Aditya For College Council President – Platform and Vision

This is my fully detailed platform for my 2020 candidacy as College Councils 65th President. I know there is always room for improvement. Please continue to share your thoughts here: https://forms.gle/81UVu4KxJsDaYirq8

Finance & Budgeting

I am open to questions, concerns, and thoughts on my vision for College Council's finance and budgeting processes to create a better system.

Side note about Finance and Budgeting:

I would like to start with a brief overview of how the budgeting system has worked in the past, worked this year, and will be working in the future. College Council has been a part of significant change this year, which has led to a lot of flexibility being needed to function and allow for extenuating circumstances. Serving as part of the finance and budget committee for the past two years and most recently as VP Finance of the 64th legislature, I have been able to see what those changes are this year and why they were made.

In the past allocations were made through operational budgets and supplemental budgets meaning organizations would have a budget based on historical expenditure per semester (operational) but if there were any issues there were weekly opportunities (supplemental) to receive budgetary funding. A system like this was feasible during the first two years I was on campus because College Council was operating with a surplus of funds that no longer exists. This surplus of funds stemmed from a legislature years back shrinking spending. However, Student Government Services want to transition systems from a semesterly operational system to a yearly one with decreased supplemental hearings so organizations could plan for the full year.

This year was the first attempt at implementing a yearly budget system. Lyndsey Garbee (VP Budget) and I (VP Finance) were tasked with going through all of the budgets for organizations over the summer, forecasting College Council's budget after a significant decrease, and then finding how we could reasonably operate in an equitable manner. We wanted to do whatever we could to accommodate clubs that had issues with submitting their budgets and individually met with over 30 organizations and went through budgets 1:1 with them. Moreover, we worked with Student Government Services to refine the Campuslab submissions and process so there would be less problems using the system.

For the future we will be working to ensure a yearly system can feasibly operate and include measures for supplemental funding, even if at a decreased amount. The Campuslabs system this year was designed to increase transparency on what we are funding by line item so organizations can track their allocations. While there was some friction in this first scenario, we are optimistic that a budget template and increased communication helps.

Vision for Finance and Budgeting:

- **Increasing Monetary Transparency**
  - With the most recent Student Activity Fee increase, I will make sure that the increase in funding goes back to organizations, so more clubs can be chartered and existing clubs can grow. A large concern that many organizations had in increasing the Student Activity Fee was how they would see an impact and thus providing line item funding through Campuslabs will make sure that organizations know exactly what they are funded and how they are funded. Additionally, since the Student Activity Fee increases on a yearly basis I wrote legislation to ensure organizations could capitalize on that growth with their own budgets. We hope to maximize what organizations receive as they are integral to the student life and spirit at Emory University.
  - I will ensure that funds being used by College Council's executive board has the greatest impact with the least expenditure in order to continue the changes I have been a part of implementing this year. The largest changes include reducing the costs of CultureShock, Social Justice Week, and our Executive Retreat. Furthermore, I created a system to track budgets before the year started to gauge overall spending for Experience Shuttles, programming events, and miscellaneous items, which allowed for more controlled spending. Working more closely with executive committees and the Office of Finance is needed to better understand costs. What was most exciting this year was that a reduction in costs did not translate to less engagement with College Council events. In fact this year CultureShock was the most successful in terms of audience attendance, publicity, and engagement from my time Emory. I also saw an increase in collaboration and partnership with other clubs.
  - As the monetary policy is changed I will increase communication of what is passed by the legislature and discussions of what potential changes may be made. The changes that are made to the monetary policy exist to serve organizations. However, a lot of these changes as well as what already exists in the monetary policy is not known by organizations. The measures to incentivize sustainability and interactive altruism are underutilized. Moreover, as changes are made in fundraising, allocation to performance groups, and clarification of specific terminology, clubs should be aware of discussions that are happening. Finding a way for transparent communication is difficult but I hope a centralized system such as a website, increased use of Campuslabs, and using social media more effectively will help.

- **Reforming Treasurer's Training**
  - I will integrate training and knowledge of what treasurers need to know with the Student, Involvement, Leadership, and Transitions' STEER Team which should continue to serve as peer consultants for organizations throughout the year. "The STEER Team serves as the peer leadership consultants for Student Involvement, Leadership, and Transitions. STEER members are an elite group of student leaders at Emory University; all members of the STEER team have extensive experience in student organization development, growth, and programming." Thus, the STEER team should be a resource for organizations to go to when they are confused or need help. Ensuring that the team can help with finance and budgeting would give more resources beyond what College Council can offer.

