David Liang

As your liaison to the Board of Trustees, the highest decision-making body of UChicago, I am committed to transforming the student-trustee relationship at our university to one defined by progressivism, openness, and collaboration. I will strive to serve in three distinct capacities as your liaison to the Board: Your Chief Fundraiser: After a year of public health and economic crisis, the budget of many student programs are cut and many of our peers are facing unprecedented pressure on their personal finances. Meanwhile, the net wealth of America’s billionaires has increased by over one trillion dollars, many of whom sit on our Board of Trustees. I will take on the responsibility as the chief fundraiser of our college community, approaching our well-to-do trustees one by one with proposals to set up institutionalized financial support for programs that directly address undergraduate needs. This could include a Crisis Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to students most affected by COVID-19, a Mental Health Fund that invests in new initiatives to improve student well-beings, and many more. Your Resourceful Diplomat: Many of our trustees have never sat down and had a proper conversation with the college community, and the quarterly student-trustee meetings where only a few selected undergrads are allowed to attend are simply not enough. To increase the frequency of student-trustee engagement, I will develop a fireside-chat-style speaker-series where I invite one trustee of the University to speak with the undergrad student body in an informal setting each month. These conversations will cover their careers, their industry insights, as well as their reactions and responses towards student concerns. By integrating political appeals with more casual talks on professional development, these speaker events will facilitate more collaborative and spontaneous engagements between the often business-minded university trustees and the politically-minded student body. Your Loyal Advocate: I firmly believe that change is possible only if the student body acts as one. Therefore, I do not intend to advance my own political agenda through the position as your undergraduate liaison. Instead, I will work closely and under the direction of the Executive Slate and College Council to faithfully represent and advocate for the students’ interests at every turn of my engagement with the Board of Trustees. During my three years in the College, I have had the opportunity to interact with high-level administrators and trustees of the University on issues ranging from student mental health to career advancement. My experience of running a non-profit think tank and a university-affiliated venture capital fund put me in the unique vantage point where I understand both the political and pragmatic aspects of a successful student-trustee relationship. Having served on the College Council and the SG Finance Committee during my freshman and sophomore year, I am versed in muscling the resources of our Student Government to turn student demands into actionable policies with broad support from the faculty, the administration, and the Board of Trustees. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me @ davidliang@uchicago.edu. Thank you!