

# JACOB

*for College Council*

## Platform

**BUILDING A BETTER COLLEGE COUNCIL – TOGETHER.**



**JACOBHICKS.NET**

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# Why I'm Running

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As president, I will pursue an **ambitious reimagining** of College Council. As Emory's largest student governance organization, we will become a **leader** in student **representation**. As your president, I will make College Council more **professional**, more **responsive** to the student body, and more **transparent** than any organization on campus. We will **lead the way** in being a voice for **every student** in Emory College, engaging the **entire community** to build a better Emory College - together.

## About Me

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From my first day at Emory I've believed that student government can be **reformed** to meet the needs of every student. As **Speaker of the Senate** at Oxford I completely **overhauled** our documents, created our first code of elections, and wrote our first **transparency** requirements, and created a system for us to act as a **voice for the student body**. In Atlanta I led the commission that changed our code of **elections** after the disastrous 2018 elections, and currently serve as the **Chief of Staff** for College Council. Outside of student government, I study Political Science (surprise!) and Computer Science. I want to be a voice for every student in Emory College, so please **get in touch!**



# Get In Touch



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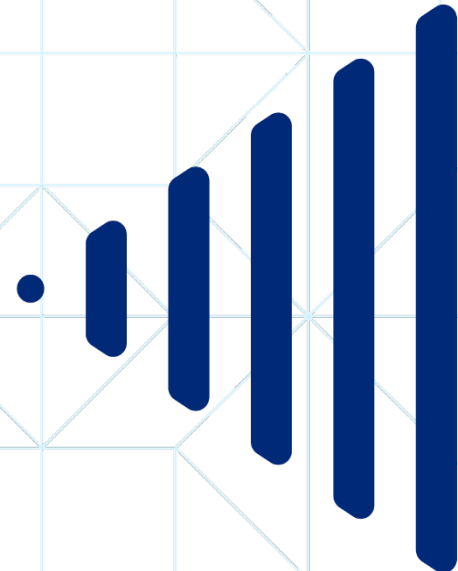
FACEBOOK

**For my campaign, I want to try something that hasn't been done before!**

You can read my ideas to build a better College Council and a better Emory College in this document, but I want to hear from you. Over the three-week campaign period I want to hear your concerns, your ideas, and your hopes for how we can make our school better. I want to know if there's something I've missed, or even if you disagree with something! I plan to feature these ideas as part of my platform, and let the Emory community shape this campaign, so please submit an idea!



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Every year students like me tell you how they're going to change student government. Rarely do we come close to our platforms. That's why throughout my campaign I will update my platform with bills and detailed plans for what I will accomplish as **College Council President**.

# Transparency



As president, I will make College Council the **most transparent organization on campus**. With a budget of five hundred thousand dollars, the largest of any student government organization, the student body deserves to know where their money is going. At Oxford I created our **first transparency requirements**. I will build on this **experience** to create and publish an annual budget report so that the student body can see how their money is being spent.

As president, I will hold **office hours** every week, and make myself available to any student. I will also use **Zoom Video Chat** to provide access to students who cannot attend in person. Furthermore, I will ensure that College Council has a table every single week at **Wonderful Wednesday** to listen to the concerns of the student body.

We will create a **new website**, working with LITS to get a domain name such as **collegecouncil.emory.edu**. No student government within Emory has been capable of creating a working webpage in years, so clearly a new system is necessary. I will create a **Vice President of Technology**, who will be responsible for overseeing the webpage, internal communication

- New Website
- All Meetings Livestreamed
- Annual Budget Report
- New VP of Technology

tools such as Slack, and make sure that College Council is using **every tool at our disposal** to keep the student body informed. We will use social media and our webpage to publish our minutes every week and **livestream legislative meetings**. With all of these tools at our disposal we will make the 64<sup>th</sup> College Council the most transparent since its creation in 1955. For far too long College Council has not been open to the student body, and rebuilding our relationship starts with **complete transparency**.