- Supporting organizations beyond College Council funding is essential and I will provide mechanisms for help in programming events, structuring organizations, and finding resources. In addition to what the STEER team offers, College Council is there for organizations. The system of liaisons in its current form is ineffective. Organizations need more consistent contacts and points of communication with College Council. Recently, there has been a significant change in structure of committees and integrating that with organizations will be essential moving forward.
- Funding is available from other sources on campus and I will create a list of contacts and ways to apply for money beyond a budget from College Council. For example, potential avenues of funding include departmental funding, other agencies, UCB, Alumni board, Campus life, and outside sponsors. There are a lot of avenues for organizations to find more funding if they have the knowledge to do so.

- **Making Documentation Accessible**
  - I will work with Student Government Services to create an online mechanism of approval to reduce time in reimbursement and streamline the process. A pain point for a lot of students right now is the reimbursement process. Overall there is an issue with finding time in people's daily schedule to go to the office or knowing if a document is correctly filled out and if incorrect then visiting again may be needed. Transitioning online would modernize the system and allow for improvement.
  - Eaglesource, the Supplier Information Form, and other documents should be easily available online, so I will make a centralized area for all organizations to be able to download those files. These forms and all financial information can be requested from Student Government Services. However, if an organization is unaware of the existence of a document of what they even need it does not make sense to expect them to be able to find the specific information they want. Putting everything in one place that is updated frequently would resolve this problem.
  - Moreover, individual components of forms—small dollar reimbursement, transfer form, deposit slip, etc.—should exist so I will break down larger documents into those pieces so treasurers with a specific need can solve their issue faster. Finding a specific form is made simpler if all documents are available separately.

Diversity & Inclusion

I am open to questions, concerns, and thoughts on my vision for College Council's role in diversity and inclusion at Emory University.

- **Advancing Cultural Competency**
  - College Council should continue active programming to engage all communities and identities at Emory University; at Social Justice Week this year we are getting an ASL interpreter and have already worked with BASE on their World Language Week. I envision that College Council will become more integrated with events that are already happening that significantly impact the Emory community. The events that College Council puts on should be accessible to all students and for the future I hope to continue programming that is inclusive. Moreover, through potentially partnering with more clubs students will have a closer interaction with student government. All

of the issues that are present on campus cannot be solved without awareness of those problems. Thus, I want to allow for as many opportunities as possible for College Council members to be involved on campus as to foster more conversations.

- Accommodating all students at Emory University is essential to an inclusive campus; physical accessibility is a key issue that needs to be addressed by administration and I will work towards finding how to benefit individuals who need support. Working to with the Department of Accessibility Services is essential in hearing more voices on what Emory should change and improve. An issue that I have heard mentioned is the inability for certain students to afford being diagnosed with a condition that they have. A problem that stems from a lack of diagnosis even though they face obstacles is that they no longer can access the same benefits or accommodations that they might need. I will talk with the Department of Accessibility Services in finding solutions and potential avenues of solutions.
- I will push for further religious understanding to ensure professors are not able to force a student practicing a religious holiday to take an unexcused absence or forgo in-class participation points to practice their faith. In certain classes I have heard that even though a student must miss class for their religion that comes at the expense of the limited absences they are allowed to have or a loss of potential in-class points. There should not be any "penalty" for students or any hindrance to those wanting to practice their religion. More support is needed in this dimension and further understanding from professors and administration.

- **Facilitating Council Awareness**
  - Misinformation is rampant with the media and College Council has started to address this by specifically providing more information on key issues; moreover, to reduce bias I will work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion. The increasing polarization that is spreading throughout social media platforms has brought along a host of fake news, ignorance, bigotry, and simply incorrect information. For example, most recently College Council saw that there was an increase nationwide in hate crimes and an increase in stigma against the Asian community because of coronavirus. Thus, our legislative body passed a resolution to address the distorted public opinion surrounding the outbreak. I want to encourage people outside of College Council to also submit resolutions and present before the legislative body. There are many problematic statements being made in the media and for College Council to be able to address them, a way for students to know how to submit their thoughts is essential.
  - I will make College Council members more aware of the resources available and language in discussions over sexual violence; receiving training from SAPA is a mechanism to achieve that and create a larger network to support survivors. Emory Sexual Assault Peer Advocates "provides education & resources to empower survivors in response to the occurrence of sexual assault." Moreover, facilitating a larger discussion with Emory's Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention promotes a safer campus. Encouraging and facilitating these conversations are a core tenet of what I want to do. More importantly, I want to ensure that the conversations that are had do not stop and end at dialogue. Finding actionable items that College Council

and Emory administration can work to change is one of the goals of these conversations.

