We’ve all seen the StudLife articles – the ones showing a divided and dishonest Student Union. In reality, SU does some incredible things on campus, but too often, those are drowned out by a climate of distrust.

My name is Mike Holtz and I’m running to be your Student Union President because I believe we can do better. Since freshman year, I’ve served in SU as a class president, senator, Academic Affairs Chair, and now as Vice President of Administration. From leading a task force that revamped how we support student advocacy, to creating the first elected ArtSci Council in many years, to increasing the student presence on important university committees, I’ve always worked to fight for students.

If elected, there are major things I will work to change starting day 1:

1. **TRANSPARENCY:**

Right now, there’s a lot of questions about Fall WILD. So let me make it clear: If elected, in the next general budget, I’ll bring back funding for two WILDs. Period. The recent controversy around Fall WILD has shed light on a lack of transparency within SU. This is not acceptable. Throughout my time in SU, I’ve worked to increase transparency and accountability. As President, I would publish “State of the Student Union” videos, conduct student polls on significant issues, and host “SU Fridays” with food in the SU office, so students can stop by and share ideas!

1. **FIGHTING FOR STUDENTS:**

Student Union is not a bank. Too often, when people think of SU, they only think of the budgets and bureaucracy. Balancing the budget is an important responsibility, but SU is so much more than that. I believe SU’s primary role should be as an advocate for students. SU should leverage its influence to create change. For instance, by working to create a socioeconomic diversity fund to support low income students, pushing for improvements to mental health resources at SHS, and creating a more inclusive campus climate, Student Union can lead reforms on campus.

1. **BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER:**

Student Union includes many branches and 150 student leaders. The SU president should work to bring them together. As recent events have shown, SU has been fractured. If elected, I’ll work to bring people to the table to ensure that SU works as one cohesive organization – tackling big issues with ideas that make a difference. I’ll also work with all student government groups on campus to ensure that we can create the best campus experience for all students - graduate, UCollege and undergraduate. As a school, WashU is known for its supportive community. We deserve a student government that reflects that!

**\*\*TL;DR\*\*** My name is Mike. I have a lot of leadership experience in SU. I truly believe SU must be more than just a budget, and that we need to put a focus on advocacy. If we work together, we can make SU into an honest advocate for students - one that brings the WashU community together to create an unforgettable college experience.