



Council of Olin Representatives
And
Student Experience Organizations

Candidate Statements for Spring 2013 Elections
(elected officers serve Fall 2013 to Spring 2014)

Candidates' Forum: Tuesday April 16, 9pm, AC113.

CORe President

Larissa Little '14

CORe Vice President

Dan Kearney '14

CORe Academic Director

Asa Eckert-Erdheim '14

CORe Intercollegiate Ambassador

David Pudlo '15

SEO Finance Minister

Kris Groth '14

If you have any questions please contact eric.jones@students.olin.edu.

Name: Larissa Little

Position: President

1. What are your motivations for running and plans if elected?

Students involvement in both in internal Olin activities and in the larger community is one of the pillars of the college. I want to ensure that COrE is a good channel for student initiatives, student-community communication, and general participation in the happenings of the college.

2. What experiences at Olin or personal qualities make you qualified for this position?

I have been in COrE for 2 years, once as a general rep and this year as Vice President. I'm involved in many large-scale happenings at Olin such as representing student life to trustees, faculty/dean candidate searches, and the new University of Texas at El Paso partnership, to name some of the more recent/important ones. The position of president is heavily focused on student relations to the rest of Olin, so my involvement and interest match pretty darn well.

3. How do you plan to balance COrE with other your planned activities next year?

COrE is one of my highest priorities, so if elected I'll plan next year accordingly.

4. What specific policies or action items would you plan on executing during your term?

This is a really exciting time period to be a student at Olin. New staff, revisiting curriculum, and growing partnerships with other universities are all on the menu for next year. The new dean of student life will be another important area for students, and I'd focus on making the transition as smooth as possible. I'd also love to increase student awareness and involvement with this type of activity as well as ensuring that the great ideas students are given support. Students don't always think of COrE when they're trying to figure out how to make x or y happen. I'd like to change that- COrE knows the administration and have helped lots of people with initiatives of all sorts.

Name: Dan Kearney

Position: Vice President

1. What are your motivations for running and plans if elected?

I'm interested in running for COrE because I love how the Olin student government has so much freedom and flexibility to make real change on campus. That's my draw to COrE. As for why Vice President, my motivation is an interest in making COrE (and especially its discussions) more streamlined and focused. Anyone who's been to a COrE meeting can attest to the fact that discussions can really ramble on; I can't tell you how often soap in the kitchens has become a fifteen-minute conversation. As COrE Vice President, I would contribute to a change in culture where we inspire the student body to come talk to us, and are a little more willing to take the leap of faith and say "yes." If elected COrE Vice President, I'd make sure that our student government is focused, open to consider to any and all initiatives, and most of all motivated to follow through.

2. What experiences at Olin or personal qualities make you qualified for this position?

I've had a few experiences that make me qualified for Vice President. First, I've spent a year on COrE as the class of 2014 representative, so I have experience with how COrE operates. I've also spent a year on the Honor Board as a general representative, so I have insight into how a different side of the Olin student leadership world works. Beyond that, I've been in charge of GO Bikes, a member of RHO, and on my class events committee. I've also got experienced leading a large group as a project lead of the HPV team.

3. How do you plan to balance COrE with other your planned activities next year?

My plan is to make COrE a large part of my life next year. This year my largest commitments have been my 12+ engineering credits per semester and being a lead on the HPV team. Next year, I want (and will be able to make) COrE a larger part, as I will be in fewer engineering credits and will have a different role on the HPV team.

4. What specific policies or action items would you plan on executing during your term?

Specifically, I'd like to see a system where Oliners are extremely aware of what COrE does and is capable of doing for them. I've sketched out some basic realizations of this idea. One of them might be a system where each week a COrE representative gives a five-minute talk over lunch to say briefly what COrE has done. I'd also like to speed up discussions during COrE general meetings. One way to prevent rambling discussions is to bring an air horn to the meetings, and after some amount of time on a topic has elapsed, blow the horn and all discussion must cease. The point is not to prevent discussion, but rather to stay focused.

Name: Asa Eckert-Erdheim

Position: Academic Director

1. What are your motivations for running and plans if elected?

My motivations for running for Academic Director are two-fold. The first is the betterment of Olin itself. While Olin does many things well, I believe that there is always opportunity for change and want to contribute to that change. The second is the betterment of engineering education overall. Olin is more than just a school – it's a test platform. I believe that as Academic Director, I can help drive change at Olin which will ultimately have an impact on a large number of other students (hopefully).

2. What experiences at Olin or personal qualities make you qualified for this position?

I am and have been very involved in academic issues at Olin. This past year, I served as the COrE academic director. As part of that position, I have engaged in frequent discussion with the current COrE leader and Vin Manno about academics at Olin, ranging from re-envisioning E! to educational outreach. I have also worked with Jessica Townsend on developing new program goals which involved hosting a student brainstorming session. I also worked with Mark Somerville on designing a new faculty orientation system which is currently being explored. Last year, I served as a student representative on the Academic Recommendations Board.

