I am seeking your vote to be re-elected as your class president for the M2 class board. Over the past school year I have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of our education, represent you to the UICCOM administration, and plan events and services to make medical school more enjoyable. I ask for your vote so that I may continue fighting for our tuition and to fund more student resources for Step 1 preparation.

My efforts this year have been centered on our tuition. Early in the school year, the Dean’s office approved a 2.5% increase in tuition which will translate into an additional $425,000 returning to our COM. I was unsettled about the process of increasing tuition, and I was upset when I learned what proposed items this money was to be spent on. Taking the lead on this issue, I worked with Dean Azar to change the system for how tuition increases are proposed and implemented at our school. Additionally, Dean Azar agreed to a 0% increase in tuition for the following academic year if that was the opinion of our student body. Now, students are the leading voice in the discussion about tuition, and we are in the position to decide what the $425,000 will be spent on to improve the quality of our education. In taking on this responsibility, I did not act alone. I formed an M1 working group of student leaders interested in tuition to voice their ideas and opinions about the tuition budget. We are working to create an extra $17,000 for student initiatives by eliminating waste in our tuition expenditures. Moreover, we are working together in conjunction with other classes to identify projects, initiatives, and services like fully paid step1/step2 exams, updating and improving Edelstone and the Edelstone Annex, and hiring a mental health counselor that can be funded by our newly generated tuition revenue.

While I will continue working on tuition, I have other ideas that will improve the quality of our education and student life. I’d like to share just one with you about Step 1 study resources. My goal is to increase the amount of available Step 1 study resources, and to decrease the cost or make them free for our class. One easy step that has been done in the past that I will continue is to secure class discounts for study prep materials like Pathoma, Sketchy Micro, and others. Something new and untapped, however, is the Library of the Health Sciences. While renovating their space, they are also seeking out student suggestions for improving their online resources. I will be approaching them to purchase subscriptions for high yield resources for students like Kaplan, Dr. Najeeb, Pathoma, Sketchy Micro, and others. Similar to the current Ackland Anatomy videos, these resources would be free to students and accessible at home.

Finally, I would like to take time to reflect on all that the M1 class board and I have taken on and accomplished this year. The class board is full of talented and creative people, and their hard work and dedication have served you well. In reviewing our year, I have identified 18 projects/topics that class board has worked on (with the help of many other passionate students in our school) and I’ve listed them out for you below:
M1 date auction at John Barley Corn (raised over $5000 and donated funds to the UIC Sickle Cell Center), tuition, MSPEs, student drug screening, COM building security, M1 end-of-the-year event at Wrigley Field, M1 service day, TBL basketball tournament, UIC sustainability, MANY social events (cup night, Hawkeyes, assassins game, upcoming M1 second look day), alumni shadowing, leadership series event, clinical skills workshops, white coat embroidery, class of 2019 T-shirt contest, anatomy lab mock exam, extra 10 minutes for a personal wellness break during the recent neuro exam, and therapy dogs.

I thank you for your support of the M1 class board, and I especially appreciate the wonderful people serving with me. I congratulate them on all their successes this year, and I ask for your vote so I can continue serving as your class president.
President
TAKSHAKA PATEL

This year as Vice-President, I was able to get involved in a variety of exciting projects, ranging from requesting a greater voice regarding our MSPEs to ensuring the school’s drug screening was arranged optimally for our class. The projects that brought me the most pleasure were the ones that directly benefited our class, such as setting up the anatomy lab practical. If elected president, I would work tirelessly to connect the student body voice with the administrative end. I would further pursue logistical items, such as ensuring the students have 24 hour access to the building to accommodate for our different studying habits, a greater say in what is included in the MSPEs, and making sure Edlestone is cockroach free. I would also pursue projects that benefit the students more directly, such as arranging a recreational area in the building for students to relax. Most importantly, student feedback would be a fundamental aspect of my presidency, since the entire function of the class board is the represent the class. I would host open meetings where students can to come voice their concerns or provide suggestions and would encourage students to contact me with any issues they want addressed. I want to do all I can to ensure our class has the greatest experience possible.
Hey Everyone!

I'm running for Vice President, again.

This past year has been amazing (I can't believe we're almost M2s) and I've really enjoyed being your Vice President. Throughout the year I was involved in the collaboration to make the Anatomy Lab Mock Exam, the second White Coat Embroidery of the year, and the Date Auction. I also took an interest in students concerns like the UIC COM tuition increase, MSPEs, Drug Screening, and clarity on Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AOA) and Humanism award criteria.

By working on these issues alongside our current class president and other executive board members, we now get an input on how our tuition is spent. Our class has received flexibility with UIH Drug screening and future classes will receive ample time notice or be drug screened before matriculation. Lastly, next year the MSPEs, AOA, and the Humanism Society award criteria will be discussed so that every student understands these documents/awards to their entirety.

Next year, I hope to be as influential as I have been during our M1 year and to support the elected President and other executive board members in their endeavors.

As always, I will continue to do my best to make sure that every student’s voice is heard.

Please Vote for Me for VP!
Hello! My name is Faisal Akram and I would like the opportunity to represent you as your class Vice President.

