Dear students,

My name is Vikram Biswas, and I am running for Student Union Vice President of Finance. I am a junior from St. Louis, Missouri double-majoring in Finance and Economics and Strategy, with a minor in Psychology. I have served on Treasury for four semesters. After serving on budget committee for two semesters, I was elected as Budget Committee Chair. Currently, I serve as Speaker of the Treasury, and am responsible for setting the agenda and vision for the body

During my time on Treasury, I have been a part of many initiatives to promote transparency, engagement, and accountability. As Budget Committee Chair I wrote “How to Write a Budget and gathered feedback on it throughout my term to eventually help create the Budget Allocation Manual. As Speaker of the Treasury, I was a part of and helped lead the Activities Committee, Budget Allocation, and Sports Club Task Forces. Over the course of this semester, these task forces gathered student feedback and created important changes to the way Student Union allocates funds, a process I seek to continue as VP Finance. As a member of Executive Council, I have helped shape the vision of SU and ways to make it as student-driven as possible.

I believe that my extensive SU leadership experience will propel me to create changes that support the initiatives students want. From meeting with hundreds of individual student groups, to helping lead Presidents & Treasurers Training, to drafting the procedure for the General Budget session, I believe I have had a broad exposure to all of Student Union and understand its strengths and its flaws. My ultimate goal is to truly make it each student’s SU. In order to achieve this goal, I have three pillars I’d like to focus on: 1) Transparency, 2) Engagement, and 3) Accountability.

My main goal to increase transparency is to make the allocation of the Carry Forward an interactive process with students through direct feedback. This is a large part of our Student Activities Fee that needs to have the student voice behind it.

To increase engagement, I plan to begin a “Finance Fridays” initiative. Every Friday, I along with Treasury leadership will present on the past week in SU Finance to anyone interested. It will be a great opportunity for students to learn more about the allocation process.

To increase accountability, I want to extend the term of Budget Committee members to after allocations so that student groups have an opportunity to hear about their allocation and genuinely understand their budget.

An equitable allocation of the Student Activities Fee is something I am passionate about and I have many ideas I would love to implement that can make that a reality. I believe I am uniquely qualified to make SU’s financial process work for all of us, as I have the knowledge, experience, and drive to do so. Thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement, and I would really appreciate your vote!

Sincerely,

Vikram