaders govern the entire population. If you happen to be a student who is not satisfied or would like to see change, the best way to convey that is by voting and encouraging others in your circles to vote.

A motivated small group can have an outside influence over a large apathetic majority. As long as motivated groups and individuals elect leaders, you can never have a true sense of student sentiment. For this simple fact alone, every student should go out and vote because, like it or not, USUSA determines the direction of student life for the foreseeable future.

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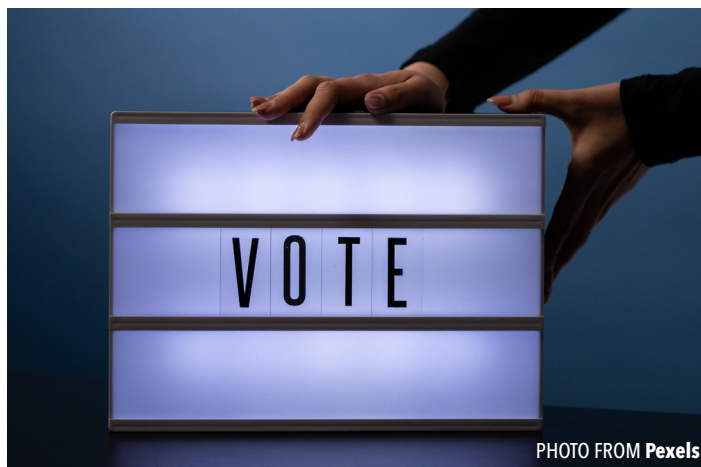


PHOTO FROM Pexels

# Presidential Profile: Erik Fogth



Photo from USUSA

**By Karcin Harris**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Utah State University student Erik Fogth has four majors, is the lead singer in a band and participates in several on-campus organizations. On top of it all, he's also running for student body president.

Fogth, born in Arizona and raised in Orem, is majoring in international studies, global communications, Asian studies and Chinese.

"I'm a lead singer in a folk-rock band, Squatchi. I love writing music," Fogth said. "I love rock climbing and skiing. I used to do a lot of acting and almost came to school for acting, but I don't do that much anymore."

Fogth came to USU for its educational programs, and said he loves being far enough away from his family that he doesn't see them at the grocery store, but close enough to visit them often.

He has been involved with campus life in

several different ways. Fogth is a member on the government relations council, a student lobbyist, peer advisor, the vice president for Greek life recruitment, a CHaSS ambassador and works for a study abroad program.

"Everyday I was finding new opportunities because I took the initiative to find them," Fogth said. "Through all these opportunities I grew to truly believe that Utah State has more to offer students to experience than any other school in the state."

Fogth said his college experience led him to want to run for student body president and said his goal as president is to represent and fight for students.

"I'm the one who will not only be connected to the university but also understand students' needs," he said. "I'm someone who is already involved in a lot of different groups and aspects on campus. I feel like I'm the guy who is going to have an open door and be willing to listen to everything students will say."

Fogth said he is going to seek out students' opinions to focus on student wellness.

"I'm passionate about students feeling like their tuition is worth it for the college experience and to have communities. I want students to feel noticed, have worth in the college experience and have a community, so they can feel apart of the Aggie family" he said.

Fogth has had fun with his campaign, and connects with the student body through social media by creating TikToks, wearing creative outfits, doing dares and challenges and even getting a shout out from Bart Johnson, an actor who played Coach Bolton in "High School Musical."

The reason behind this fun strategy is to show students that Fogth isn't "some elusive leader."

"I'm not university royalty, I'm a student," he said. "I want to be able to represent the 17,000 students and be a voice. I want to show the students I'm someone they can reach out to and talk to about their issues."

His sister-in-law Annie Fogth has known Fogth for five years, but feels like she's known him forever.

"That kid is so great," she said. "He's definitely a little brother to me. We pick on each other and arm wrestle and pillow fight, play Settlers of Cataan and Dominion. I genuinely have an awesome love for Erik."

Fogth described Erik Fogth as being "positively persuasive."

"He naturally gets people to follow him. He gets people involved and excited about things. If there's some sort of event and Erik is in charge, he just gets everyone excited to be a part of something because he's excited and it's contagious," she said.

She said Fogth would be a great student body president because he is open, genuine and kind.



*Student-run newspaper for Utah State University since 1902. Reporting online 24/7. Printed weekly during the school year.*

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# Presidential Profile: Lucas Stevens



**By Jacee Caldwell**  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

**C**urrent USUSA Executive Vice President Lucas Stevens is one of three candidates running for student body president. However, some may know him from his slogan, “Lead with Lucas!”

Born and raised in Ogden, Utah and being the youngest of 5 siblings, Stevens has learned what it means to have dedication, integrity and a hard work ethic.

Stevens also comes from a huge Aggie family with both his parents and grandparents being alumni. This allowed him to grow up with Aggie pride and helped solidify his decision to come to Utah State University since he was very young.

“No other school was really even a contender. I just always knew I wanted to come here.”

He also said he wanted to come to USU because of all the involvement opportunities and the social life that Logan has to offer.

“There’s a ‘we’re all in this together’ mentality that I really enjoy. I feel like there really is a community here and I love the Aggie Family.”

Originally a finance major, Stevens switched as of last year and is now planning to double major in economics and political science with a minor in business. With these degrees he hopes to be able to attend law school and eventually have a career as an attorney.

Not only does Stevens work hard in his academic pursuits, but he has been heavily involved in many leadership positions and extracurricular events in high school and at USU.

As a freshman, he was a member of the president’s cabi-

net, CHASS Council, Election’s Committee and the Student Fee Board.

Besides being a member of the president’s cabinet and a Student Fee Board Chair, he has also been a member of the Utah System of Higher Education campus safety board, a Business College ambassador and a Huntsman Scholar team lead.

“I’ve had a great experience as far as having opportunities to help out individuals. They’re honestly my favorite moments.”

Outside of leadership positions, Stevens has worked in the computer labs, created a podcast titled, “USU Let’s Talk About It” on Aggie Radio and is an intramural volleyball champion alongside his team.

Although Stevens is kept busy with his involvement with USU, he is also an avid ebook reader, roller skater, ping pong player and always makes time for his friends.

According to one of his closest friends and roommate, Reed Ericson, “Lucas’s diligence, professionalism and legislative experience are what make me know that he would be a good president.”

Daisy Karren, another close friend of Stevens, added, “I think that Lucas is capable of making real change. He has substantial experience that has helped him to recognize many areas that could be improved.”

Becoming USUSA president has been a long time goal for Stevens and, if elected, his first plans are to institute an inclusion training at the Aggie Blue Leadership Conference for incoming freshmen.

“I think this could impact the university for years to come. These are the student leaders of the future for Utah State; being trained on inclusion and having that thought for the get-go, can have a positive impact for the future.”

Stevens also said he hopes to strengthen the ties between USUSA leaders and the Inclusion Organizations through regular meetings, refocusing on diversity training and enhancing communication when applications open up so that they can support diverse student leadership.

“Lucas checks off all the boxes in a way that no other candidate does. He is by far the most qualified candidate to do the job that is actually required of the president,” Ericson said.



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to read more of this story

# Presidential Profile: Ellie Willard



Submitted Photo

By Kellie Christensen  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Ellie Willard is originally from Spokane, Washington but moved to Hurricane, Utah when she was 16.

Willard has been married for about eight months. She and her husband met when they were neighbors at Oakridge apartments and they fell in love playing cornhole.

She is studying economics and minoring in aerospace studies, anticipatory intelligence, arabic and international studies. Willard

said she is very passionate about economics and how it alters daily life.

Willard likes to do anything outdoors during the summer. As a native of southern Utah, she loves hiking and being outside in the sun. She said her husband recently introduced her to fishing and, while it isn't her favorite thing to do, she likes going with her husband. When it's cold, she enjoys PlayStation2. Willard also loves to read. She is currently reading *Upstairs at the Whitehouse*.

She is also heavily involved in the Air Force ROTC.

"I don't know if club is the right word, I think lifestyle might be a more appropriate term to describe what being in the ROTC is like. It really is like a family," Willard said.

She puts in about 20 hours a week of volunteer service through ROTC. She is also involved with the Huntsman Scholar program and the USU Student Alumni Association. Additionally, she was in the Miss USU pageant last fall.

Willard has been interested in running for student body president for a while. She is inspired by the business school's motto "daring mighty things." She decided that she would be more disappointed in herself if she didn't run than if she ran and lost.

"I truly believe I have the leadership qualities to make a difference for our students on campus and I believe I have the love for the university. I'm ready to make a difference here on campus," Willard said.

There are multiple issues Willard will address as student body president.

First, she wants to ensure that all the decisions made on campus are made by student voices and not by one person independently. She wants to reinstate the presidential cabinet with a diverse group of people so they can have different backgrounds and ideas to find the best solution for all students.

According to Derek Jensen, an ROTC student at USU, "Ellie would definitely make a good student body president. She is a very driven individual and is very passionate about helping and serving other people."

Her second priority is to revitalize the student experience. Willard said she wants students to be able to experience what being an Aggie is really like. Willard hopes to specifically reserve a section at all events

for freshmen so there is always room for them and they can learn to experience traditions early on.

Willard is also passionate about the fine arts programs on campus.

"I'm a fan of the fine arts program here on campus. I love going to the museum, I love supporting students in their artwork," she said. "So a personal priority of mine is to ensure that student's artwork is the only artwork that we display on campus."

Willard wants to put a showcase center in the international lounge so student art will be in a place more visited and centralized than the museum.

She also wants to use social media to be more approachable for students, as she believes social media is an easy way for students to communicate with the student body president.

Willard believes she is different from the other candidates because she has learned a lot from her own leadership experiences. Being involved in ROTC directly links her with over 200 students who are involved in different areas all across campus.

"What sets Ellie apart is her drive and determination to be the best that she can be and that is reflected in how she goes about her business," Jensen said. "As student body president she truly would care about making USU better for every student on campus."

According to Willard, "A bad student body president wouldn't ruin your college experience, but a good student body president could drastically improve it."

## Statesman Debate

Wednesday, Feb 24  
11:30 am | TSC Hub

Live Streamed at  
[youtube.com/c/USUStatesman](https://youtube.com/c/USUStatesman)  
and Broadcasted on Aggie Radio



# Your key to popularity:

## The teenage girl

By Sage Souza

LIFESTYLES REPORTER

One of my favorite popular tweets of late (from the dear @SAINTLIAR) says “being in your 20s is just going back to liking everything you liked when you were 13 but without being ashamed.” With over 130,000 retweets, user “sofia” has clearly struck a chord with a particular demographic — one that I am most definitely a part of.

Like a lot of teenagers (girls, specifically), I have harbored my fair share of passion for pieces of petroleum pop-culture. I adored gauchos and pictures of myself and jeans under skirts, and as I got older, my mustachioed marshmallow pillow was among my most prized possessions (along with my duct-tape wallet, my rudimentary homemade movies, and the superwholock content that flooded my first tumblr account).

