

Interested in RUNNING???

STANFORD Class Presidents - Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes

INFORMATION SHEET

PURPOSE

Working closely with the University, the class officer structure exists to cultivate class identity for undergraduate students. The goal is to have an active class slate that broadly represents its class and works to create a variety of different activities that foster class affinity and Stanford pride.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET

The classes plan and implement an ongoing program of activities that are funded by modest funds provided by the University (the Senior Class has the largest budget). Each class slate is expected to continue some of its most traditional events (formals, Full Moon and Commencement) while having the freedom to initiate new programs. Each class has created the tradition of some standard events such as:

Sophomores: welcome back events, advising programs, formal(s), community service, Full Moon on the Quad, Spring Fling and non-alcoholic social activities.

Juniors: welcome back events, formal(s), internship programs, community service, Full Moon on the Quad, Spring Fling, Overseas programs.

Seniors: welcome back events, formal(s), commencement activities, commencement speaker, Thursday Senior nights, student-alumni networking events, life after Stanford workshops.

STRUCTURE

The Sophomore and Senior Classes have 4 members on their leadership team. The Junior Class permits 5 people to run as long as 4 people are on-campus in any quarter (thus allowing for students to go overseas). Each class has a cabinet that is chosen in order to best represent the diversity of its class. Each slate works closely with an advisor (staff from the Office of Student Activities work with the Sophomore and Junior classes; Alumni Association staff work with the Senior Class).

TIME COMMITMENT

Serving as a class president is a major time commitment comparable to a job or other major campus athletic or student leadership responsibility. On average, Sophomore and Junior Class Officers work 6-10 hours a week; Senior Class Officers work 8-12 hours a week. While it is not impossible to serve in other leadership or activity roles, it is not recommended that an officer participate in a major varsity sport or significant leadership opportunity (ASSU president, RA, etc.) In addition, all class officers should be prepared to return to campus early in fall quarter, approximately a week before classes start.

TIPS FOR FORMING A CLASS SLATE

- While it is not necessary to be good friends, potential slate members should know each other well enough to be sure they can work together as a strong and effective team. For example, how do you know how well will you all work together? What are your working styles, your strengths and weaknesses, and your interests and passions? How does each of you give and receive feedback? Deal with conflict?
- Know the reasons that each person wants to be a Class Officer. What are each person's goals for the year?

- Know and discuss at length your time commitments for the upcoming year. Discuss how you are going to cover for each other when competing, important time commitments occur. Since class officers have a high workload it is not recommended that slate members go overseas during the campaign and election. Remember in addition to campaigning, most fall activities must be planned before the end of spring quarter.
- Develop a general vision for the upcoming year and how you are going to work with your cabinet.
- Have a clear plan for recruiting, interviewing, selecting and training your class cabinet. These plans should include a wide variety of your peers and not just your friends.

TIPS FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL AS CLASS OFFICERS

- Be clear about how you are going to work together as a team. Discuss this at length before you run, and if you win, before you begin your work.
- Know the purpose of your cabinet and how you plan to motivate and involve them in your activities.
- Concentrate on the quality of your programs and not just quantity. In other words, don't "over program". Your success as a slate is dependent on how well you actively engage your class and not on the quantity of what you do.
- Seek out a wide variety of activities for your class, ensuring that they appeal to many different constituencies.
- Develop a draft budget early on (no later than May) and use the budget as a guide for your program planning for the year.
- Actively reach-out to all members of your class and not just your friends.
- Leverage existing campus resources and events in order to avoid duplicate or unnecessary efforts
- Work closely and collaboratively with your staff advisor (OSA staff advise the Sophomore and Junior classes and Alumni Association staff advise the Senior class).