Greetings, WashU! My name is Keaton Schifer, and I am excited and prepared to be your next Student Union Vice President of Finance. I am a sophomore from Chicago, Illinois, studying Finance and Entrepreneurship in the Olin Business School. I have been involved in SU since the first semester of my freshman year, when I ran and was elected as one of your Treasury Representatives. Since then, I have served on Treasury for 3 semesters and am now the Budget Committee Chair.

As Budget Committee Chair, I have:

* Made the Budget Allocation Manual available to the entire student body, which has helped make the budgeting process easier and more transparent for student groups.
* Worked to incorporate sports clubs back into Budget Committee to increase their funding and reduce the out-of-pocket costs that teams have to pay.

I respect the important responsibilities of serving as SU Vice President of Finance and plan to continue the work I have begun to improve SU and the way we interact with the hundreds of groups and student leaders on campus. As SU VP Finance, I will strive to accomplish these initiatives:

GIVE STUDENTS A STRONGER VOICE WITH THE GENERAL BUDGET:

* Let students have a more direct say in where certain funds go in the General Budget, since it’s your Student Activities fee that makes up our $3.1 million budget.
* Through an official polling or voting process, give students options to vote on certain non-SU programs or new opportunities for SU to fund for the student body.

ENHANCE FINANCIAL FEEDBACK TO STUDENT GROUPS AND TREASURERS:

* Work to provide more constructive feedback to student groups regarding their budgets and finances so they can obtain more funding and use it more efficiently.

IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS AND GROUPS:

* Find creative new ways to increase turnout for finance-related open forums and engagement sessions throughout the semester.
* Expand overall outreach between SU and students to improve communication

MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT STUDENT GROUP BUDGETING PROCESS:

* Analyze the impacts of the major budget-related changes made this semester, including releasing the Budget Allocation Manual and incorporating sport clubs into SU, and make necessary improvements.

I promise to be fully committed to making SU more accountable and available to all students. I am eager for the opportunity to represent you in this position and work to improve the ways that SU enhances your experience at WashU.