But as I continued on the oxymoronic slow-fast track through adolescence, that unabashed passion was replaced with shame. I traded my favorite summer tie-dyes and cowboy-fringed boots for moody band t-shirts and black vans, though maybe more telling, I deleted all content of myself from Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and deleted my first Pinterest and Tumblr accounts completely.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Harry Styles via Instagram

For a long time, I only felt comfortable sharing what I was passionate about with other girls and women. It seemed to me that everything I liked could be mocked or minimized in some way — I was either basic and unoriginal or I was trying too hard to be artsy and “not like other girls.”

This fear of social rejection is fairly common, but I experienced the effects of internalizing it in two particular ways. The first was that I didn’t tell anybody (not even my closest girl friends) that I absolutely adored a popular boy band at the time — and I mean I went to genuinely

insane lengths to hide it. The second was what is now popularly referred to as “gatekeeping”: when other girls said they liked some of the same things I did, I would immediately quiz them and dismiss them as a “fake fan” because they didn’t know as much.

Harry Styles articulated an offshoot of this perplexing cultural phenomenon perfectly in his 2016 interview with Rolling Stone:

“Styles is aware that his largest audience so far has been young — often teenage — women. Asked if he spends pressure-filled evenings worried about proving credibility to an older crowd, Styles grows animated. ‘Who’s to say that young girls who like pop music — short for popular, right? — have worse musical taste than a 30-year-old hipster guy? That’s not up to you to say. Music is something that’s always changing. There’s no goal posts. Young girls like the Beatles. You gonna tell me they’re not serious? How can you say young girls don’t get it? They’re our future. Our future doctors, lawyers, mothers, presidents, they kind of keep the world going. Teenage-girl fans — they don’t lie. If they like you, they’re there. They don’t act ‘too cool.’ They like you, and they tell you. Which is sick.”

This extends beyond music and even beyond the entertainment sphere as a whole. According to journalist Laura Moss, this kind of large-scale minimization of teenage girls’ interest “can further reinforce ideas that things created for women and by women are unimportant.”

A better and more inclusive future combatting this type of sentiment will only be built on the foundation of validating human experiences (even if that means including the occasional teenage hysteria).

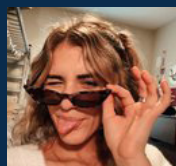
*Sage Souza is a junior studying political science and Spanish. In her free time, she enjoys long walks on the beach, making too many playlists on Spotify, and retweeting Karl Marx fancams.*

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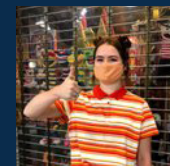


TWEETS  
of the  
WEEK



@beth\_bagley

do you think if i drink enough matcha i won't be depressed???



@debatedebutante

Okay Valentines Day is over back to Halloween



# The COVID proofed choir practice



PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby

By Darcy Ritchie  
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

Choirs at Utah State University are taking new precautions to keep students safe while still giving them the opportunity to perform.

“We’re a choir separated with masks, no audience, making videos to broadcast,” said Dr. Cory Evans, the director of choral activities at Utah State University.

During fall semester, the choirs rehearsed in a tent outside the engineering building, but they had to move inside due to the weather.

“We finally stopped rehearsals last year when there was snow blowing into the tent and the kids’ music was flying,” Evans said.

New precautions had to be taken as the choirs moved inside. Now only half of the choir can come to Monday and Friday rehearsals. The entire choir meets on Wednesdays in the concert hall, but all rehearsals are only half an hour. The students wear masks while singing and sit six feet from each other.

Though it’s safe, singing in these conditions has its downsides.

“When you’re sitting next to someone, you can hear your part,” said Cassidy Noor, a student in the University

Chorale. “You can blend better. But when you feel singled out, it’s hard to judge if you’re singing loud enough or soft enough.”

“Tuning is hard, being together is hard and just the community feeling has been hard,” said Rachel Worthen Grob, who sings with the Utah State University Chamber Singers.

Though it’s difficult to rehearse together with COVID restrictions, students are still grateful to be singing.

“I’m glad that it worked out in the end because it was something I was looking forward to,” said Dallin Clark, another student from the Chamber Singers. “It was a relief to learn that they were gonna find a way to make it doable.”

All choir performances since the beginning of the pandemic have been recorded. Evans said he loves the challenge of finding new ways to share music.

“We’re forced to do things that are engaging and keep you going,” Evans said. “The worst thing we could do is just stop.”

—darcy.ritchie@usu.edu



## The Wavelength



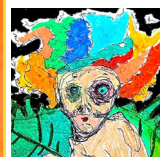
Disloyal Order of Buffalos  
— Fall Out Boy



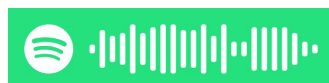
Fabulous Las Vegas  
— Brandon Flowers



After Breakfast — Polar Boys



Goodie Bag — Still Woozy



Balance Beam — Blue October

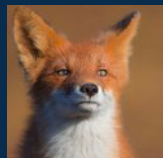


Suit — The Roosevelts



@debbyontheweb

The biggest lie in icarly is that a guy like Spencer would be single in Seattle



@emlovesdracaena

“go ahead and unmute representative. or text me your vote” this is policy making in 2021

@aggieshuttle

Go ahead and ride the aggie shuttle because if that doesn’t kill you then climate change eventually will. Have a good day everyone





# 10 new hobbies for the unproductive this year

By **Emily White**  
LIFESTYLES SENIOR REPORTER

Online school is boring. All I do is sit in my room and do school work on my laptop, so I've found myself in desperate need of some new hobbies. Finding these hobbies has made it so much easier for me to procrastinate my work (in a healthy way) and get away from screens for a solid couple hours. But let's not call it procrastination, let's call it self care.

## 1. Puzzles

My brain has felt like dead static lately, but puzzles have turned it back into a lively technicolor world. In other words, puzzles have stimulated my brain back to life. My roommates might be annoyed that our kitchen table is always covered in puzzle pieces, but I'm smarter for it.

## 2. The guitar or ukulele

Whenever I ask people if they play the guitar or the ukulele they always pretend to have never touched the instrument, but then admit to knowing a few chords. Well, you only need to know a few chords to play, right? So why aren't you playing?

## 3. Cross stitching

Did you know you can buy cross stitching kits at the store? I didn't, but I do now. Catch me sewing while listening to Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album. It's a mood.

## 4. Writing poetry

Please don't take this the wrong way, because I don't mean you should write bad poetry, I just think you should try poetry. Bad poetry is cheesy and cliché,

usually because it's not as original as it could be. Before you get intimidated, poetry doesn't have to rhyme. You don't have to count your syllables either. Just write some creative stuff and throw it into stanzas. It's about form, not perfection. Build a scene in nature, your apartment or a place in your mind and put it into poetry. I've found writing to be a comforting and creative outlet that's much better than doing school work, so go crazy.

## 5. Cooking

In the words of Emma Chamberlain, "I literally couldn't tell you what's gotten into me, but I cook now." Trust me when I say there is a learning curve to cooking, and what I mean is it's going to be terrible the first few times. But one day, you'll be in the kitchen and everything will click. Cooking is a great way to save on food costs, because going out to eat everyday can get expensive. So, not only can cooking save you money, but it will also likely result in better ingredients and better food for your body. Food is fuel right? I recommend starting things off slowly. Maybe try making a buddha bowl, or stir fry, just see how it feels.

## 6. Handstands and living room tumbling

Y'all remember hands up, stands up? I used to practice my handstands at home specifically so I could beat the tumbling girls who went to my elementary school.

## 7. Yoga

Basically a more focused and mindful form of living room tumbling.

## 8. High fitness

When I tell you that doing high fitness is harder than

running, I mean it. Three minutes is all it takes for me to pass out and crumble to the floor out of exhaustion and pain. I highly recommend it.

## 9. Singing

For best results, practice singing bangers while cooking or driving alone. If you're with people, you'll probably be too worried about how you sound for this to be a helpful coping mechanism, so sing alone if possible. After you get comfortable with your own voice, you can slowly start singing around people if you want, but it's not for everyone.

## 10. Any video game with Mario in it

I'm not a gamer, but there's something about Mario that pulls me towards gaming. Mario Kart is by far my favorite game to play, and it's so fun to play with other people. Super Mario Bros is fairly difficult, but it's a vibe. I also want to take this time to remind the world of Doctor Mario, which has an aura similar to Tetris. If you haven't played any of these games, this is your sign to start.

*Emily White is a junior studying English and broadcast journalism. She is currently serving as the senior writer for the Lifestyles section of the Statesman.*  
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# Utah State men's basketball locks in Smith with long-term deal



STATESMAN FILE PHOTO

**By Jacob Nielson**  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Utah State head basketball coach Craig Smith appears to be sticking around.

USU Athletic director John Hartwell told Ajay Salvesen and Eric Frandsen in an interview on the "Full-court Press" radio show on Feb. 10 that the university extended Smith's contract at the end of 2020 during the holiday break.

"Basically at the end of this (season), he'll have five more years left on his deal," Hartwell said. "We believe in Craig and every day literally that guy amazes me... he's a guy that even if given lemons he makes lemonade, and that's infections."

Smith confirmed the news during a Feb. 16 press conference.

"We love Utah State, it's been an amazing place for my family," he said. "We're sure excited to continue this journey."

With Smith's original contract expiring in March of 2023, the deal becomes a three-year extension.

Smith has had tremendous success in his first two — nearly three — seasons in Logan, amassing a record of 68 wins and just 21 losses. He led the Aggies to a Mountain West regular season and tournament championship in the 2018-19 season, and a Mountain West second-place finish and tournament championship in the 2019-20 season.

During the current 2020-21 season, Utah State has the

No. 16 best adjusted defensive efficiency in the nation and is vying for a conference championship and another NCAA tournament appearance.

Smith has helped develop elite-level players, such as Sam Merrill, the 2019 Mountain West player of the year and current shooting guard for the Milwaukee Bucks. And Neemias Queta, the two-time Mountain West defensive player of the year, among others.

—[sports@usustatesman.com](mailto:sports@usustatesman.com)

🐦 [@jacobnielson12](https://twitter.com/jacobnielson12)



# Column: Who takes the last shot?

Without a clear focal point, which USU men's hoops player is most likely to step up to take the game-winning shot when needed?

By Parker Ballantyne  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

When the Aggies took the court this past fall, uncertainty very much dictated how the season would play out. The ever-present threat of a season cancellation looming in the all-too-clear memory of the pandemic ravaging last year's NCAA tournament and this year's football season. Travel was all but guaranteed to be a logistical nightmare and infection rates seemed committed to causing last minute schedule changes. And of course, this was the first time in eight years that Utah State started a season without someone on the roster named Jalen Moore or Sam Merrill.

Among other things, such as having USU alumni parents, being lifelong Aggie fans, growing up in Utah, averaging over 15 points per game and eventually signing a contract with the Milwaukee Bucks — Jalen Moore and Sam Merrill had one thing in common: both established themselves as the clear go-to guy on the team. With the clock winding down in a close game, both Moore and Merrill made it very clear who was taking the last shot. They knew this of each other before they ever shared a court; Merrill had the unfortunate pleasure of watching Sky View High School senior Moore nail a half court shot at the buzzer to bounce Merrill's Bountiful High School team from the state semifinals in 2013. Of course, it doesn't take much to remember when Merrill himself was on the other side of that situation in Las Vegas in the final game of his senior year.

