



Accessibility | Inclusion | Improvement

Why We Are Running

Every year, the Undergraduate Government of Boston College (UGBC) attempts to do its best to listen to the voice of students and devise strategies on how to effectively cater to their needs. Yet, we find that students are still faced with the same issues and recurring problems on campus. Certain groups have yet to feel a sense of belonging at Boston College due to the school's inability to represent everyone's interest. At the current rate of Student Services, Boston College risks potentially losing its status as one of the few colleges that are need-blind. The school's unique housing system results in disappointment and tremendous tension on campus. As shown through the new market on Lower Campus, Boston College dining has the potential for improvement. Boston College needs a student government that not only represents students' interests but also, more importantly, pushes the institution to its limits to make Boston College a proud home for everyone.

Our Vision

We believe UGBC truly **does** have the ultimate potential and ability to fix many of the issues that this campus and our students face. When we are in office, our vision includes not just talking about important issues but actually implementing them. To do this, we will harness the **untapped resources within UGBC and the student body** and be a student government not afraid to suggest tough yet productive initiatives to the school administration. As a testament of our commitment to serve the student body, we, Christian and Kevork, are pledging to **NOT take the traditional Presidential and Vice Presidential "stipends"** and reallocate such funds to directly impact the lives of students, not those in the Executive Council. UGBC should work to represent the needs of the Boston College community. With a direct line between the students and the administration, UGBC has unlimited potential to advocate and make positive change for every single student on this campus. While having financial resources at its disposal, UGBC's biggest resource is the **student body itself**.

Time and time again, students have proven their ability to unite towards creating a more inclusive and stronger community. This unity is the main driver for any positive change that happens on this campus. By harnessing the **immense power and potential of the students**, coupled with managing a government that gives more power to individual groups, we can effectively take advantage of UGBC's resources to actually improve the lives of students. Through our platform focused on accessibility, inclusion, and improvement, we will put the needs of the students first and not be afraid to fight tough issues in order to **prioritize what is important for you**. As proud Eagles, we are excited to run for UGBC President and Vice President. Yet, we understand the need of UGBC to not only **make students feel at home** but also **enhance Boston College's status** as a leading academic institution throughout the globe.

Accessibility: While a remarkable institution, Boston College is limited in the opportunities that it provides its past, current, and prospective students. Much of the initiatives already established by certain departments from Student Services to Athletics need to be expanded and perfected further. We will continue to partner with such organizations while expanding current initiatives in order to ensure students' desires are attained.

Financial Aid Programs

- Create more initiatives and events similar to the BC Pops on the Heights, which raised \$12.3 million for the Boston College Scholarship Fund in 2019
- Work with John Mahoney and other key members of Student Services (which oversees the office of financial aid) to find other ways to increase funding for needy students
- Use financial aid effectively in order to attract a diverse student body - one that we do not currently have due to our school's finite resources for financial aid
- Research ways to potentially increase not only need-based but also merit-based scholarships for incoming students

Discounted Ride Sharing

- Engage in a partnership with Uber/Lyft to provide Boston College Students with discounted rides
- Continue to look at other partnerships that have been used by other colleges and universities across the country in order to ensure that we are forming the most advantageous and cost efficient agreement
 - BC Students regularly use these services, so such a partnership would help offset the already large costs of going to school and living in the Greater Boston Area.
- Research better pickup/drop-off locations and publicize such areas throughout campus through signage

MBTA Opportunities and Discounts

- Establish a space on campus that allows students to get Student Charlie Cards directly
- Create and maintain a partnership with the MBTA to **nursing students** and, once successful, eventually expand such a partnership to all students

Expanding Email Access

- Provide students with access to their Google accounts for five years after graduation, expanding their current expiration in October of the same year
- Ensure that recent graduates have a smooth transition into the real world
- Analyze how the Career Center uses their resources to better improve our approach to helping seniors after graduation

Providing a More Accessible Campus

- Develop Eagle Escort Services Further
 - Ensure that Boston College remains committed to having more than one staffed Eagle Escort vans to maximize efficiency as outlined in a resolution concerning Eagle Escort earlier this academic year
 - Increase potential partnerships with student employment services to hire student drivers and further expand Eagle Escort services
 - Grow the number of Eagle Escort vans to minimize the amount of time students wait for such services
- Create More Open Spaces for Campus-Wide Events
 - Increase the amount of space allocated for people with disabilities at athletic events, including but not limited to areas like Conte Forum, Alumni Stadium, and Robsham Theatre

Shuttle Transportation

- Drop students off in front of the Fish Field House in order to provide quicker access for students to walk to the new Recreation Center
- Expand current initiatives set up by Boston College Transportation to provide further weekly student access to locations like the Chestnut Hill Mall while increasing the number of locations to include Newton Center, Fuel America, and The Street Mall

Inclusion: The Undergraduate Government of Boston College needs to provide students with opportunities to shed light on the issues that matter most to them. Using UGBC as the united voice of students on campus, we will give students such opportunities to be included in conversations with the Boston College Administration to vocalize and demonstrate what truly matters most to them in order to form a school that revolves around the student body rather than against it.