3. How do you plan to balance COrE with other your planned activities next year?

As previously stated, I served as the Academic Director this year and have been heavily involved with education at Olin the year previously. This is a topic that I am very passionate about and have always made time for. I am not anticipating taking a heavier course/activity schedule this coming year than I have before, so I cannot see any major timing conflicts arising.

4. What specific policies or action items would you plan on executing during your term?

I have 3 main goals for this next year:

- Serve as a student liaison during the upcoming curricular review. With Olin having recently ratified new program goals, we are about to start evaluating the current curriculum to see if it achieves those goals. I am excited about the prospect of being involved in this process and hope to pass that excitement on to the general student body and get widespread community involvement with the process.
- Work on "bottom up" ideas as well as "top down." This year, a number of the projects I have worked on have been to address problems or projects that the administration sees. While that is a major part of the Academic Director position, I'd also like to see the position become more of a resource to students trying to affect change. To that end, I would like to find a better way of learning about student ideas/concerns and create a system for helping those ideas come to fruition. This is something I have been discussing with the current COrE leadership and I hope it is something I will have a start on before next year begins.

- Engage more first and second year students in academic affairs at Olin. On trend I have noticed, especially this year, is that a majority of students involved in academics at Olin are third and fourth years. While this is often accepted as just the way things are, it seems a lost resource to not involve the entire student body. Not only will that ensure everyone is being well represented, but students who have not been at Olin as long are potentially less set on what Olin is and more willing and able to think of new ideas or notice problems that other students have just grown to accept. This idea is mostly a subset of the previous idea with an explicit focus on first and second year students.

Name: David James Pudlo

Position: Intercollegiate Ambassador

1. What are your motivations for running and plans if elected?

This year I have been taking several two or three college courses, mostly through classes in the sustainability certificate program. I have gotten to know several people from our closest neighbors, and have found this to be a personally valuable experience. I want to facilitate opportunities for others to engage with people from outside our bubble.

2. What experiences at Olin or personal qualities make you qualified for this position?

My experiences and connections with students and faculty from other campuses qualify me for this position. Through taking courses at Wellesley and Babson (often with students from all three BOW schools represented) I have seen the benefit for these engagements and I know how to initiate them. I have also been coordinating with the Wellesley Outing Club president on connecting with them and our Babson counterparts in a three college event.

3. How do you plan to balance COrE with other your planned activities next year?

I do not envision this taking up a large extra amount of my time on a weekly basis. This would involve meeting with my counterparts at the other colleges either weekly or biweekly, and a few hours out of meetings for coordinating events (I plan on using existing clubs/organizations to do the bulk of the logistics, see below section).

4. What specific policies or action items would you plan on executing during your term?

I plan to work with clubs and other student groups at Babson, Olin and Wellesley in order to find similar groups and encourage them to cohost events. Events work best with some sort of focus, just plain old tri-college mixers won't work as well as getting the three outing clubs to go hike together. Having similar groups meet across the colleges helps forge stronger connections, this can act as catalysts for creating larger numbers of connections. This would be easy for people who are already organizing events to add other schools.

I also plan to provide options for people to meet outside of specific club events. One series that I really liked is the Three College Idea Discussion Series (TCIDS), where people from each of the three colleges watch and discuss a TED talk once every [choose one: week, month]. Seeing the TCIDS come alive and have lots of participation would be great.

Faculty and staff should also be informed and involved in events that are hosted, as they also provide a diversity of perspectives and knowledge. And they're just cool people, and sometimes we forget that. By incorporating faculty and staff into many of the events, we foster Olin's own community while fostering the community of those around us.

Name: Kristoffer Groth

Position: SEO Finance Minister

1. What are your motivations for running and plans if elected?

I am interested in seeing the SAF spent in a responsible manner that will allow everyone at Olin to receive the most benefit from its use. A particular topic of interest for me is to study the reach and effect of the money being spent and form more standardized allocation guidelines. It is my belief that since everyone has contributed to the SAF, everyone should feel an equal benefit from it, and a closer look at the impact of different purchases can help us achieve that.

2. What experiences at Olin or personal qualities make you qualified for this position?

I have been treasurer for the Olin Rock Orchestra for the 2012-13 academic year and we have not gone over budget. Additionally, I have served as general COrE representative for the 2012-13 academic year and have become familiar with the SAF, funding procedures, and financial needs of the Olin College SEOs.

3. How do you plan to balance your position with other planned activities next year?

I intend to schedule regular work time to process receipts and work with the budget. I will take care of line items within a few hours of being submitted, I imagine that I will be able to find a few minutes to evaluate and allocate.

4. What specific policies or action items would you plan on executing during your term?

I think it is important for the Olin SEOs to be spending their allocated funds responsibly and appropriately, however, their funds should be spent. I will ensure that the funds are budgeted responsibly and being spent on worthwhile items and events. The SAF is meant for the student body and I will work to see it used fairly for all clubs and SEOs.