The void left by Moore's departure was negated by the arrival of Merrill the year prior. The void left by Merrill, however, remains in question. In the closing moments of last season, Merrill showed us just how big that void would be, nailing a three-point jumper with just 2.6 seconds to go to break a tie and go up by three. That dagger left No. 4 San Diego State with the agony of defeat, but it served as a bittersweet reminder to Utah State that Merrill was leaving and with him would go the reliability fans had enjoyed for years.

Utah State head coach Craig Smith and his staff have navigated Merrill's departure seam-

lessly. In fact, this season bears a striking resemblance to the previous two, with an identical record through 19 games for the third season in a row.

Merrill's scoring role was, to say the least, significant. In both his junior and senior seasons Merrill was the only player to average over 15 points per game, with 20.9 and 19.7 respectively. His substantial scoring left a gap of 9.1 and 6.7 points per game between him and the next leading scorer on the roster in 2019 and 2020, respectively. This season,

no player on the roster is averaging 15 or more per game, with junior center Neemias Queta leading the team at 13.5.

All that being said, in addition to Smith's exemplary leadership on the sidelines, players on the court have stepped up to bring this team through a potentially tumultuous transition. Brock Miller, Marco Anthony, Alphonso Anderson and Rollie Worster — among others — have been fighting hard to fill Merrill's shoes in both raw offensive production and, when needed, clutch scoring. In the absence of a clear go-to



PHOTO by The Utah Statesman

Jalen Moore (14) walks to the sideline after the coach calls for a time-out with Sam Merrill (3) trailing behind him in a 2017 game at home in the Spectrum.



in the clutch, there seems to be at least two options now that have the green light down the stretch.

Miller has put his sophomore slump completely in the rearview mirror, improving his three-point percentage by an astounding 12% in the offseason. He now leads the team with a 41.5% from deep with 44 threes already under his belt this season. Playing among the highest minutes on the team shows that the coaching staff clearly trusts his abilities and offseason improvements. Miller has already shown to be a problem for opposing defenses who can't seem to figure out what to do with him. His off-ball movement combined with his lights-out catch-and-shoot game from deep range makes him a near-elite offensive guard and a major threat down the stretch.

Anthony, a 2017 NCAA champion, has been every bit as good as promised. Quietly averaging 11.2 PPG, Anthony comes second only to Queta in team scoring. Anthony also boasts a 37% average from three-point land. A very cerebral guard, it is clear that Anthony worked hard under Smith during his redshirt year at Utah State. While people were constantly asking about him as he sat out last season, he was in the gym turning himself into an all-star guard with athleticism, a high basketball IQ and dual-threat abilities that he has finally been able to showcase this year.

Anderson is the stuff of Aggie legends. Very few players exemplify "GATA" or "Nobody cares work harder" better than "Phonz". For him to be able to stand out on a team that is well-known for work ethic and attitude is a special accomplishment in and of itself. Anderson has become an elite and important role player on this team. With only four starts his junior season, he was the only player to score 20 points in a game coming off the bench. Anderson has proven himself reliable and has earned trust, respect and playing time from his teammates and coaches.

Listed as a power forward, Anderson has a uniquely dangerous range, shooting 42% from the field and 39% from three this season. In addition to his shooting ability and unquantifiable hustle, Anderson has proven to have ice in his veins. He was an integral piece in the come-from-behind win against LSU in Jamaica last season and also changed the course of the championship game with two often overlooked back-to-back threes to put Utah State within one of No. 4 San Diego State. Those threes came with just over 12 minutes to go in a championship game where every point mattered. Later, with the Aggies down one, Anderson knocked down both of his free throws to tie and take the lead for the first time in the half and only the second time in the game.

Worster, a 6-foot-3 freshman out of Missoula, Montana, came to the team with expectations taller than himself. A two-sport athlete at Hellgate High School, Worster was a two-time Montana Gatorade Player of the Year and was all-state in both football and basketball. He looks the part, too. With 200 pounds of raw athleticism, Worster took no time introducing himself to the Mountain West by starting in the Aggies' opening series. Leading the NCAA in starts as a freshman, Worster has shown he can be a solid facilitator, but also has a knack for scoring, averaging 9.6 points per game.

Simply put — when he has the ball, things look good for the Aggies.

There are other players whose games also demand some recognition, such as fellow freshman Steven Ashworth or Justin Bean. Ashworth has already proven to be a solid shooter with a 36.7% average from behind the arc. He was 3-6 from three with a team leading 17 points in game two of a sweep against San Diego State, a contest that came down to the wire. His 22 threes on the season currently puts his second to only Miller.

Bean has been a staple for this team for two years and although he is better known as a defensive anchor and an acrobatic rebounder, he has also proven himself on the offensive end. His work ethic is responsible for large improvements between his freshman and sophomore year going from 4.1/3.8/.8 splits to averaging a double double with 11.9/10.5/2.1 last season. Across his 82 games as an Aggie, Bean has certainly become trustworthy on both sides of the ball.

As the season winds down and the Mountain West tournament approaches, games promise to be closer and Utah State is left to develop a game plan for closing out tight games. How much of this includes finding a go-to guy to take the last shot? It's hard to say. One thing is certain however — this Utah State team is good. They haven't missed a beat from last year to this year. As laid out by Jacob Nielson in his story — Protectors of Cache Valley — this team is very good at defense. It's a huge part of their identity.



PHOTO COURTESY of USU Athletics/Wade Denniston



PHOTO COURTESY of USU Athletics/Wade Denniston

If this team were in a situation in which they faced a tie game with just enough time for one shot left, it's likely that with their suffocating defense they would perform better defending that shot than shooting it. Statistically speaking of course, that's true. Buzzer beaters are missed more often than they are made, but their ability to lockdown a clutch shot is much more than that.

A lineup with Miller, Bean, Worster and Queta is a suffocating defense that has already shown the ability to dismantle top-notch offenses. Their full court press is overwhelming and debilitating, their half court defense is sturdy and, at times, impenetrable. They have an astounding ability to shrink the floor, defend the perimeter and protect the rim. Queta's 3.1 blocks and 1.2 steals per game is unbelievable until you watch him in action.

While some view Utah State's lack of a clear standout offensive threat as a hindrance, Smith and the Aggies have turned it into a weapon. If this team does get into an offensive jam, their wide-spread offensive load will be an advantage rather than a hindrance. With Merrill on the floor, defenses had the easy decision to put their best man on him, often even employing the double team. With this squad, defenses are forced out of a double team leaving each defender isolated and vulnerable. With the option of a double team essentially taken away completely, opponents have to pick and choose where they place their best defender. When a team is looking at a group full of guys with the green light, there is no right answer.

The bottom line is that this team is in good hands, no matter whose the ball is in. Coach Smith, through recruiting and player development has taught a valuable lesson about basketball. It's a team sport. Basketball is bigger than any one player, even if their name is Jalen Moore or Sam Merrill.

—sports@usustatesman.com

🐋 @pshark14



## OPINION

# Why Sia's new film harms autistic people

When I was diagnosed with autism at 17, I was forced to challenge everything I thought I knew about autistic people.

Kids at school had been throwing around the r-slur since first grade, and to me autism belonged in a special ed classroom. Not in the library devouring fantasy books or delivering lines in school plays. Through the neurodiversity community, I learned to expand my view of what being autistic means, but many people remain unaware that they even need to learn more.

The most well-known organization associated with autism is Autism Speaks, and campaigns like their "Light it up Blue" are widespread, despite both being widely criticized by self-advocates who are autistic. "Progressive" autistic advocacy is too often made by and for allistic people, and too often shuts out the voices of the people they claim to represent.

An egregious and recent example is Sia's new movie *Music*. While the movie has been nominated for two Golden Globes, autistic advocates have been expressing their concern for months.

The first round of backlash came over Sia's tweets, in which she said that she consulted with Autism Speaks for the movie, insulted autistic actors expressing concerns, and insisted that casting an autistic actress would have been "cruel." But with every bit of new information that's come out about the movie since, it's become clearer and clearer that this isn't just a case of a bad first impression.

For one thing, in a 2019 interview, Maddie Ziegler (who plays the titular autistic character, *Music*) said that to prepare for the role, she watched videos posted by parents of their autistic children having meltdowns. Playing any role based solely on how a person acts under extreme distress is inadvisable, and that's putting aside the privacy violation of parents publishing these videos in the first place.

In a leaked clip, *Music* is held in prone restraint while having a meltdown. Autistic children have been killed by being restrained like this, and others have been traumatized. A college student named Eden, who runs an autistic advocacy account with over 7,000 followers on Twitter and 83,000 on Instagram, posted a thread about the dangers of prone restraint and the trauma they experience because of it.

Eden also posted their preliminary review of the movie. They include images and clips from the movie, describing it as "a caricature of autistic body language."



Kate Hudson and Maddie Ziegler in *Music* (2021) (IMDB)

They continued, "It's unsettling, and insincere. And it is deeply reminiscent of the exaggerated mannerisms non-autistic people often employ when bullying autistic & developmentally disabled people for the ways we move."

Another critic, Clem Bastow, blasted the movie in a *Guardian* article as being both trite and infantilizing. Bastow pointed out one line sung: "In my dreams, my body does not control me." This shows a deep misunderstanding of autistic people's experience. We are not "normal" people trapped in defective bodies or minds. We are people with brains wired differently than that which has been labelled typical.

Sia's portrayal of autism is patronizing, othering, and based on stereotypes that could have been avoided by working with a single autistic self-advocate. However verbal we are, however well or poorly we blend in with allistic people, me and my community deserve better representation than this. We deserve to be seen as we are.

In my dreams, I am still autistic. But in my dreams, I don't feel embarrassed if I catch myself fluttering my

hands in public, or when I need to wear headphones to the grocery store or a crowded restaurant. In my dreams, the people around me understand and accept me the way I am. This is what Sia has missed in her film.

*Katelyn Allred is an opinion writer in her junior year of college. She's studying English with an emphasis in creative writing and enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, and baking.*

[katelyn.allred@usu.edu](mailto:katelyn.allred@usu.edu)



# States of mind & matter

## Does our memory help or hurt us?

**W**ater is the essence of life for almost all living things on earth. Most of our systems need it to function properly, we use it to prepare our food, to clean ourselves and much more. It's amazing that something as simple as two hydrogens and one oxygen bonded together can have so many essential uses.

However, I think the most incredible feature of water is its ability to change.

Rivers find the best and most efficient way to move across the land, the ocean changes its tides based on the influence of the moon, and even the water we carry around in our water bottles effortlessly fits the shape of whatever container you place it in.

I'm a science person, so I understand the molecular explanation behind why the properties of water work the way they do, but I often wonder: if water had a memory, or sentience, like we do if it would alter the way it behaves.

