



## General Assembly

2019-2020 State Board of Higher Education Student Member Election Packet

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Name: William Fleck	Phone Number:
NDUS Institution(s): North Dakota State University	Majors/Minors: Computer science with a certificate in cybersecurity and pre-med coursework
Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2020	Length of NDSA Involvement: 1 year

#### Qualifications to Serve

Will you have completed at least one academic year of study at a NDUS institution at the time you would assume responsibilities of the position? [ Yes ]

Will you be enrolled full-time at a NDUS institution at the time you would assume responsibilities of the position? [ Yes ]

Have you represented your institution, in a voting or non-voting capacity, at three separate NDSA meetings before nominations open? [ Yes ]

Are you a full-time resident of North Dakota? [ Yes ]

Have you spoken with Ashley Thornton or Jared Melville about this position? [ Yes ]

***Note: According to the NDSA Bylaws, no student shall be nominated for this position who has not earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.***

#### List other organizations/obligations you will commit to while holding this position:

Darcy Jeda Corbitt Foundation: Chief Volunteer Officer

Bethany Retirement Living: Certified Nurse's Aide

North Dakota Student Association Diversity Task Force: Vice Chair

Alpha Phi Omega: Vice President of Leadership

#### Explain your perception of the role the State Board of Higher Education plays in the North Dakota University System and the role of the Student Member.

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) was created to run the North Dakota University System (NDUS) in a nonpartisan way free from political interference. Its primary mission is to create a competitive public university system that enhances the economy of North Dakota by creating and nurturing valuable human capital for the state.

The role of the SBHE Student Member is to bring a student perspective to the decisions the board makes. These are particularly important regarding financial affairs, President selection, academic program management, and other academic and student affair issues that relate directly to students and their campuses.



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**Please describe an experience you have had working for, representing, or advocating for students.**

The most meaningful experience I've had representing students was getting resolutions passed in support of housing and workplace protections in North Dakota for LGBTQ+ people at NDSA and the NDSU Student Senate. What made this experience so meaningful was that I was able to connect students, including LGBTQ+ students, who hadn't heard of student government before to the bodies that govern them, something that doesn't happen enough. I hope to continue connecting students to the SBHE if elected particularly on issues of tuition, President selection, academic program management, and academic and student affairs.

**Describe your qualifications for this position.**

Communication

In my roles as Chief of Staff for NDSA, Chief Volunteer Officer for the Darcy Jeda Corbitt Foundation, and Membership and Communications Director for College Democrats of North Dakota, I've had firsthand experience working with others over large distances to ensure effective and efficient organizational communication. I hope utilize this skill to communicate directly with NDSA, student governments, students groups, and other individuals/groups in the NDUS and serve as a conduit for their ideas, issues, and concerns on the SBHE.

Experience

Over the past three years during my time in college, I've served on multiple governing entities including:

North Dakota Student Association Executive Team: Chief of Staff

Darcy Jeda Corbitt Foundation Executive Board: Chief Volunteer Officer

College Democrats of North Dakota Board of Directors: Communications Director, Membership Director, and Programs Director

Young Democrats of North Dakota Executive Team: President

Alpha Phi Omega Executive Board: Vice President of Leadership

Serving in these roles has given me a background in leadership, professionalism, and teamwork I hope to use to advocate for students on the SBHE.

Advocacy

As the lone student member on the SBHE, I think it is critical that they be an outspoken advocate on issues of importance to students ranging from free speech to programs at their institution to ensure the student voice is heard. I've had significant experience with this through NDSA on issues such as voter education, LGBTQ+ policy, and mental health awareness and resources along with additional experience in my other leadership positions with governing entities.



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**What are some goals you have regarding this position? Alternatively, what issues or aspects of student affairs will you prioritize during your year of service?**

I have three primary goals listed in order of significance:

1. Communication between NDSA and SGAs: My first action if selected as the SBHE Student Member would be to open direct lines of communication with the leadership of NDSA and SGAs with easy to use mediums such as Facebook, text, and email to serve as a conduit for their issues, ideas, and concerns.
2. Diversity: I want to utilize the NDSA Diversity Task Force to ensure student groups that don't have enough representation at the table such as veterans, first generation college students, gender and sexual minorities, visible minorities, immigrants, graduate students, and other underrepresented groups in SGAs and NDSA know that they can use the SBHE Student Member position as a conduit for their concerns through encouragement and outreach.
3. Free Speech and Title IX: Once communication is set up between NDSA and SGAs, I'd like to solicit their feedback on both of they're both topics the SBHE will be dealing with in the near future.