Advancing Resources Allocated to LGBTQ+ Students on Campus

- Advocate for a LGBTQ+ space on campus, most preferably in the incoming student center, to establish a concrete location for students to foster community and comfortably engage in dialogue
- Encourage student-led dialogue on campus to make Boston College a more inclusive campus for everyone

Creating a Home for Marginalized Students On Campus

- Expand resources and increase funding allocated to the Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center (BAIC) and Montserrat Programs
- Encourage UGBC collaborations with BAIC, Montserrat, First-Generation Club, and Cultural Groups on Campus
- Hire more AHANA+ and LGBTQ+ faculty across administrative and academic positions
- Expand on UGBC's current initiative to establish town halls with the school administration to facilitate conversation between students who want change on campus and the school administration
- Implement further programs in coordination with Residential Life to encourage conversation concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus

University Core

- Research whether the Cultural Diversity core required by all students truly makes them aware of others' perspectives in order to truly formulate productive dialogue on campus
- Expand the Complex Problems & Enduring Questions Core Curriculum to create more courses that not only satisfy students' university core requirements but also encourage students to learn subjects about which they are passionate or curious

Connecting Students with Student Government

- Require Senators to email the UGBC Director of Communications with updates on all their progress in serving the community in order to post on social media
- Expand office hours from simply Executive Board members to all Senators
- Hold more referendums and student polling initiatives while the Executive Board is in session to provide and use student feedback on the current administration and progress on our policies
- Create an online platform or website to inform students on UGBC's progress throughout the academic year and ensure students are responsible for their initiatives
- Increase UGBC's presence on campus through tabling and events to encourage collaboration between UGBC and campus organizations

Student Input on the Master Plan

- Student Center
 - Ensure that the school administration invites **student input** on the new student center, including but not limited to its location on campus, content, and resources that should be incorporated within the facility
 - Represent the interests of the entire student population in the plans by gathering information directly from the students through online polling and referendums and reporting such data to the administration
 - Advocate for a student position on the Student Center Steering Committee currently comprised of Boston College faculty and staff
- Residential Life on Brighton
 - Ensure that the administration invites student input on any decision that revolves around fundamentally changing the housing process
 - Research what students want in their residence halls such as new housing styles

End of Year Money Reallocation

- Allow students to use a portion of their unused funds to support activities about which they are passionate
- Ensure that the money Boston College dining receives from unused funds for student meal plans are used appropriately and most efficiently for the following school year

Menstrual Products Initiative

- Expand the pilot program sponsored by the Women's Center, UGBC, and RHA to refill free menstrual hygiene products in women's bathrooms throughout campus
- Attempt to shift the costs of the program to the Boston College administration to permanently keep the initiative
- Advocate for the removal of any for-pay menstrual hygiene products that will be replaced with free dispensaries

Fostering Self-Expression Throughout Campus

- Ensure that every student, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, and political beliefs have the **ultimate right and ability to freely express themselves on this campus**
- Create further spaces on campus for all students who have yet to feel a **sense of belonging** at Boston College, which is necessary for a robust and engaging dialogue

Improvement: BC offers many unique services to the student body. But, conversations with students have shown us that many of these need to be better tailored to fit the needs of the students. While we understand these services are complex, there is no reason why some of the most basic services shouldn't unequivocally further the interests of the students. Using

the position of UGBC as the main advocate for Boston College students, we will attempt to create more strategic partnerships to enhance student life on campus.

A Different Approach to Campus Live Entertainment Events

- Research and maximize the potential of CAB's live entertainment events on campus through facilitating talks with the administration to better utilize funds in order to bring in more artists that Boston College students love and recognize
- Hear what students really want for their live entertainment needs and approach the administration in order to give CAB the necessary resources to achieve students' desires
- Look at better spaces and venues that such events can be held, including but not limited to House of Blues and Conte Forum
- Potentially outsource some portion of ticket sales for a big event in order to make tickets cheaper for Boston College students

BC Dining

- Expand the usage and compatibility of EagleBucks to other frequented locations near campus such as Dunkin' Donuts, El Pelón, and White Mountain
- Add more areas similar to CoRo Café and the recently opened Market at Corcoran on campus for students to sit down and do work - most likely, spaces in upcoming buildings such as the Schiller Institute

Restructure Bookstore

- Reevaluate the bookstore's partnership with efollett and determine whether such a partnership is efficient enough for students to find and buy their academic materials
- Add more pickup and drop-off locations during the beginning and end of the academic semester in order to prevent long lines and maximize time

Study Abroad

- Gather information concerning students' concerns and opinions about the Office of International Programs
- Determine what initiatives and approach has to be taken in order to satisfy student experience concerning the study abroad process, including but not limited to the application and physically studying abroad as well

Expanding University Counseling Services (UCS) and Mental Health Resources

- Work with Craig Burns, University Counseling Services, and the school administration to hire more UCS counselors, particularly counselors of color to meet the demonstrated student need
- Increase the ability of UCS to meet with students with a quicker turnaround

- Expand and further promote the resources UCS offers, including but not limited to support groups, WellTrack, and one-on-one counseling
- Require incoming students take a mental health awareness training seminar in order to make students more aware of the resources that UCS offers
- Promote programs like Lean on Me to promote dialogue and offer a safe space for students who want to talk about mental health on campus

Boston College Course Evaluation System

- Revive and revamp a course evaluation system similar to BC PEPS in order to make students aware of the courses for which they are enrolling
- Continue to work with the Computer Science Society to make the new course evaluation platform both easy and accessible
- Advocate for the Office of the Provost and Dean of Faculties to release the student-filled evaluation for their professors and courses to anonymously reuse in the new platform to maximize the time to release the evaluation system itself