If it could remember the shape of a bottle, would it still shift so easily to the shape of a pot? If it could remember being used for processes in a dinosaur, would it still have no problem being manipulated for our body processes? Or would it still be free-flowing and, with ease, become whatever it needs to be?

Like water, people have a multitude of different experiences in their lifetime. Unlike water, people have memory. And memory seems to be both the salvation and hindrance of humanity.

Memory forces people to assume the properties of a solid. We become stuck in our ways and so caught up in the shape of our last experience that we can't mold ourselves to a new one.

Memory tells us what the outcomes of our previous decisions have been. Based on these previous experiences and the emotions attached to them, we make our decisions.

For the most part, this is extremely practical. Memory is what helps us to conclude that we shouldn't touch a hot stove, or that we should get eight hours of sleep before a big test.

However, our memory sometimes makes us biased because it forces us to see everything in the shape of our previous experiences. It makes us associate things that shouldn't be associated and apply things that shouldn't be applied. It's like trying to put on an old sweater that you outgrew — it doesn't fit because things are different and trying to force it to fit will be frustrating, liable to break the sweater, and might hurt you.

While it's easy enough to find clothing that fits, how do we alter our perspectives? How do you become something new if, subconsciously, all the decisions you make today are based on a decision that you made yesterday?

I'm sure that there are many different answers to this question. My answer is simple: it requires a change of state.

When someone says the word 'water' people automatically think of it in its liquid form. But water also has a restrictive solid form, which is commonly known as ice.

To change ice into liquid water, all you have to do is apply some heat. You have to make the molecules feel so uncomfortable, that they are forced to cast off their solid form to become something much more adaptable.

Similarly, to change the state of one's perspectives you have to apply discomfort.

This might be about where most people stop reading. No one wants to be uncomfortable. Simply glancing at the daily life of most Americans tells us that comfort is a high priority.

Certainly, there's nothing wrong with wanting to be comfortable, but there's a time and place for everything. As the saying goes, nothing ever grows in the comfort zone.

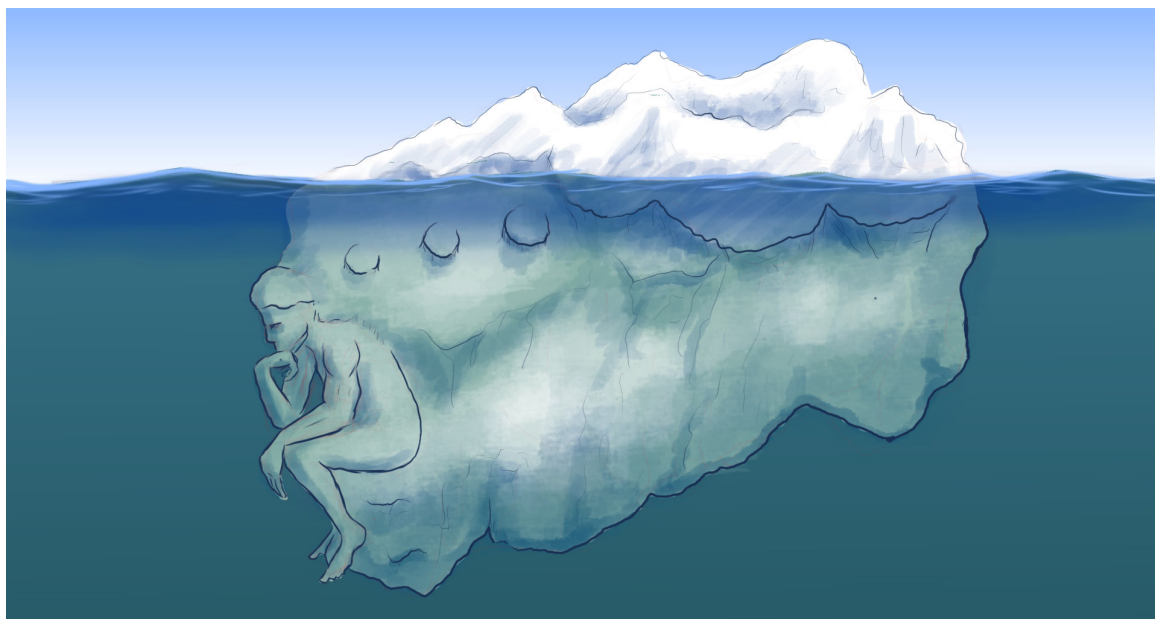
In other words, change requires discomfort. To see other people, ourselves, and the world around us with new eyes, we have to be, at least a little, uncomfortable.

But please don't misunderstand me. There is something to be learned from every experience, and we should remember them all. The development of memory is what allows people to learn.

But sometimes we hold on so tightly to what we have learned previously that we don't leave room to learn new things. Just as bodies of water that aren't in constant motion often become overgrown with algae and other unpleasant things, so, too, do we also become polluted by not letting go and moving on.

*Emeline Haroldsen is a dual Mathematics and Biochemistry major. She's originally from Maryland and she enjoys most forms of physical activity, playing the piano, and completing her homework on time.*

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GRAPHIC BY Keith Wilson



# UNITY



# TEDx USU

x = independently organized TED event

3.5.21

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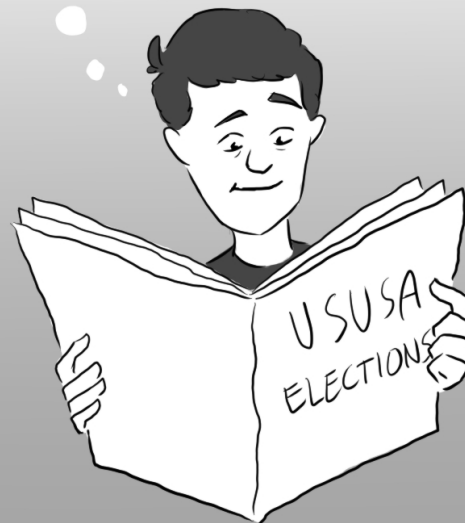
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PROBABLY THE ONLY MULTIPLE-CHOICE SELECTION I CAN MAKE THIS SEMESTER WITHOUT PROCTORIO WATCHING ME



Keith Wilson

CARTOON BY Keith Wilson

7	2	3					4	
		9	1					
1			9	4				
	3				4	7		
6	1			3			9	4
		7	8				2	
				7	9			5
					1	9		
5						6	7	1

Last week's solution:

7	6	2	1	8	9	3	5	4
1	4	3	6	2	5	7	8	9
5	9	8	3	4	7	2	1	6
4	5	9	2	1	6	8	3	7
3	7	1	8	9	4	6	2	5
8	2	6	5	7	3	9	4	1
9	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	8
6	3	4	9	5	8	1	7	2
2	8	7	4	6	1	5	9	3

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Sudoku OF THE DAY



# TRUTH IN TUITION

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**MARCH 3rd**

Noon, TSC Ballroom

Join President Noelle Cockett and Student Body President Sami Ahmed for a discussion about potential tuition and student fee changes

Utah State University is proposing several changes to tuition and student fee rates. The overall net effect will be a 0% change in student fees and a 0% to 2.9% increase (\$0 to \$98 increase) in tuition, depending on the campus, for a full-time resident undergraduate student. All concerned students and citizens are invited to a public hearing on the proposed increase to be held in the TSC Ballroom on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 12 p.m. This will be broadcast to all campuses through [aggiecast.usu.edu](http://aggiecast.usu.edu).



**2021 USUSA VOTING GUIDE**

# Aggies Vote™

STUDENT  
INVOLVEMENT  
& LEADERSHIP

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# LOGAN CAMPUS CANDIDATES

## President

The duties of the President include serving as the USUSA Executive Council Chair, member of the USU Board of Trustees, appointing the Public Relations and Marketing Director and Administrative Assistant, establish communication with the student body, verify all executive council charters are up-to-date and fulfilled, oversee follow through and implementation of legislation and represent USU at events.

Scholarship: \$3,750/sem.  
Stipend: \$1,000/month  
for 10 months

### Erik Fogth



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Orem, Utah  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @erikfromschool  
**Major(s):** International Studies, Global Communications, Asian Studies, Chinese  
**Minor(s):** None

**Qualifications:**

- University representative at the United Nations conference
- Greek life recruitment Vice President
- CHaSS ambassador and peer advisor
- Pioneered the creation of the Chinese major
- Student fee board

**Goals:**

- Bridging the gap between student opinion and university administrative priorities
- Raising awareness and expanding accessibility to on-campus involvement opportunities
- Increasing retention rates by making the "Aggie Family" statement a reality through specific inclusion initiatives
- Mobilize PCAB to improve recruitment, fundraising, and event support for those within the inclusion center
- Creating a more enriching and worth-while experience for student development and success during COVID-19

**Campaign Platform:**

Students will grow as much outside the classroom as they have inside by increasing efforts in inclusion, involvement, diversity, and unity. Connecting students to opportunities; helping them find a voice.

### Lucas Stevens



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Ogden, Utah  
**Twitter:** @lucasjstevens  
**Instagram:** @lucasjstevens  
**Major(s):** Economics, Political Science  
**Minor(s):** None

**Qualifications:**

- Current USUSA Executive Vice President
- President's Cabinet
- Student Fee Board Chair
- USHE Campus Safety Board
- Business College Ambassador and Huntsman Scholar Team Lead

**Goals:**

- Revitalize the college experience while advocating for responsible and practical COVID response
- Strengthen ties between USUSA leadership and inclusion organizations
- Train on inclusion at Aggie Blue Leadership Conference and continue the initiative for faculty diversity training
- Optimize USUSA structure within our new constitution and effectively advocate for all students
- Use President's Cabinet to enable student-led initiatives by providing access to USUSA resources

**Campaign Platform:**

I will effectively represent all students by drawing on my experience, background, and excellent relationships with University Administrators. My goals are to safely revitalize the college experience, promote an inclusive campus culture, and streamline USUSA organizations. Lead with Lucas!

### Ellie Mae Willard



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Hurricane, Utah  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @elliemacdough  
**Major(s):** Economics  
**Minor(s):** Aerospace Studies, Anticipatory Intelligence, Arabic and International Studies

**Qualifications:**

- Robust leadership training, will leverage to strengthen USU
- Lead with integrity through connecting to the student body
- Fresh perspective, address issues facing USU creatively
- Ready to accept student input student body's priorities first
- Involved across campus, wide exposure to student life

**Goals:**

- Reinstate a diverse P-CAB to tackle issues of diversity and inclusion – all students deserve to be celebrated at USU
- Promote the UT Safe App to expand resources and protect the mental and physical wellness of students
- Expand access and resources devoted to SNAC, through student-led fund-raising and community outreach efforts
- Ensure underclassmen are not forgotten as they discover what it's like to be an Aggie in a post-COVID-19 environment
- Beautify campus and promote student talents by showcasing students' fine arts projects around the University

**Campaign Platform:**

My platform is to authentically represent students while aiming to reinvigorate student life, reinforce accessibility of student resources, and to redefine inclusion and allyship on campus.



