Hello everyone! My name is Tyler Okeke and I am running to serve my third term as the Class of 2023’s representative on College Council. Over the last two years, I’ve made good on my commitment to center the needs of marginalized students in my leadership and create pathways to materially support student-run campaigns. As we transition to in-person classes, I will bring experienced leadership to the table and use the relationship's I have built as Vice Chair of CC to ensure a smooth transition.

This last year, I’ve had the privilege of launching and co-chairing Student Government’s first ever Committee on Marginalized Student Affairs with Bianca Simons where we were able to develop relationships with administrative partners like OMSA and the CI+I, and oversee the disbursement of a $3,000 budget aimed at materially supporting student-run campaigns, like UChicago without Borders, and centering the needs of marginalized students in student governance through reports, relationship-building, and consistent dialogue.

I have also played an active role on the Transition Committee where we are taking an evidence-based approach to revising our constitution and building a student government that is institutionally capable of responsive advocacy.

In the wake of the outbreak on campus, Bianca has been working to secure donations to the Emergency Fund from fraternities and I have been working with the Emergency Fund to coordinate a Vaccine Travel Fund that students can apply to for vaccine-related travel expenses.

If elected to a third year on College Council, I will focus on:

- Improving communication (office hours, feedback forms, use of social media)
- Strengthening COMSA’s solidarity with FGLI students
- Making the administration’s bureaucracy digestible and accessible
- Using the Transition to codify equity, inclusion, and robust advocacy in student government
- Finding legislative pathways to fund community projects led by Southside community members

Ángel Rosales

Creating meaningful change and fostering worthwhile relationships with each other as students at the university and beyond the institution is essential to my campaign. Recognizing each other as people with meaningful voices and making sure that those voices that have been historically sidelined are heard is also very important to me. Recognizing the fundamental differences of our experiences and amplifying the needs of the community is essential to what I would like to do as a College Council representative.

Doing this would also mean helping to close the gap between Student Government and the rest of the University and showing the body that the Student Government is there to serve them.

I am primarily running my campaign on a platform of mental health resource access, especially for those who have been hardest hit by Covid-19, but also ensuring that mental health is
something that is important for everyone and that quality, tailored care, should be available to any who may need it. I am also running on a campaign of community-building, centered not only on conversations but actions to encourage a meaningful relationship between the University and Hyde Park and the City of Chicago as a whole. This includes advocating for more University resources being open to Hyde Park resources and more investment in projects that will help and not hurt the community. Community care and action are needed during this time of struggle and fostering meaningful relationships with each other and creating a sense of collective responsibility is what I will try to foster if elected your College Council representative. Thank you.

Summer Long

Hi all, I'm Summer! I have served on College Council for the past two years. Last year, I promised to pursue changes within RSOs that would allow for groups to have access to support if their members had been accused of or found to have committed Title IX violations, embezzlement, or other social disruptions. I implemented this through CORSO. I promised to help RSOs produce more digital programming - I was able to do so by hosting quarterly workshops with CORSO. Additionally, I participated in the Pass/Fail initiative to allow for more academic leniency, worked on the Maroon Dollars project to make dining services more accessible off-campus, and communicated with administration about the recognition and regulation of Greek Life. I also have an intense commitment to increasing engagement on campus: I hosted a debate for the Class of 2024 to increase community on campus and helped connect cultural RSOs to events targeted at increasing engagement with Student Government and administration.

This year, I hope to expand monetary access to students wanting to pursue individual projects on campus by boosting currently existing sources of funding, like the Dean's Fund and Student Engagement Fund. I hope to continue to press for soft or hard recognition of Greek Life on campus and ensure that a wide variety of student interests are represented.

Bianca Simons

Hello, Class of 2023! Thank you for taking the time to read all of our candidate statements and participating in student government elections. During my second year with the College Council, my vision was geared towards ensuring the needs of both students and the South Side community amidst the horrific pandemic. My greatest achievement this year was working with my good friend, Tyler Okeke, to launch The Committee of Marginalized Student Affairs, a vehicle that strives to support the wants and students in marginalized communities. With COMSA, I collaborated with UChicago Without Borders to pass much-needed student legislation concerning the university’s relations with ICE. Due to the recent spike in COVID cases, I was also able to partner with fraternity presidents to establish a vaccine accessibility fund. This fund is imperative in ensuring that we as students are prioritizing both our health and the health of the South Side community.

There is still more work to be done. If elected to the College Council, I plan to produce policy focused on building accessibility for all students, primarily first-generation and low-income students. As both an Empower Scholar and a first-generation student myself, it has been
overwhelming finding the adequate resources needed for my career planning and study abroad activities. It is tangential that communication pathways are strengthened between academic/career counseling and marginalized students. Also, I plan to continue supporting the work of student activist campaigns on campus. It may be safe to remain neutral and side with the administration over controversial matters, however, it has never been a talent of mine to stay silent. As a member of the College Council, I will guarantee that all of my speaking time will side with the needs of marginalized students and student activists on campus. Thank you again for reading my statement.

Parv Golwelkar

Hey everyone! I'm Parv, and I'm from Indore, India (like Indoor-Outdoor, Indore). I'm an Econ (like most of you) and Pub Pol double major, and also a Dougan scholar at Booth. After a year of working in the college council, I've learned about the impact and the potential that the council can have on the overall student experience, and I'm committed to serving again for the new academic year and take up new challenging initiatives.

My key goals for the coming year would look like the following:

1. As an Odyssey scholar, I hope to bring up and support causes that concern the communities of odyssey scholars, international students, POC, the LGBTQ+ community, amongst others
2. I hope to gain insights from the student community, and help in improving campus life in any capacity I can.
3. (Really hoping the COVID isn't a thing next year) I'll continue to support and work for the student body until we get out of this crisis.
4. And ultimately, working in the council has taught me that a lot of work goes behind the curtains to make things happen, and with a wonderful team of council members, I hope to reinvent the role to make it more relevant and work hard to keep making things happen.