- The Office of LGBT Life at Emory provides Safe Space Training that would benefit members of College Council; additionally, there is a list of organizations that are Safe Space Allies of which College Council will work to become a part of. The goals of Safe Space Training are three fold: "The primary goal is to provide awareness for participants about the lives and experiences of LGBTQ people. The second goal is to provide knowledge about LGBTQ issues. A large portion of this knowledge focuses on the resources that are available to students within the Emory community and in the Atlanta area. Lastly, the program hopes to combine awareness and knowledge to encourage action from our participants to create equity on and off campus." Incorporating this training could potentially be done in a retreat for College Council members.

- **Enhancing Oxford Integration**
  - I will implement a "switch" day where the Oxford SGA president comes to a CC GBM and the CC president will go to an Oxford SGA GBM; the goal of this is to foster collaboration and get a taste of how the others' forums run. The retreat College Council had this year was conducted on the Oxford campus. During that day we were able to hear from Oxford government and meet the people that were serving in their government. I hope to make this a tradition as many Emory students never have the opportunity to visit Oxford and find how to improve student government based on their practices. Thus, on top of a retreat, a switch day would be beneficial. Incorporating differences in how meetings are run, monetary policies, and how their system works could increase efficiencies. Also, potential avenues for collaboration on events or governmental changes could be realized in simply making this happen.
  - Cross-collaboration between campuses and organizations is limited but would be beneficial to promote Emory spirit and leadership opportunities. The most recent structural change College Council has made to foster leadership in the transition from Oxford is to increase the legislative seats reserved for Oxford students. While a small change in structure was made, the importance of ensuring that people that are active and involved remain to do so is important. Thus, I also would like that beyond governmental collaboration we could also do the same and promote the same on an organizational level. There are many clubs with similar missions and activities that exist but do not collaborate because of a lack of knowledge on how to do so. In order to incentivize leadership opportunities between campuses and events I would look to how to support those events.
  - For all students finding research opportunities is difficult; while there are programs like Scholars Inquiry and Research (SIRE) Program, they are underutilized, so I will work to help students transition labs and find resources to do so. Finding a lab that you want to be a part of takes many components to line into place in terms of if you are willing to learn more about the specific niche of research, whether the principal investigator and team match your goals, and also the availability of positions in general. Emory University faculty are heavily invested and involved with research and for students that want to become involved there is likely an opportunity that fits them. I want to see those students find labs that fit them best and determine a

system to achieve that or resources that would be beneficial in reaching out to faculty.

Collaboration & Entrepreneurship

I am open to questions, concerns, and thoughts on my vision for fostering increased collaboration and entrepreneurship through College Council at Emory University.

- **Improving Career Resources**
  - Incentivizing students in the College of Arts & Sciences to attend events on Handshake would be beneficial for students and making that a potential requirement for a class would promote use of the resource by students. The integration for students in ECAS with Handshake could be significantly better. Students are likely aware that the platform exists but do not take advantage of the information sessions, workshops, and general help to the degree that students should. A lot of useful resources are found by the career center and available for all students through Handshake but a lot of people miss out because they do not stay frequently connected with the application or do not use it at all. Incorporating Handshake into a course like Pre-Major Advising Connections at Emory would help students in the long run. Moreover, by showing the resources that are available early in people's time at Emory they will be more integrated with opportunities that come up down the line. I would also want to use any data the career center currently has to make informed changes on how people use Handshake.
  - Currently, in the career center for College of Arts & Science students the ambassadors are underutilized but could be providing additional helpful resources with interview preparation and help with networking. The main support that students currently provide are recommendations on interviewing and help in editing resumes and cover letters. Those are needed and can be improved by having a standardized template for those in ECAS to use, but additional responsibility for those ambassadors with hosting interviews and providing advice and examples of networking would improve the career center. Students that have recently gone through recruiting know the questions to be prepared for that are behavioral and technical. Additionally, since they have recently been through a recruiting cycle they can have important suggestions on what they might have done wrong.
  - All students should feel comfortable in going to a career fair and approaching recruiters; additionally, there should be clear resources for international students in developing resumes and cover letters that fit their needs. From going to a career fair and examining the people at the event it is clear that students in the College of Arts and Sciences can be using the career fair more than they are now. People have mentioned to me that they do not go to the events because they are unsure on how to deal with recruiters or ask questions "correctly" about a job they are interested in. Moreover, many students start this process far later than they should because of a lack of information. I want College Council to promote all students to use these resources that were made for all students instead of only a subset of the Emory community. Another issue that I was made aware of was that with recent policy changes, international students were forced to apply for jobs and had to quickly