# Executive VP

The duties of the Executive Vice-President shall be to assume all duties assigned by the president, and assume presidential duties when president is absent, serve as the parliamentary expert for the USUSA Executive Council, chair the USUSA Academic Senate, oversee implementation of all legislation in academic senate, chair the University Student Fee Board, be a voting member on the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee, and hold Senate Pro Tempore elections during first academic senate meeting.

Scholarship: \$3,250/sem.  
Stipend: \$300/month  
for 8 months

## Porter Casdorph



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Twin Falls, Idaho  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @portercas  
**Major(s):** Ag Business  
**Minor(s):** Marketing

### Qualifications:

- Current USUSA Events VP
- Chair of TSC Policy Board
- Chair of USUSA Programming Board
- 4 years of Student Involvement
- Married to an absolute babe

### Goals:

- Write legislation that allows USUSA to make public statements

on civil/political issues

- Prevent Covid-19 related financial burdens to fall on Student Fees
- Create standard safeguards that allow normal life to resume ASAP
- The ARC is completely funded by and for students – it should never be shut down as long as students are on campus
- Promote Facilities Enhancement marketing

### Campaign Platform:

Protecting students financially and treating mental health equal to physical health will be over-arching themes of my term. We will bring the Aggie Experience back to campus. We will focus less on how the university wants be perceived, and more on creating the safe and welcoming environment desired.

## Chase Harward



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** West Jordan, Utah  
**Twitter:** @chase\_harward  
**Instagram:** @chase\_harward  
**Major(s):** Political Science, Economics  
**Minor(s):** Spanish

### Qualifications:

- Six years of experience in student leadership and advocacy
- Enthusiastic collaborator within CHaSS Council
- Second-term President of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity
- Effective project manager as Aggie Radio Promotions Director
- Rigorous Honors Program student with a 3.9 GPA

### Goals:

- Equip Academic Senators with the tools and resources need-

ed to make events happen despite current obstacles

- Guide the Student Fee Board towards the reallocation of fees by developing resources like Facilities Enhancement
- Champion inclusivity by advocating that the Student Fee Board better represent the student body's priorities
- Furthering efforts to increase involvement with the understanding that students aren't always able to be on campus
- Focus on the development of a framework designed to inform an effective and rapid response to future crises

### Campaign Platform:

I believe that it's time to embrace the unique challenges the student body currently faces by finding creative solutions that will improve Aggie life while being safe, inviting and forward-thinking.



# Student Advocate VP

The duties of the Student Advocate Vice President include representing student concerns over local, state and federal government, represent student concerns to student government and student services, maintain relationships with key faculty and administrators to better bring change, organize and chair the Government Relations Council, chair the Student Voice Committee, communicate current legislative issues to the Public Relations and Marketing Director to be advertised on campus, provide for a process where students can address their grievances concerning university policies, procedures and decisions, shall act as a moderator to find solutions and corrections for grievances, be responsible for conducting student surveys concerning policies, and serve as a voting member of the USUSA Executive Council.

Scholarship: \$3,250/sem.  
Stipend: \$300/month  
for 8 months

## Joseph Blanchard



**Class Rank:** Sophomore  
**Hometown:** Brigham City, Utah  
**Twitter:** @jsblanchard  
**Instagram:** @joeblanchard44  
**Major(s):** Exploratory  
**Minor(s):** French

### Qualifications:

- Extensive leadership and council experience
- Honest, open-minded, compassionate + nonjudgmental
- Friendly: wide range of social groups and friend demographic
- Diverse exposure: lived in 4 states, 2 yr. mission in Europe
- Open to anything, willing to work

### Goals:

- Raise opportunity for students to be heard through increased

USU wellbeing social media pages/activity + polls

- Open mic grievance conferences allowing Aggies to share/discuss concerns and feelings (in person or zoom)
- Increase care for each other by encouraging students to notice those who are struggling: "Pass it on"
- Seek input from all demographics/minorities to better understand how USU can improve
- "Every Aggie a Hero": Empower students by intentionally recognizing + sharing stories of Aggies who bless others

### Campaign Platform:

Create an open and connected atmosphere in a time of division and isolation through increased communication student-to-school, and increased support student-to-student through "pass it on."

## Ethan Conlee



**Class Rank:** Sophomore  
**Hometown:** Pleasant Grove, Utah  
**Twitter:** @ethanconlee7  
**Instagram:** @ethanconlee7  
**Major(s):** International Relations  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Existing experience (currently serving on the GRC)
- Passion for civics and representative government
- Empathy and openness to those different than me
- Ideas for how to improve student access to resources

### Goals:

- Improve transparency and access to information by submitting a log of my actions as SA VP

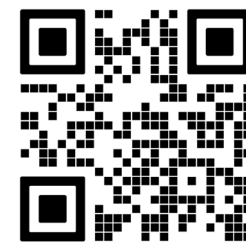
- Increased funding for student mental health services
- Increase student awareness of the resources offered by the Student Advocacy Office
- Revamp "MyVoice" by adding a text line option for submitting feedback
- Work to increase the diversity of people within the GRC to ensure all voices of USU are being heard

### Campaign Platform:

My campaign platform is focused on increasing access to and awareness of resources available to students, with an emphasis on inclusion of all of the voices of Utah State University.

[vote.usu.edu](https://vote.usu.edu)

Enter to win prizes by voting!



# Athletics & Campus Rec VP

The duties of the Athletics & Campus Recreation Vice President include instilling school spirit, pride and loyalty among students and community members for athletics, create a positive atmosphere at sporting events, promote good attendance and sportsmanship, coordinate events with the spirit squad, support campus recreation department, work with intramural programs to increase student involvement, oversee the HURD council and support HURD president, chair the Aggie Life and Wellness Center and Legacy Field Policy Board, and work with game management and ticket office and security to facilitate student seating and game management concerns.

Scholarship: \$3,250/sem.  
Stipend: \$300/month  
for 8 months

## Jordan Kerr



**Class Rank:** Junior

**Hometown:** Pocatello, Idaho

**Twitter:** None

**Instagram:** @jordokerr

**Major(s):** Accounting

**Minor(s):** Mathematics

### Qualifications:

- HURD Operations Director
- Interfraternity Council President
- HURD Club Sports Director
- 3 years working directly with campus recreation
- Sport Management Club member

### Goals:

- Build strong, familiar relationships between students, athletes, coaches, and athletic administration
- Include ALL students in athletics by emphasizing the wide array of sporting events and activities available
- Provide strong support and representation for ALL of our sports teams, especially women's and club teams
- Strive to provide a variety of sports, activities, and programs to encompass a wider range of interests
- Create a culture of inclusion and familiarity within athletics to further promote the 'Aggie Spirit'

### Campaign Platform:

As Athletics & Campus Recreation VP, I am determined to get ALL students involved with athletics in some facet. I want to instill the 'Aggie Spirit' in both our students and athletes by striving to bring sports/wellness into the forefront of our Aggie community.

## Taylor Sampson



**Class Rank:** Senior

**Hometown:** Draper, Utah

**Twitter:** @tsamps1

**Instagram:** @tsamps99

**Major(s):** Marketing

**Minor(s):** Multimedia Development

### Qualifications:

- HURD Marketing Director (20-21')
- Athletics Social Media Lead Intern (20-21')
- HURD Videographer (18-20')
- HURD Social Media Sub Committee Director (18-19')
- President's Cabinet (17-19')

### Goals:

- Bring awareness of when games/activities are held
- Easy communication from the Hurd to the student body
- Continue the support towards women's athletics
- Ensure safety at events (following the pandemic as well as other situations)
- Bring more involvement of Student Athletes with Students

### Campaign Platform:

I will grow student attendance at games by improving the awareness and accessibility of information for all athletic events. I'll also increase the engagement to improve the USU athletic experience.



# Student Events VP

The duties of the Student Events Vice President include enhancing the quality of student life by planning and implementing student activities, improve existing programs and initiate new programs to serve a diverse group of students, be a voting member of USUSA Executive Council, oversee the Traditions, Activities and Series Committees, appoint the Committee director positions with recommendations from the president and Student Events advisor, and chair the programming board.

**Scholarship:** \$3,250/sem.  
**Stipend:** \$300/month  
 for 8 months

## Logan Hill



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Grantsville, Utah  
**Twitter:** @L\_Money1  
**Instagram:** @logibear21  
**Major(s):** Mechanical Engineering  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Current member of the USUSA Blue Crew
- Nobody likes to party as much as me
- Very involved in student events
- Experience in a variety of clubs and organizations

### Goals:

- Plan super fun events that everyone will want to go to
- Ensure quality marketing of events so students will know how,

when, and where they can participate

- Work with other student leaders to create a culture of excitement and energy about USU
- Plan events that appeal to a wide group of people and interests
- Listen to the students ... I wanna hear what you want to do

### Campaign Platform:

Student events are what make college fun! USU has a ton of traditions that I want to continue and make even better. Let's make next year one to remember!

## Alexis Needleman



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Lehi, Utah  
**Twitter:** @needlemanam  
**Instagram:** @needleman\_am  
**Major(s):** Communications Studies  
**Minor(s):** Leadership & Management, Women & Gender Studies

### Qualifications:

- USUSA Activities Director (2020-Present)
- Blue Crew Volunteer Coordinator (2019-2020)
- Blue Crew Committee Member (2018-2020)
- Activities Committee Member (2019-2020)
- Kappa Delta Member (2019-Present)

### Goals:

- Create and maintain a safe but enjoyable on-campus experi-

ence for students

- Prioritize student voices, collaboration, and participation
- Utilize existing relationships and create new connections between student events officers
- Provide students with opportunities to grow as leaders within USUSA
- Facilitate collaboration between USU clubs and organizations

### Campaign Platform:

As the current Activities Director, I look forward to the opportunity to be the next Student Events VP. I will enhance USU through collaboration, engagement, and student wellness.

# Organizations & Campus Diversity VP

The duties of the Organizations and Campus Diversity Vice President including being responsible for the USUSA Clubs & Organizations, be a voting member of USUSA Executive Council, serve as a liaison between diverse student groups and executive council and administration, represent disabled students, represent students with diverse gender identities, represent international and multicultural students, represent religiously diverse student, and create programming events to enrich the cultural experience at USU.

