Dear Friends and Neighbors,

There is a spectre haunting Middlebury -- the spectre of distrust. Talk of surveillance cameras buzzes throughout our campus. Every weekend night, uniformed security forces walk uninvited through our living spaces without probable cause to believe that anything is even wrong. Our institution cites those of voting-age for casually drinking beer in their rooms while it is a statistical certitude that rapists walk free among us, unpunished and unashamed. I love our school, but I believe that if we don’t act now, we stand to lose the most precious resource this place has to offer: our sense of community.

My name is Zak Fisher, and I am hoping to represent you as the Student Co-Chair of the Community Council. I have served in the SGA for two years, and I have also been an FYC and Community Assistant. My platform is built upon the belief that our community is strongest when students are trusted and empowered, as they deserve to be. I’d like to share with you some of the ideas I’m most excited about.

I will do everything in my power to keep our campus 100% surveillance-camera free in student spaces.

I will streamline and simplify party registration, making it as easy as possible to host registered parties.

I will push to reform our alcohol policies towards a safety-centered schema like the one found at Stanford and other institutions.

I will seek a policy that disallows security forces from entering our living spaces without cause or invitation.

I will encourage ownership of our community standards.

We are best served by pursuing a course of action propelled by the interconnected forces of compassion and love. As Co-Chair of the Community Council, I will do just that.

Let’s get to work.

Sincerely,

Zak Fisher
My name is Tiff Chang, and I’d like to be your SCOCC. With Laurie Patton as our new president, I see an incredible opportunity to bring new issues to the table and turn the Community Council into a funnel for ideas from students to the administration.

I am an Environmental Economics major from Larkspur, CA, and I came to Middlebury for the ES program and the people. I took a year off after high school and worked at a salad-sandwich shop; my favorite sports are rugby and biking.

I have significant experience advocating for students at Middlebury. I’ve served on the Finance Committee, SGA Senate, Community Council, Environmental Council and the SGA Reform Working Group. I’ve brought you the Bike Fix-It Station, enacted reforms to make the Finance Committee more accessible, passed meaningful legislation through senate and collaborated successfully with administrators.

The number one responsibility of the SCOCC is to make sure your ideas are heard. But “listening” isn’t enough; if elected, my priority will be to meet with and actively solicit ideas from at least two student orgs per week, turning them into resolutions.

My next priority is to enact the following platform. I value empathy and inclusion: I support mandatory JusTalks for first-years and cultural competency trainings for faculty, so that students who have long felt out of place in the classroom can begin to feel at home. I support the expansion of counseling and sports med access, textbook exchanges, rideshare systems, a campus bar, and a “who’s who” map of the administration.

I also acknowledge that I may not know the best plan of action for all issues. I demand a higher standard surrounding the handling of sexual assault, and would ally with relevant orgs to draft resolutions they believe would be most effective.

Finally, I would conduct a number of reviews on current student thought and where we can do better, including: financial aid transparency, student-staff relationships, dis/ability services, first-year f栋 housing, student art in public spaces, party hosting, the honor code in the economics department, the endowment and Investure, and the upcoming distribution requirement reform.

I have the experience to do the job well, and I will always support the continual improvement of the SGA and Community Council. If elected, I look forward to our new president and a renewed, redefined role of the Community Council. Thank you.

Visit go/Tiff, contact me at tchang@middlebury.edu.
Durga Jayaraman ’16
Candidate for Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCOCC)

Hometown: Bangalore, India
Majors: Psychology and Sociology
Minor: Education Studies
Commons: Wonnacott

My name is Durga Jayaraman, and I am running to be your Student Co-Chair of Community Council. As SCOCC facilitate discussion and understand what matters to the student body, creating solutions and passing proposals. The role involves selecting a board of students that is representative of the diverse Middlebury College community, because only a council reflecting every space in our community is equipped to make fully informed decisions about what our community needs.

I am the only candidate running that is currently on Community Council, and I will use my experience on CC to help me effectively lead the council. I am also active in different facets of campus life: I have been on the Institutional Diversity Committee for the past three years, am currently on the Sexual Assault Oversight Committee, am a member of the Bobolinks a capella group, a member of Tavern and President of Palmer, and have worked as an Orientation Leader for International Students. I think that my wide range of experience with campus issues such as race/diversity, sexual assault, social life, and international students has prepared me to facilitate discussions around sensitive issues, engage the greater student body, and utilize the correct resources to make students’ ideas a reality.

My personal aims involve: providing Superblocks with increased funding and access to faculty/staff mentors, a fund in addition to MCAB for Social Houses, Superblocks, organizations and students to purchase alcohol and food for registered events, making JusTalks mandatory, and getting a counselor to sit at the new Inter-Cultural Center. I want to stress that while I am full of ideas, the role of the co-chair is more about the bigger picture of facilitating and achieving equal representation, than my own agenda.

If elected, I want to ensure that the board membership is more inclusive and representative than it is currently, with just one athlete and one student of color. CC meetings are also public, but students rarely attend. I propose to advertise to cultural organizations, teams or relevant groups when a decision that would affect them is being made, and to actively publicize what is being discussed at meetings so that students can be a part of community decisions. Vote for Durga, someone who has CC experience, is a seasoned member of several organizations on campus, and who is passionate about student-informed change.