I want to keep this short and sweet. Over this past year, I’ve had the honor of getting to know you guys and more importantly, call you friends. One of the main reasons I’m running for class Vice President is because I’ve grown to care about you, and likely, your concerns, problems, and stresses. I will be someone who you can trust to help you through stressful situations and take the initiative so your next year is worry free. I will be proactive in addressing issues immediately concerning the student body and vocally advocating your position on key issues. A few ideas that I want to push for this coming year are 1) extended access to USMLE Step 1 UWorld question bank 2) additional structured Step 1 study time built into our schedule and 3) reserved study space for Step 1 studying so we don’t have to compete with M1s. If elected Vice President, I will be someone who will be available, approachable, and caring for all of your concerns and ideas. More notably, I will be a friend that represents you. Vote Faisal for class Vice President!
It was a pleasure being a part of class board last year. If elected as VP this upcoming year, I hope to aid in facilitating a culture of collectivism and provide a space for open and honest communication between our class, the class board, and administration. I would like to implement an anonymous feedback system to ensure that all class board duties are being fulfilled to the utmost satisfaction. Furthermore, I vow to attain Step1 material discounts and as many resources as I possibly can to ensure that we all kill step and live happily ever after. But seriously, for most of us, Step is a daunting phenomenon and I would like to ensure that we all have ample support, resources and as little stress as possible! Finally, I guarantee to assist any board member with any remaining duties. I really appreciate your time and consideration!!
I’m seeking the role of VP to provide a new and diversified voice to your class board. I believe that the role of VP should be focused on internal affairs, and I think it’s imperative that we come together to bond with one another. We all come from such unique backgrounds and we all have amazing stories that should be celebrated with one another. We can set a new precedence for future classes by forging a path of camaraderie, togetherness, and generation of a supportive environment. As your VP I plan on working towards implementing some important plans here at COM, and your input and voices will be crucial in making that change happen.

First, I’d like to see the board become more transparent with our class. Whether that’s having an open discussion period at the beginning of board meetings, sending out a pre-arranged agenda, or emailing our post meeting notes. I’d love for our class to be more involved with board happenings. You should feel more than comfortable speaking to board members about issues you might have. I also propose we implement an anonymous suggestion box for the class to utilize to let us know what you need us to do for you. I want the class to know and understand that their voices and opinions will be heard and taken into account. The purpose of the class board is to help serve you all so that we can be the best class that we’re capable of.

Speaking of helping us be an amazing class, my second goal is to gather a collection of ideas for activities that you all would like to participate in that would bring us closer as a community. I of course would work in collaboration with the social chairs, but I’d like to see more non-alcoholic events being planned. Don’t get me wrong, it’s fun when we all go out and celebrate our small victories, but not everyone enjoys or feels comfortable in those settings. And we should have more activities geared towards just keeping us in good spirits and health, rather than simply celebrating post-exams. That being said, some input I’ve received is to have things like class wide Zumba/Yoga sessions, Game nights, or something similar along those lines. I’d love to hear what wonderful ideas you all might have in implementing these sorts of activities. I truly believe that these types of activities can help us maintain our wellness not only as medical students, but as people.

A final, but very important plan I’d love to implement is working with administration to dedicate more space at COMW to the needs of you — the students. It is essential that we implement a dedicated space for students to unwind. A game room or a meditation space would enrich our on campus experience and help us get through more stressful times. Your needs as students are my priority, and our academic community needs an on campus space to help us achieve balance and maintain our physical and mental health. Again this would be highly student directed and your input will be key in understanding what is wanted and needed here at COM.

If elected as one of your new VPs, I will begin to work on these changes right away. I plan to be wholeheartedly in collaboration with the board, but my main concern is you the students. I want to be
your advocator and help raise your voices to be heard. The goal is to help generate that camaraderie, and togetherness that we could all benefit from. This is our opportunity to create something together.
My name is Addis Enyew and I am applying for the position of Philanthropy Chair. I was a chair for the Ethiopian - Eritrean Student Organization for three semester at UIC. During my time as chairman, I developed skills to organize large meeting and keep track of the necessary requirements that all members had to follow. I maintained a perfect attendance record as this was a necessary component to me carrying out my responsibilities. If I am elected for Philanthropy chair, planning, scheduling and executing the chapter’s Philanthropic events will be exactly the same activity I used to do but for different events and causes. Finally, I organized the events around Ethiopian and American holidays as well as the birthdays of the our organization’s members. I believe my previous experience has given me the skills to successfully carry out the position of Philanthropy Chair and I am eager to become a member of the executive board.
Philanthropy Chair

GWYNETH SULLIVAN

Hi everyone! I've really enjoyed serving as your philanthropy chair for this past year, and I would love to continue that work during M2 year. It's been great getting to know many of you through hearing about the causes that you are passionate about. I want to keep working to find ways that our class can help support them, whether it be through donating time, money, or raising awareness. Assisting in organizing Date Auction was especially meaningful for me as I was able to translate a lot of what I have learned over the years working with Horizons for Youth on my family's event No Ordinary Evening in honor of my brother, Declan, into a meaningful fundraiser supporting The Sickle Cell Center here at UIC. Thank you for giving me that opportunity this year; I hope to be able to continue serving as your philanthropy chair and put together a fantastic auction for our Winter Ball next year!