

Director of Community Relations

Candidate: Alex Schroeder

Questions:

1. How do you plan on fostering a sense of community on campus if classes are online fall quarter?

In the event that we remain online in the fall, a huge priority of mine would be trying to recreate the space where students, especially those who are brand new to our University, can build relationships within their communities. Fall quarter is such a critical time for the development of our community, and trying to virtually provide the student body with events such as Dawg Days and other welcome events throughout the quarter is essential to maintaining these connections. I will work closely with the leadership of First Year Programming, who work largely serves my constituents such as Greek Life, Commuter and Transfer students, RCSA, and more, to create programming that will create a foundation for our new students and assist our returning students to remain engaged. This programming will make it so that when we are able to return to campus, we feel just as connected to our peers. Additionally, I would work to create joint programming amongst entities to foster new relationships across communities, in order to expand our individual circles. I will work closely with the ASUW Office of Communications to ensure that these opportunities are broadcasted to all students, in order to increase participation as much as possible.

2. With the decision on the future of DACA coming out very soon, how do you plan on supporting undocumented students on campus next year? What will you do if you encounter other student communities that are biased against undocumented students?

In this role, it will be a priority of mine to advocate for the needs of all of our students, documented or not. I will support legislation that will work towards the creation of an opt-out Student Health Insurance program that would cover all UW students who do not have existing insurance. This program would ensure that our undocumented students would be able to receive medical coverage and federal assistance. Additionally, I would work directly with Housing and Food services to ensure that all practices are non-discriminatory and are accessible for all documented students. Support from HFS is especially critical given the current COVID-19 crisis, that disproportionately affects marginalized students, including undocumented students. I will work with the Board of Directors to fight xenophobia against DACA recipients both on and off campus. I also will partner with the Director of Diversity Efforts and JCC to host events on campus to publicly show our support for our undocumented student population, such as the DREAM banquet hosted by the Latinx Student Commission which raises money for their SEED scholarship for undocumented students.