

AKAASH PREETHAM

## Running for Section President in the Best Section

Akaash Preetham shifted in his seat uncomfortably. He'd just submitted his position paper, formalising his candidature for Section President. He wondered, "Will people vote for me? More importantly, would I vote for myself?" Drawing from his experience working closely with public officials, good and bad, he had strong opinions on the traits that made for a good representative and evaluated himself across these traits:

- a) Skin in the game:** Having grown frustrated with voting for out-of-touch public officials, Akaash strongly believed in electing individuals who shared his problems so that they're invested in solving them. As a job seeker, an international student, an introvert, he believed that he deeply understood his classmates' concerns (professional, geopolitical, social) and that he'd bring a strong "we're in it together" mentality to solving them.
- b) Long-term view:** Witnessing public officials compromise on solving problems for short-term gains, Akaash believed that his planned initiatives (Exhibit 2) took a long-term view, informed by seeing his ex-boss, Ashish Dhawan (HBS MBA'97), who continues to benefit from his section experience decades after graduation.
- c) Inclusive teams:** Working with nonprofits meant actively involving communities as co-creators of solutions. Akaash resolved to ensure that everyone in the class gets to shape the section in a way that helps them achieve their personal, professional and academic goals and to build a culture where everyone has each other's backs.

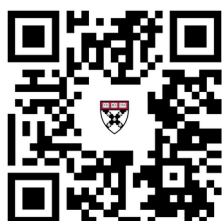
Akaash wondered whether these criteria would resonate with his section-mates. Even if they did, was it enough to gain their trust? Regardless, he slept peacefully knowing that Section B will be the best no matter who wins.

### About Akaash Preetham

Akaash Preetham grew up in Chennai, India, in a joint family, which made conflict resolution his inherent strength. In undergrad, he led an 80-member team as the Editor of Feeds, his college magazine, where he published stories representing critical student issues, such as LGBTQ+ inclusion and prevention of sexual harassment on campus. Brought up with a service mindset, he then joined JPMorgan to create shareholder value. But he soon pivoted to the nonprofit world, working on diverse areas, such as education and inclusion of people with disabilities, growing to care deeply about equality of opportunity. Beyond work, he likes to think he's an avid reader and loves to claim that he's a writer. He's a Taurus and he's mentioned this simply to secure votes from people who use astrological criteria. Finally, Akaash hates writing about himself in the third person.



**Exhibit 1**  
Akaash Preetham's  
forced smile



**Exhibit 2**  
Scan for more  
detailed information

*"All in and ballin'"*  
*"B-Schooled"*  
*"Float like a butterfly,  
sting like a B"*

**Exhibit 3**  
Slogans rejected based  
on feedback

**Ph:** +1(857)-320-8364  
**LinkedIn:** Akaash Preetham  
**Instagram:** akaashpreetham  
**Twitter:** [Redacted]

**Exhibit 4**  
Get in touch, if I go  
missing from Aldrich 10