**Scholarship:** \$3,250/sem.  
**Stipend:** \$300/month  
 for 8 months

## Emilee Harmon



**Class Rank:** Senior

**Hometown:** Layton, Utah

**Twitter:** @eharmss

**Instagram:** @e.harms

**Major(s):** Marketing, Business Administration

**Minor(s):** Political Science

### Qualifications:

- Current Vice President Finance for Kappa Delta
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee in Kappa Delta
- Vice President of USU for Joe
- Upstander and Ally trained
- Student Alumni Association committee member

### Goals:

- Encourage USU administration to answer the call for racial equality by listening to students' concerns
- Address administrative issues that have hindered clubs from being successful
- Create accessibility by adding closed captions on all official USU media and providing ASL interpreters when needed
- Establish safety for LGBTQIA+ students with gender neutral bathrooms and use of pronouns on Canvas and Zoom
- Streamline diversity training for student leaders

### Campaign Platform:

An intersectional approach to diversity, inclusion, and belonging. I will seat BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and students with disabilities at the table, give them a voice and amplify those voices to USU administration

## Kayleen Lam



**Class Rank:** Senior

**Hometown:** Logan, Utah

**Twitter:** None

**Instagram:** @pandablovee

**Major(s):** Sociology, Social Work

**Minor(s):** Criminal Justice

### Qualifications:

- Asian Student Association: President (2 yrs) VP and PR (1yr)
- International Student Council Student Life & Advocate VP
- Diversity Director
- Anti-Racist focus group

### Goals:

- Encourage more diverse organizations to participation
- Get student club membership activity up through advertising
- Making events catered toward inclusivity and connections
- Provide support for student organizations
- Support/Encourage trainings catered toward diversity and inclusivity

### Campaign Platform:

My goal is to highlight the importance of inclusion from the connections we share and the differences that make everyone who they are. Being open to others creates a gateway to new experiences.

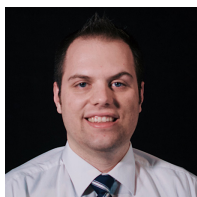


# Graduate Studies Senator

The duty of the Graduate Studies Senator is to be a liaison between the school of Graduate Studies, USUSA Executive Council and USUSA Academic Senate, oversee the Director of Graduate Studies, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, USUSA Executive Council and University Student Fee Board, and chair the Student Health Advisory Council.

Scholarship: \$3,250/sem.  
Stipend: \$225/month  
for 8 months

## Christian Bolander



**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Twitter Handle:** None  
**Instagram Handle:** None  
**Major(s):** Mechanical Engineering  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- NSF GRFP Honorable Mention Awardee (2019)
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society President
- Led efforts to remodel the Engineering Tutor Center
- Significant public speaking experience
- Dedication to mentoring younger students

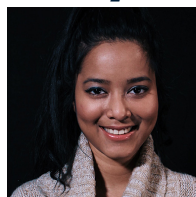
### Goals:

- Organize opportunities for graduate students to interface with undergraduate students and promote graduate school
- Organize cross-disciplinary research presentations for graduate students to attend
- Create information repositories on funding opportunities for graduate students
- Hold info sessions for applying to graduate schools
- Hold graduate student socials each semester

### Campaign Platform:

I intend to help create a graduate student community at USU that enables all students to create a clear path to their future careers and educational opportunities.

## Niyonta Chowdhury-Magana



**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Dhaka  
**Twitter Handle:** @niyonta  
**Instagram Handle:** @lettermilk  
**Major(s):** Psychology  
**Minor(s):** Theater, Creative Writing, Music, Computer Science, International Law & the American Criminal Justice System

### Qualifications:

- President of the International Student Council
- Vice President of the Bangladeshi Student Association
- A co-founder of the Graduate Students of Color Association
- Utah Democratic Party, USU Govt. Relations, USU Fee Board
- PhD Student + Student Media content creator; focus-diversity

### Goals:

- Diversity in the recruitment of Graduate faculty, students, & staff, with periodic cultural competency training
- Interdepartmental graduate assistantships + administrative collaborations including dual/blended graduate degrees
- Dedicated graduate lounge at the TSC + better graduate representation in Student Life & USU websites
- Virtual cross-state family counseling + one psychiatrist & one counselor at CAPS exclusive to graduate students
- Accessible curricula, campus buildings, & user-friendly websites/apps for graduate students with disabilities

### Campaign Platform:

I will make SGS more pluralistic, acculturated, and democratic. We will have better mental health access, improved inter-departmental collaboration, a more user-friendly online experience, more accessible buildings, and increased engagement with, as well as representation in, student life.

## Brandon Fluckiger



**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Highland, Utah  
**Twitter Handle:** None  
**Instagram Handle:** None  
**Major(s):** Human Resources  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- I have a passion for helping people and improving systems
- Communication and working with people is a great strength
- I have experience working for clubs and communities
- I utilize diversity for more creativity and problem-solving
- I'm extremely goal-oriented and always finish what I start

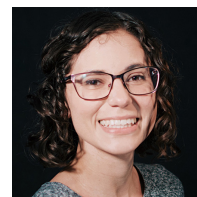
### Goals:

- I will create a system to allow students to more easily offer their voice to help improve systems in grad studies
- I will utilize USU grad studies' diversity of thought to compound opinions for greater problem solving
- I will work tirelessly to improve the system in any way that I can, off the foundation of the voice of our students
- I will communicate to our students often, and keep them in the loop about my objectives, strategies, and progress
- I will actively listen to and consider every individual who offers their voice and opinion

### Campaign Platform:

The primary opportunity that I'm going to offer for graduate students is greater voice. Graduate students come from all over the country, and they all have a voice to offer.

## Christina Morrisett



**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Cordova, Alaska  
**Twitter Handle:** @H2OandFish  
**Instagram Handle:** @lowerhenrysfork  
**Major(s):** Watershed Sciences  
**Minor(s):** Climate Adaptation Science

### Qualifications:

- 3rd yr. PhD student: experienced USU pre- and mid-pandemic
- QCNR Grad Rep (2020-21) + WATS Grad Rep (2019-20)
- Personal experience with RA, TA, and fellowship funding
- Organized grad student letters to USU admin in 2019 and 2020
- Union membership as a MS student (UAW Local 4121, 2016-18)

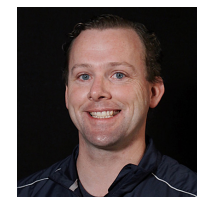
### Goals:

- Send regular updates to graduate student body to ensure transparent and accountable representation
- Foster college-level graduate student councils to increase engagement, participation, and representation
- Maintain and improve graduate student health insurance—especially regarding dental and dependent coverage
- Ensure welcome materials include links to relevant resources for needs like mental health and mediation
- Boost community-building events as we recover from the pandemic and can safely interact with each other again

### Campaign Platform:

I'm running for increased transparency, communication, and student participation. Let's engage and empower students with information so we can advocate for ourselves and hold the administration accountable.

## Bobby Summers



**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Mountain Green, Utah  
**Twitter Handle:** None  
**Instagram Handle:** @bobbyvandcompany  
**Major(s):** ITLS  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- I am currently a student at USU in the ITLS grad program
- I am a loving and hardworking father to my 5-year-old son
- Want to see COVID-19 contained, eliminated, & life returned
- Experienced teaching in schools and those skills transfer
- I am bilingual: I speak Spanish & respect all cultures

### Goals:

- Bring back social gatherings and fun to campus, with the retreat of COVID-19 coming soon
- Allow students to be more informed with posters, signs, posts on social media, Aggie Radio, and on our websites
- I will work hard each day for my fellow Aggies
- I will remember that my family (my son) comes first and my Aggies would agree
- I will keep all of my promises to my fellow Aggies

### Campaign Platform:

I pledge to bring back social activities, social gatherings, and reach out to students. We must pull together to life up each other. Every student can succeed! Everyone is valuable!

# CAAS Senator

The duties of the CASS Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Agriculture Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Ag Week.

## Caden Cox



**Class Rank:** Junior

**Hometown:** Blackfoot, Idaho

**Twitter:** None

**Instagram:** None

**Major(s):** Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences

**Minor(s):** Biology, Chemistry

**Qualifications:**

- Part of the CAAS Council for the 2020-21 school year

- Peer Advisor for ADVS and APEC majors at CAAS
- Officer in the Pre-Vet Club for multiple years
- Helped plan, carryout, and supervise multiple college events
- Successfully fulfilled multiple leadership roles

**Goals:**

- Unify the College in a way that brings all majors to light
- Help every student attending feel that they have a voice in their education
- Unify students across State-wide Campuses and help them feel a part of the main

Logan campus

- Continue to plan and host events that are safe and practical during times of this pandemic
- Help administration to push continued growth and advancements in education in each program in our college

**Campaign Platform:**

Bringing the vast assortment of majors in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences together in unification, to help better the College for current and future generations.

## Scholarship: \$3,050 per semester

## Jacob Major



**Class Rank:** Senior

**Hometown:** Paradise, Utah

**Twitter:** None

**Instagram:** @jke\_major

**Major(s):** Agribusiness, Accounting

**Minor(s):** Technical Sales Management

**Qualifications:**

- President of the CAAS

Ambassadors

- Member of the Deans Leadership Council
- Former Agriculture Future of America Ambassador for USU
- I will listen to you and work to help you

**Goals:**

- Work with current health guidelines to host frequent CAAS student activities
- Raise awareness about internships and jobs by working with advisors, career services, and CAAS alumni
- Continue to grow college unity by meeting with club presidents and members

bi-monthly

- Represent CAAS students on the Fee Board and Academic Senate and make sure their voice is heard
- Raise awareness about mental health resources for CAAS students and by being a friend to all

**Campaign Platform:**

Your collegiate experience can be a springboard for your future. After a year of upheaval and change due to COVID-19, I want to listen to you, partner with you, and help you build on your experiences to make this next year even better.

# Art Senator

The duties of the Arts Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the Caine College of the Arts, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Art Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Art Week.

## Scholarship: \$3,050 per semester

## Sophia Lesser Thorngren



**Class Rank:** Junior

**Hometown:** Brisbane, Australia

**Twitter:** None

**Instagram:** @sophielesser14

**Major(s):** Interior Architecture and Design

**Minor(s):** None

**Qualifications:**

- Vice President of Panhellenic Recruitment
- Awarded Duke of Edinburgh Leadership Award

- Member of USUSA Traditions committee
- 11 years of living abroad amongst several diverse cultures
- Treasurer of USUSA Sports Management Club

**Goals:**

- Provide easier access to resources for students
- Promote networking opportunities between and within all departments
- Ensure arts council has representa-

tives from all departments to ensure objectivity and inclusion

- Create another "Student" section on the CCA website to promote and display learning, advice and achievements
- Promote and run more beneficial and interactive workshops and learning activities online and in person

**Campaign Platform:**

Prioritize the mindset of a "students helping students" environment,

where ideas are being collaborated and voices are being heard. Focus on making transitions smoother through easier access to resources, information, and each other.



# Business Senator

The duties of the Business Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Business Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Business Week.

## Caleb Smith



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Trenton, Utah  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @csmithy9  
**Major(s):** International Business  
**Minor(s):** Spanish

### Qualifications:

- Past president and current member of Business council
- I have been an involved Aggie since 2018
- I have diverse experience from internships to clubs
- I have been involved with USUSA for three semesters

### Goals:

- Focus on academic success by doing fewer activities but make the activities done more impactful
- Provide students with opportunities to voice their concerns to faculty and the dean's office
- Reach out to students who are learning from a distance by holding virtual activities
- Give students who are not on campus a voice with virtual meetings between students and staff
- Foster a culture of inclusion within the Huntsman School of Business

### Campaign Platform:

Less is more - Focus on academic success by holding fewer yet more impactful activities. Representation - Ensure students are heard. Inclusion - Provide virtual opportunities for students to be included.

