

President

Candidate: Timothy Billing

Questions:

1. As the representative of the UW Seattle student body, how are you going to remain cognizant of different student issues?

The biggest problem in politics is when the people in power forget who they are representing. Too often we hear our elected officials at UW and in DC say that big ideas aren't possible for this reason or that. I'm sorry to tell you but they are just lying to you. If you look at people who have lead the biggest changes throughout history, they were often grass-roots movements. These leaders rose up because once you have conversations with people at the bottom you realize the system is benefiting off of their pain. I want to hear those struggles so that I can put an end to it or at least stand up for them. I plan on attending a new RSO each week because I believe people should be interacting with the person that is representing them. They should be able to ask questions and have meaningful conversations. I think the idea of having coffee chats each Friday was an excellent idea and I want to continue that so that students can share with me what is on their mind. I promise to listen to try understand and not listen to respond.

2. How do you plan on simultaneously welcoming a new class of students while also acknowledging the collective trauma of COVID-19?

Recovering from COVID-19 will not be pretty. We most likely won't be seeing large in-person lectures, football games, ima operating at full capacity, etc. This is out of our control, but what is in our control is how we respond. We need leadership that understands our pain and will act.

1. First, we must continue to delay late tuition fees and fight to avoid a tuition spike so new and old students can get the education they deserve.
2. Secondly, we must work with faculty to find ways for them to have more empathetic and understanding grading structures which could include no graded attendance. This would allow adequate time for new/former students to adjust and recover from COVID.
3. Last but not least, we need to work with our RSO leaders to offer work-shops on how to do social media advertising and programing in case of continued social distancing. This will allow all students to recognize the continued risk of COVID-19, but also find one of the amazing communities at the UW.

We are a community that struggles together. We push back when challenged and we never give up. Let's finish quarantine strong and make next year amazing.