update their resumes and cover letters. The career center was inadequate for their needs and finding students that could better serve them is needed.

- **Fostering Increased Innovation**
    - o The entrepreneurship student fellows at Goizueta have a wealth of information and collaborating with Gouizeta would open up resources for all Emory students. As a co-founder of Ascent Analytics, a start-up in the healthcare space, I have been able to take with some of the students that are involved with entrepreneurship on the undergraduate and graduate level. Their role is to involve students but not many people know that they can approach them for help. Moreover, a lot of startups fail at the beginning because of a lack of knowledge on how to move forward. The One Emory framework has recently started been used to help grow Emory's recognition and partnering with Gouizeta to achieve this goal would support that mission.
    - o For the current competitions and resources that are there to inspire entrepreneurship there is not a consolidated way to learn about how or where to enter and I want to provide a centralized resource for students that are interested. For graduate students there is an entrepreneurship newsletter that is unavailable to undergraduates. Opening up that simple resource to more people is something I want to do. Moreover, competitions like the Siperstein Challenge are well known in some Emory communities and organizations but not to the degree that it should be. Additionally, there are several case and pitch competitions that occur on campus that do not receive enough publicity. By separating those events and creating a place for all those interested in entrepreneurship to become informed would help develop more exciting ventures on campus.
    - o I want to make sure that new initiatives that Emory Entrepreneurship Venture Management (EEVM) and Emory Administration are creating can be accessed by undergraduates and have enough publicity for people to use them. EEVM holds incubator programs and exists as an executive agency. Their flagship event is HackAtl and many students become involved with that event but from their go no further in the entrepreneurship space. A follow-up system for those students and encouraging everyone involved to continue thinking about such large scale ideas would allow for campus culture more involved with innovation. On the administrative side there have been a lot of announcements about the recently made Hatchery. Ensuring that the Hatchery can be used by students and that there are opportunities to go see what there is to offer is key. A new resource is available for students and there should be significant publicity on how students can take advantage of that resource.

- **Empowering Student Leadership**
    - o The leadership summit that will be happening in April has the potential to become an annual event and I hope that this will continue in the fall so campus leaders can collaborate throughout the year with each other. Through working with Emory administration the goal is to make this an annual event with support from the campus life and traditions team. Moreover, based on how the summit that happens in April rolls out I will make any changes if needed to the next one in the fall. I see this a way to encourage collaboration between organizations and for campuswide issues to be brought to the forefront of discussion.

- I want to create open executive board meetings that have rotating focus groups each week with a certain section of student leaders to increase interaction with a set of organizations that have differing needs (performance groups, cultural groups, stem groups, etc.). By reaching out to student leaders that have related goals and hearing the needs specifically for those groups on a monthly or weekly basis, College Council would be able to better serve organizations. Moreover, this would be another way for students in organizations to reach out to College Council and a direct way for their voices to be heard.
- RHA is an integral part of student life at Emory University and I am continuing conversations to include them both programmatically and structurally with College Council for better collaborative purposes. The Residence Hall Association is unique in its involvement on campus as acting as a coordinating body for residence halls and also facilitating campus-wide events. Moreover, as a governing body with elected positions their voices are representative of a portion of the Emory constituency. Thus, to hear consistently from the third largest student run organization on campus would be beneficial from a programming perspective. In order to do this efficiently incorporating them into our executive board through a new position would be the most effective way to hear their voice, work alongside them, and create a better Emory.