## Drew Thorngren



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Ogden, Utah  
**Twitter:** @uncle\_drew24  
**Instagram:** @uncle\_drew24  
**Major(s):** Management, Marketing  
**Minor(s):** Leadership & Management

### Qualifications:

- Current VP of Business Ambassadors
- Started a successful small business
- Current President & Founder of USUSA Sports Management Club
- Member of ProSales, HMA, Covey Leadership Fellows and E-Club
- Huntsman and Presidential Scholar

### Goals:

- Prioritize finding ways to bring back normal life and activities to the Huntsman School of Business
- Ensure each department is represented on Business Council
- Promote student-run businesses through social media and entrepreneur day
- Create a student leadership board with all HSB club presidents to unify and represent club members
- Effectively advocate for students on student fee board and differential tuition advisory board

### Campaign Platform:

Focus on the Huntsman Way by helping business students achieve success in school and beyond. Diligently advocate for the student body as I establish a unified, inclusive, and progressive environment.

Scholarship:  
 \$3,050 per  
 semester

## Brock Yeager



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Fruita, Colorado  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @brocckoli.y  
**Major(s):** Business Management  
**Minor(s):** Entrepreneurship

### Qualifications:

- 6+ years of leadership experience
- Have been involved with USUSA events since freshman year
- 6+ years of learning the "red tape" of school government
- Work in the advising office at the business school
- Open to compromise, hardworking, honest, fair

### Goals:

- Establish transparency of how to make change in the school
- Plan "Shark tanks" with the head faculty for students to present and enact change
- Monthly accomplishments and goals of the business council posted for everyone to see
- Market myself and the business council as people to come to with your problems
- It's very important to me that I remain unbiased in my own opinion and am an active advocate for the student body

### Campaign Platform:

My platform will be centered around helping students help themselves. I will accomplish this through establishing transparency and realistic but ambitious goals to help students achieve in the best way possible.

# Statesman Debate

Wednesday, Feb 24 | 11:30 am | TSC Hub

Live Streamed at [youtube.com/c/USUStatesman](https://youtube.com/c/USUStatesman) and Broadcasted on Aggie Radio

# CHaSS Senator

**Scholarship:  
\$3,050 per  
semester**

The duties of the Humanities and Social Sciences Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the CHaSS Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement CHaSS Week.

## Maddie Alder



- IOGP Student Advisory Board Member
- USUSA President's Cabinet Member (3 years)
- Peak Fellowship Recipient for Sociology Research
- Aggies Geopolitical Observatory lead contributor

### Goals:

- Create a welcoming and safe community for all students by prioritizing diversity and inclusion initiatives
- Improve access to internships and job opportunities by building alumni connections and developing partnerships
- Cultivate a collaborative environment by implementing a student-to-student mentoring program

- Celebrate students across CHaSS by featuring research and achievements on social media and a monthly newsletter
- Advocate for student needs on the fee board, academic council, and CHaSS council

### Campaign Platform:

As senator, I will be a change leader who is dedicated to listening to and elevating all student voices. Together we can build a more connected, inclusive, and vibrant college environment.

## Celeste Rodriguez



- and the success of students
- Ability to connect with students of different experiences
- Worked with current CHaSS Senator on events & legislation

### Goals:

- Build direct communication between department and students through townhalls, office hours & social media
- Promote inclusion through bias and ally training for all students and faculty
- Increase enthusiasm in CHaSS degrees through engagement in events, post grad opportunities & networking
- Strengthen student's confidence in their officers

- by acting as a voice for all students in committees and councils
- Communicate current unused resources available to students through social media, newsletters and events

### Campaign Platform:

I will provide CHaSS students with direct communication to promote academic success and confidence in themselves and their college. I also plan to increase engagement, inclusion, and resources for students.

**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Twitter:** @MaddieAlder  
**Instagram:** @madeleine\_alder  
**Major(s):** International Studies  
**Minor(s):** Russian  
**Qualifications:**

- CHaSS Sustainability Representative

**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Parker, Colorado  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @celestemrod  
**Major(s):** Political Science, Journalism  
**Minor(s):** Hospitality  
**Qualifications:**

- CHaSS Events Director
- CHaSS Council
- Passionate about CHaSS

**Primary  
Elections  
Feb 22–23**

**Final  
Elections  
Feb 24–25**



[vote.usu.edu](https://vote.usu.edu)

Enter to win prizes by voting!



# Education Senator

The duties of the Education Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Education Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Education Week.

**Scholarship:**  
\$3,050 per semester  
**Chloe Christopher**



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Layton, Utah  
**Twitter:** @avaclodo  
**Instagram:** @avaclodo  
**Major(s):** Elementary Education  
**Minor(s):** None

#### **Qualifications:**

- Dedicated and willing to put in the work
- Organized and creative to be successful in this position
- Passionate about teaching and an accepting environment
- Enthusiastic about improving CEHS for myself and others
- Friendly, empathetic, and open to new ideas

#### **Goals:**

- Collaborate with other college senators to build alliances and share ideas
- Support the diverse majors

and departments within • CEHS by networking and collaborating to share resources

- Assist students within CEHS to find their purpose by listening to their concerns and working together to solve problems
- Encourage inclusion and diversity training for students and faculty that creates a community of respect
- Grow and expand the CEHS social media pages to spread awareness about events and extend our reach

#### **Campaign Platform:**

As senator, I will dedicate my time to put in the necessary work to improve CEHS by promoting collaboration between other senators, department heads, and students within the college.

# Engineering Senator

The duties of the Engineering Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the College of Engineering, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the E-Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Engineering Week.

**Scholarship:**  
\$3,050 per semester

**Britney  
Dikwa-Nkrumah**



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Logan, Utah  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @britneyneyney  
**Major(s):** Biological Engineering  
**Minor(s):** Chemistry

#### **Qualifications:**

- Member of Engineering Council
- Member of Society of Women Engineers
- Member of the A-team for two years
- Peer-mentored for Connections for two years

#### **Goals:**

- Improve the connection and networking with faculty and alumni

- Advocate for students to be seen and their voices to be heard
- Expand extracurricular opportunities for students to enhance and apply their learning
- Build up and strengthen the Mentor Program
- Increase support and promote clubs and events

#### **Campaign Platform:**

I hope to build a culture and help establish long-term relationships among the engineering students and faculty, which will produce influential learning experiences, more opportunity to grow, advocacy and representation for all students.

# Natural Resources Senator

The duties of the Natural Resources senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Natural Resources Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Natural Resources Week.

**Scholarship:**  
\$3,050 per semester  
**Meridian Wappett**



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Moscow, Idaho  
**Twitter:** @merwappett  
**Instagram:** @merwappett  
**Major(s):** Conservation & Restoration Ecology  
**Minor(s):** Natural Resources Agriculture Pre-Law

#### **Qualifications:**

- Active leader in the QCNR student council
- President of the QCNR's SOSNR club
- Understands USUSA through work in the GRC

- Residence Hall Association (RHA) Director of Advocacy
- Personable and approachable; willing to help any student

#### **Goals:**

- Plan engaging activities for QCNR students
- Highlight faculty and student accomplishments
- Help pass USU diversity initiatives
- Improve communication regarding opportunities and jobs to QCNR students
- Increase QCNR pride and involvement in activities

#### **Campaign Platform:**

The QCNR is full of a diversity of students, majors, and interests. Every QCNR student deserves to have their voice heard and represented, and if elected I will make this a priority.

V O T E . U S U . E D U

# Science Senator

The duties of the Science Senator are to enhance the overall quality of academic life, specifically in the College of Science, represent graduate and undergraduate students in the college, serve as a member of the USUSA Academic Senate, meet with the dean of the college, attend department head meetings, create and chair the Science Student Council which at minimum holds bi-monthly meetings, train the new senator, prepare a year-end report of the college council programs and issues, and plan and implement Science Week.

Scholarship: \$3,050  
per semester

## Kaden Bunch



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Farmington, Utah  
**Twitter:** @bunch\_kaden  
**Instagram:** @kadentb  
**Major(s):** Biology  
**Minor(s):** Spanish, Entrepreneurship

### Qualifications:

- Published researcher
- Member of the Science Council
- Private tutor of biology and general chemistry
- Co-Founder and CEO of Nyce Bags
- Pre-Med track with a high GPA

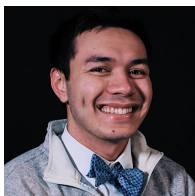
### Goals:

- Bring back the social nature of USU
- Foster unity amongst students
- Promote professional growth and correction
- Promote USU resources and interaction with students
- Complete college experience (clubs, programs, plans)

### Campaign Platform:

Fostering growth, connection, and unity is my focus. Utah State provides the resources, and we have the opportunity to take advantage of them.

## Zach Liang



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Bothwell, Washington  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @zacharyliang  
**Major(s):** Statistics: Actuarial Science Emphasis, Economics  
**Minor(s):** Computer Science, Quantitative Finance, Math

### Qualifications:

- Science Council: Director of Student Affairs 2020-21
- Alpha Sigma Phi: VP of Finance 2019-2021
- Math 3310 Recitation Instructor 2020-2021
- Order of Omega (Greek Honor Society) Treasurer 2021
- Member of USU Dairy Science Club 2019-2021

### Goals:

- Continue to develop and work to better promote the College of Science mentorship program
- Host undergraduate research fairs promoting student/faculty interaction
- Work with local nonprofits and the College of Science to sponsor campus-wide service activities
- Plan with clubs to promote their purpose and foster interest
- Make TEDxUSU an annual event

### Campaign Platform:

My goal is to bring students together through exciting events, promote current research, expand the mentorship program, and increase club involvement.

## Kendall Morrison



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Idaho Falls, Idaho  
**Twitter:** None  
**Instagram:** @kendallforsenator  
**Major(s):** Biology  
**Minor(s):** Chemistry

### Qualifications:

- USUSA Clubs Director (2020-2021)
- Pre-Dental Club (2018-present)
- VP of Member Development in • Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity
- Aggie Blue Leadership Conference committee member
- Excellent relationships with our Dean, professors, and USUSA

### Goals:

- Create a Canvas page for all departments for students to easily find research and networking opportunities
- Work with department heads, Senators, and USUSA officers to make our events well publicized
- Plan events that showcase the academic diversity found with our College
- Increase communication between the College and USUSA to create an efficient flow of information
- Be your advocate on the Academic Senate and have complete transparency with regards to all matters of importance

### Campaign Platform:

The CoS provides its student's with all of the resources and opportunities we need to be successful. Sadly, these resources go unnoticed. As your senator, I'll make sure that these resources will be widely available, and our College will be widely promoted.

## Jonathan Mousley



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Riverton, Utah  
**Twitter:** @jonathanmousley  
**Instagram:** @jonathan4science  
**Major(s):** Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Science Council Professional Development Committee member
- Undergraduate Research Fellow
- College of Science Student Mentorship Supervisor
- Mathematics Recitation Leader
- Former Aggie Math Learning Center tutor

### Goals:

- Establish a database that lists professor research and mentor experience to increase student access to faculty
- Host regular panels with professors as a resource for undergraduates interested in pursuing research
- Meet with department heads within our college to advocate for the increased pay of undergraduate TAs
- Recruit more employers in search of science majors for on-campus job fairs
- Form legislation that will fully fund the student mentorship program for future semesters

### Campaign Platform:

As your senator, I will increase the visibility of research opportunities in our college, advocate for student employees, and help cultivate meaningful connections that will serve our students post-graduation.