# Representation



It is time for College Council to **rethink our relationship** with student organizations, and work to ensure that the needs every student is represented. College Council should represent **every single student** in Emory College by expanding the role of student organizations and **expanding student representation**. Furthermore, I will reintroduce positions for students intending to enter the Nell Hodgson Woodruff **School of Nursing** or the Goizueta **Business School**. With so many students in Emory College planning to enter these schools, it's time to build these relationships and ensure these students are represented in College Council.

Furthermore, as President I would create a **Student Advocacy Center**, to provide advice to any student facing **conduct** violations, **honor** code violations, academic appeals, or who simply needs help navigating Emory's **bureaucracy**. This center will ensure that the **rights of every student** in Emory College are respected.

Student organizations are not just groups in need of funding, and we should stop thinking of them as such. As many student governments across the nation have done, I will create **representation for student groups**.

From cultural groups to political groups to special interest groups, Emory students come together to create a diverse range of student organizations. These groups **represent a diverse student body** better than one student government ever could. As president I will create a **representation for student organizations**, comprised of club representatives. We will organize clubs with similar missions, allowing them to **work together on programming** more effectively, and **send representation to College Council**, so that they can **voice the concerns of their organizations and communities**. This will help us reimagine College Council and help us become the most representative organization on campus.

- Student Advocacy Center
- More Student Representation
- Student Organization Representation



# Responsiveness



As president, I will ensure that College Council is the **most responsive organization on campus**. We will create new structures and systems to directly **respond to the concerns** of students in Emory College. Beyond our transparency reforms, we will build a committee structure that allows us to respond to concerns across a variety of campus issues and **inform the student body** of how we are responding to their needs.

From campus services to academics to food and more, College Council has always worked to **advance the needs of students in Emory College**. However, our current system for doing so is informal, relying on the initiatives of individual legislators. College Council legislators have made change across all aspects of campus life, but **a new system is needed** to make sure **nothing falls through the cracks**. Of course, legislators will always be free to pursue their individual initiatives as well.

Currently, College Council's committee structure is **led by the executive board**. Committees like those led by our various Vice Presidents, do fantastic work, but **elected legislators deserve a greater role** in College Council.

We will **create committees to respond to all aspects of student life**, from Academics to Dining and more. Most importantly, they will be **led by elected student legislators** and **membership will be open to the student body**. Furthermore, we will create **two online systems** to track student concerns and initiatives. Students will be able to submit concerns that affect **individual issues through an online portal** and receive updates as we act on their behalf. Finally, we will regularly update the College Council website with an **initiative tracker** for issues that impact the entire student body. Students will be able to see how their legislators are working to improve their campus.

- New Committee Structure
- Online Concern Reporting
- Initiative Tracker



# Professionalization



One of the most important changes I will make is ensuring that College Council is a more **professional organization**. College Council is filled with **dedicated people, uniquely committed** to improving Emory College. However, we can keep our collegial spirit while **improving the way we are organized**. As president, I will reform our executive board to be more streamlined and efficient. Far too often we operate on precedent, and our governing documents are **sorely in need of reform**. We will create a full-time secretary, separate from our VP of Communications. This position will ensure that all **records are preserved** for future councils. As president, I will lead the 64<sup>th</sup> College Council in an effort to **restructure our executive board** to be as efficient as possible.

Furthermore, I will create a **document review committee** to ensure that our constitution and bylaws are up to date. Building on my experience leading the **Constitutional Revision Committee** at Oxford SGA and the **Electoral Reform Commission** in Emory SGA, we will clarify and update our governing documents. Finally, we will ensure that our **process for passing and implementing legislation is improved**. Presently, records are often not fully preserved, and bills are not communicated to the student body.

I will transition College Council to a **new document system**, managed through Emory University, that will **preserve our records** and make it easy to **publicize them on our new website**. We will ensure that all bills are posted in advance, and that **the results of all votes are published** online. Furthermore, all students in Emory College will be able to **upload their own bills and resolutions** to be considered by College Council. By improving our governing documents, procedures, and meetings, we will ensure that College Council leads the way in **representing the student body effectively**.

- **Governing Documents Review**
- **New Legislative Process**
- **Legislation & Votes Published Online**

