

UC Berkeley's student government is unique—it's one of the largest autonomous organizations of its kind in the US. The Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) is a non-profit that's independent of any administrative body of the university. As a Senator elected to the ASUC, I have the privilege of getting to create change at a level much higher than I ever imagined. This reform has ranged from improving diversity in the Greek system (parts of which are notoriously outdated and flawed) to scoring a success for the student parent community by negotiating to restore health care coverage to dependents of students. I'm able to have a platform with which to solve problems at an institutional level, and even though my term is only one year, that platform doesn't have to disappear completely. For motivated students, the relationships that are created in Senate can be used to continue their projects after their term ends, and I intend to be one of those students.

One of my major goals as a Senator has been to improve diversity in the Greek system, mostly targeting LGBTQ+ students (traditional sororities and fraternities can often be an exclusive space for many people). With the increase in initiatives surrounding this issue, members have started to project the voices of other Greek minorities, such as racial and wealth minorities. I hope to use the skills and knowledge I gain from the Ibrahim program to further the conversation about inclusivity within sororities and fraternities. UC Berkeley is a progressive space, but folks still benefit from cultural exposure.

I would work with the Panhellenic president and executive board (the student leaders who oversee the traditional sorority system) in order to put on a multi-cultural and multi-faith event, the purpose of which would be to educate those in the system about how many communities we could open our doors to. This would require the support of the board, but would also require outreach to cultural, arts, and faith groups on campus (such as the Muslim Student Association, the South West Asian and North African community, and the Hillel center). This could take the form of a block party, including performances by campus cultural dance groups, food from different parts of the Middle East, and art exhibitions. Panhellenic has successfully held other types of block parties and large events, and getting the funding for such an event would not be difficult. This event would help encourage cultural engagement and learning on a wide-scale, as well as create lasting connections between cultural/faith-based groups on campus and the Greek system.

As my Senate term comes to a close, I aim to transition into the leadership of the student political party that I ran for Senate with, SQUELCH! SQUELCH! has traditionally been a satirical party, but in recent years has run "serious" candidates (while maintaining a lighthearted and satirical attitude). Leading SQUELCH! after my term is over would give me the chance to create change in a whole new way, and I plan on helping bridge the divides between different faith-based student organizations. I believe a good way to achieve this would be to hold a panel of leaders in these various communities of faith (both students and those in the Bay Area) and host a discussion and Q and A surrounding cultural dialogue and restorative justice in the context of faith, using the insight that I gain from this program to ensure that the panel is successful and balanced in perspective.

In order to have the most impact, I believe that it is important for me to use the leadership platforms I have at UC Berkeley to apply the lessons I would learn on the Ibrahim program. I am in a position of privilege, and being able to come back and share new perspectives on culture and faith with my peers and colleagues would be the most valuable

thing that I could contribute. The two-pronged plan I described above would be just a start— but it would help to open up a dialogue around inter-faith relations.

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