



# Jake Bates

## *Budget and Finance Chair Platform*

My name is Jake, I am a rising Junior at UMass Boston majoring in Computer Science, and I am from Sandwich, Massachusetts.

I am happy to announce I will be running to be your Budget and Finance Committee Chair for the 2020-21 academic year!



### **Experience**

This will be my third year as a Senator with Undergraduate Student Government. My freshman year, I served on the Student Events and Organizations Committee and this year I served on the Budget and Finance Committee.

In addition, this year President Zeno appointed me the USG representative to the Faculty Council. In my time on the council I have had input on decisions regarding a wide range of topics from the sale of Bayside, to student employees' compensation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notably, I wrote and advocated for a motion, that was unanimously passed by the council, resulting in the enhanced Pass/Fail policy for this atypical semester.

I have been exposed to and helped manage a wide variety of budgets on the UMB campus, including budgets as small club event proposals, larger budgets including the \$600,000+ USG budget as well as multimillion dollar budgets presented to the Faculty Council.

### **Platform**

It is important to me that a budget is managed fairly and generously. Good budgets should be subject to scrutiny on a regular basis. Evaluating budgets thoroughly ensures that money is spent carefully and with the needs and concerns of the student body of UMass Boston at the forefront.

Specifically, I would like to implement "second-reading" system for the budget. Currently, the budget is presented only once to the entire Senate. Under my second-reading policy we would adopt the approach that many towns and cities around the Commonwealth use; the budget would be presented once to the entire legislative body and then actually voted on at the next General Assembly. This allows for all senators to take a closer look at our budget and make clear any concerns they have in a timely manner.

I would also like to work closely with CCA to publicize long-standing policy that may not clear to the general student population. The \$12,000+ that the committee has jurisdiction over is very flexible and could fund any number of student initiatives. According to the USG bylaws, *any student* can apply for funding of initiatives that benefit the school as a whole. The way I see it, the more students that are aware of this, and the more requests we have coming through the committee, the better! One of my many goals as B&F chair will be to hear as many student ideas as possible.

Thank you for your time and I humbly ask for your vote to be your Budget and Finance Chair!