## Nathan Peel



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Paradise, Utah  
**Twitter:** @nathanpeel9  
**Instagram:** @nathanpeel9  
**Major(s):** Biology Emphasis Molecular  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Deep love for people and the college of science
- Current club president
- Constantly seeking to understand my peers
- Tutor young students at a high school
- Have had experience with Utah state since childhood

### Goals:

- Inclusion – especially for the underclassmen
- Clear communication from leadership to individual students
- Find ways to strengthen the relationship between faculty and students
- Work to keep costs down for students in the college of science
- Have activities for all students to intermingle whether that is online or in person

### Campaign Platform:

I want every student in the college of science to have a voice in the university and be represented by someone who cares for them and wants their voices to be heard. I hope to work with my peers to meet the needs of and dreams of the students that I have gone to class with and come to love.



# Statewide Campuses President

The role of the Regional Campus Student Association is to enhance the quality of Regional Campus student life through a focus on academics and activities. The Regional Campus President will address student concerns, advance public relations, and serve student clubs, organizations, and cultural events. These goals will be accomplished via legislation and student representation.

Scholarship: \$3,000/sem.  
Stipend: \$200/month  
for 8 months

## Kelsey Johnson



**Class Rank:** Junior

**Hometown:** Layton, Utah

**Major(s):** Recreation Resource Management

**Minor(s):** General Studies

### Qualifications:

- 2 years experience as USUSA Brigham Region VP
- 5 years experience in government finances
- 15 years customer service
- 4th generation Aggie
- Non-traditional student and parent who cares deeply about enhancing the student experience for everyone

### Goals:

- As our campuses continue to transition from "Regional" to "State-wide," I plan to represent all Statewide students, especially the non-traditional students
- I want to be sure all our students (including LGBTQ+, POC, Veterans, etc.) are welcome and safe at every campus
- Studies have shown students who get involved in extracurricular activities are more likely to finish their programs so I hope to increase student involvement through Statewide clubs and USUSA activities
- I plan to have every vending machine at each campus working properly and fully stocked with the best snacks and drinks during my term as President
- Continue a great working relationship with USU administrators and student officers

### Campaign Platform:

I started my journey in student government two years ago and I immediately knew this was for me. This coming year I plan to do even more for the students, as I feel like I am just getting started!

## Braxton Evans



**Class Rank:** Sophomore

**Hometown:** Tooele, Utah

**Major(s):** Elementary Education

**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Served as Tooele Region VP during a pandemic
- I try to go above and Beyond what I am asked
- I am super energetic
- I can keep calm during a crisis
- I'm extremely organized

### Goals:

- Show off our Statewide campuses uniqueness and how amazing they are
- Be a voice for our students and ensure their concerns are being heard
- Getting more involved with our statewide campuses helping them receive the help they may be of need of.
- Help show potential students students that there are many opportunities available to them
- Work with statewide campuses to give students the best possible opportunities

### Campaign Platform:

Serving as the Tooele-Region Vice President has taught me many lessons such as learning to be a voice for our students. My hope if elected as Statewide President is to show off the campuses' unique environments, locations, services, and show potential students (traditional and nontraditional students) that they have many opportunities available to them!

# Blanding VP

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Quandinna "Que" Begay



- Very adaptable and dependable, in any give situation

### Goals:

- Establish a safe campus for all faculty and students
- Make ties between the community and the campus life
- Increase involvement from students and community members
- Increase usefulness and availability of all resources on campus
- Provide equal attention to all students

### Campaign Platform:

Helps students get the best education they can from USU Blanding regardless of what their educational path has looked like before, what is look now and the path they decide to take in the future.

**Class Rank:** Sophomore  
**Hometown:** Many Farms, Arizona  
**Major(s):** Mathematics  
**Minor(s):** None

**Qualifications:**

- Current USUSA Inclusion Representative
- Great communication skills
- Great leadership skills
- Very outgoing, responsible, organized and an active listener

# Brigham VP

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Barbara Swenson



- Non-traditional student

### Goals:

- Better Student Involvement
- BC/Tremonton/Kaysville campus exposure and cooperation
- More events that would unite the campuses and its students
- Better opportunities for non-traditional students
- Involving the community and other organizations for internship opportunities for students

### Campaign Platform:

Standing for better representation of USU Brigham City/Kaysville/Tremonton Campuses and the exposure of its students. Focusing on and supporting both traditional and non-traditional students as well as providing better opportunities for them.

**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Srednje Bitnje, Slovenia  
**Major(s):** Law and Constitutional Studies, Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice  
**Minor(s):** None

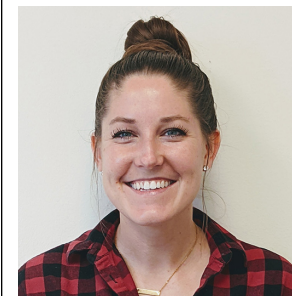
### Qualifications:

- Authoritative and compassionate personality
- Organizational skills
- Planning skills
- Financial management and budgeting skills

# Moab VP

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Becky Hinchcliff



potential

### Goals:

- Promote the interests of and values of the Moab student body within the scope of the larger USU body
- Partner with other extension campus USUSA representatives to advocate for the best interests of students in rural communities
- Encourage Moab students to utilize mental health and counseling services available to them
- Increase student engagement and investment in local and school events

### Campaign Platform:

As the Moab Executive Vice President my main focus is to encourage the interconnectedness of Moab students to one another, our community, and Utah State University.

**Class Rank:** Graduate Student  
**Hometown:** Moab, Utah  
**Major(s):** Master's in Social Work  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Leadership experience as a program manager
- Facilitation skills between teams, divisions, and agencies
- People-person
- Goal-oriented
- Care about others' goals/

# Tooele VP

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Julie Andrews



- Fun Loving
- Willing to do what is needed

### Goals:

- Keep Tooele-USU traditions
- Be an advocate for Tooele-USU Students
- Continue efforts made by previous VP's
- Help transition new students to Aggie life
- Increase student involvement

### Campaign Platform:

The previous VP's have done amazing work, and I would like to continue in their path. I plan on being a help and support for students.

**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Tooele, Utah  
**Major(s):** Accounting  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Dedicated
- Hard Working
- Motivated

# Wasatch VP

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Natoya Chung



- Driven to be successful
- Planning and organizing

### Goals:

- Assist with more opportunities to pay for tuition
- Offer additional perks for students who get good grades each term
- Continue to promote fair treatment for all students
- Be a voice for student's concerns
- Increase student involvement and school pride

### Campaign Platform:

Talk to my fellow classmates to discuss the changes and improvements they would like to see. Be proactive to build trust and respect from them.

**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Taylorsville, Utah  
**Major(s):** Operation Management  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Leadership
- Goal oriented
- Great team player



# Uintah Basin Campus VP

## Adelia Bickerstaff



**Class Rank:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Vernal, Utah  
**Major(s):** Integrated Studies  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- I have a genuine interest in the welfare of others
- I am active in my community
- I work well in a team
- I have excellent communications skills
- I'm empathetic

### Goals:

- I plan on making sure struggling students know all of their community resources
- I will represent the Uintah Basin to the best of my ability
- I want to promote the awareness of what student fees are used for
- Coordinate activities that are community oriented

### Campaign Platform:

I want to make sure that all students have the resources available to them to succeed in school and life.

## Justin Bjerke



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Jensen, Utah  
**Major(s):** Biology  
**Minor(s):** Spanish

### Qualifications:

- Good communicator
- Well organized
- Good team player
- Good listener
- Driven to succeed

### Goals:

- Easier way to access internet
- More scholarship publicity/opportunities
- Higher awareness of tutors/tutoring services
- Child care services
- More funding for majors/supplies available

### Campaign Platform:

Ensure that student's voices and concerns are heard and responded to.

## Lindsay Cook



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Vernal, Utah  
**Major(s):** Elementary Education  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Planning
- Listening
- Goal Oriented

### Goals:

- Achieve better relations between USU and Ute Tribe
- Create inviting atmosphere for students in the Latinx community
- Provide more access to physical recreation
- Create a better atmosphere for non-traditional students
- Help students facing food insecurity

### Campaign Platform:

Create your future.

## Veronica Mendoza



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Vernal, Utah  
**Major(s):** Nursing  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Junior at Utah State University

- Solid budgeting and accounting skills in order to balance and make the most of student body fees
- Strong leadership skills in order to lead the Uintah Basin Student Council
- Responsible and dependable with strong ethics and integrity
- Knowledgeable about parliamentary procedure and student government

### Goals:

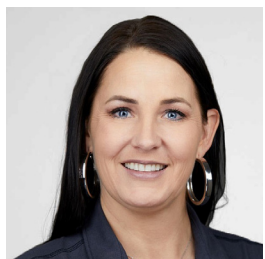
- Represent the Uintah Basin with pride and honor at the state level
- Hold accountability for the usage and balancing of student body fees
- Bring awareness to university and community resources that are available
- Represent and actively seek student input concerning University governance and issues
- Work to create fun and engaging activities for all students

### Campaign Platform:

My platform includes representing the students of the Uintah Basin while becoming a voice for concerns and suggestions! I hope to create fun and engaging activities while balancing and stretching the student body fees as far as possible.

# Southwest VP

## Sherri Callister



**Class Rank:** Sophomore  
**Hometown:** Delta, Utah  
**Major(s):** Management  
**Minor(s):** Operations Management

### Qualifications:

- Past USU Extension Employee (Contracted)
- Past Government Employee (Millard County, Utah State)
- Tax Commission, Utah Driver License Division)

- Past Business Owner
- Task Oriented/Goal Oriented
- Team Player

### Goals:

- Support For Southwest Students
- Surveys to determine the needs vs wants for Southwest Students
- SWAG, One can never have enough USU swag
- Continue Communication on Canvas
- Recognizing Students on Canvas from the Southwest

### Campaign Platform:

I have enjoyed my time at Utah State University so far. I want all of the students from the Southwest to have

the same experiences that I have had. I would like to be a support system to help you succeed in your education. I hope to encourage others that an education is absolutely obtainable even with a busy schedule.

Scholarship: \$2,000/sem.

## Alyse Lewis



**Class Rank:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Payson, Utah  
**Major(s):** Elementary Education  
**Minor(s):** None

### Qualifications:

- Student council at Mountain Heights academy (an online high school) as a student representative
- Attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership

conference

- Current and previous leadership calling in LDS ward, dealing with planning and organizing events
- Associates degree in office management and administration assistant
- Team Leader at Lundberg and Associates

### Goals:

- Unite Southwest students
- Create opportunities aimed toward self-management and growth
- Keep students informed about USU resources

### Campaign Platform:

Create opportunities for students to get the most out of their education.