

The California Tech

ASCIT 2021 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS PRESIDENT (1 CANDIDATE)

Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa

Hi everyone,

My name is Ayooluwa (eye-yuh-loo-wah, Rix CS '22) and I'm running for ASCIT President! Over the past couple terms, I've had the privilege of serving as your Social Director. In adapting the role to an unprecedented remote setting, I worked with student leaders and faculty to organize and deliver many virtual events, including Midnight Donuts, Movie Nights, Secret Snowman, Lunch with an Upperclassman, the ASCIT Concert featuring Designer, and much more — all inspired and driven by undergrads!

Through this role, I've had the opportunity to learn a lot over the past year, and I'm confident that my experience has equipped me with the skills and spirit to do a lot more for our student body.

As ASCIT President, my primary goal is to transparently represent you and your best interests. To reach this goal, I will:

1. Continue to collect undergraduate feedback with regular surveys and share the responses with students, administration, and other student leaders.
2. Strengthen communication between ASCIT BoD and the undergraduate body, with the objective of increasing student participation.
3. Work closely with other offices, both remotely and in the transition to in-person learning.

Expanding on these further:

Collect undergraduate feedback with regular surveys and share the responses with students, administration and other student leaders.

As Social Director, it was critical for me to ensure that undergraduate interest would motivate the direction of events. In order to gauge this interest, I sent out various surveys. For example, prior to the ASCIT Concert, anonymous surveys were sent out to determine genres and artists we would advocate for when negotiating with booking vendors. Each of these surveys received around 100 responses.

As President, I plan to improve this practice by adding an element of transparency to how decisions are made with such surveys. After each survey closes, I will release results via email so that you can contextualize the decisions made by

ASCIT BoD. Not only will this allow for students to gain more direct insight into what influences ASCIT BoD's choices — it will also allow for students to be aware of the opinions of others, thereby encouraging discussion.

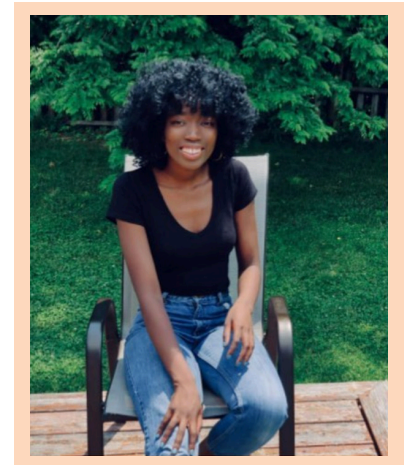
To this end, I envision that this will help make ASCIT BoD's interactions with admin more transparent to students, and will also guide student organization leaders even beyond ASCIT to make decisions that align with what students want.

Strengthen communication between ASCIT BoD and the undergraduate body.

In my first couple days working as ASCIT Social Director, I launched our ASCIT Instagram page (@caltechascit) and our LinkTree page (linktr.ee/ascit). I've been creating and posting content to these pages over the past couple terms; this content primarily consists of updates and links to virtual social events, ARC events, and other campus-wide activities. I also used this page to introduce the ASCIT BoD members and their plans in a concise and easy-to-read format. Using social media tools to reach a broader Caltech audience with this page helped to increase student participation at ASCIT social events. Furthermore, this direct interface with undergrads allowed everyone to see the board of directors as a group of fellow students, rather than some detached governing body.

In light of its success in engaging Caltech's student body, ASCIT's social media presence would remain a crucial part of my agenda as President. For one, I would propose a system wherein many of the information items that are sent out in emails (club announcements, updates, meeting times, and more) are also put on our Instagram story. In this way, info that is typically sent out in bulk will become more palatable for students to digest, and easier for them to share with their peers. I would also like to upgrade the Facebook page so that it is up-to-date with important announcements.

Lastly, to ensure that ASCIT maximizes its outlook on undergraduate interest and opinion, a survey would be sent out to undergrads to see if there are any other social media platforms students would strongly prefer in addition to the Instagram and Facebook pages that are currently active.



Work closely with other offices, both remotely and in the transition to in-person learning.

As ASCIT President, I would work with other offices to ensure we are all working in the same direction. Remotely, this would mean helping the new Social Director set up virtual events, working with the ARC chair to make sure academic concerns are addressed, working with the treasurer and Director of Operations with funding, and working with the IHC chair with anything that might come up.

Assuming things go as planned, we (can hope) to be back on campus this Fall! In this scenario, I would work with the IHC chair and administration to ensure that the transition to in-person learning goes smoothly. I will work to ensure that both the current frosh class and the incoming frosh class will be supported. As Social Director, I worked closely with a frosh committee to brainstorm and deliver events that supported freshmen. Using this as a precedent (whether or not Fall is in-person or remote), I will work with a committee of students both from the current frosh class and the incoming frosh class to inform members of ASCIT BoD, student leaders, and administration of the best plans of action to support students who will be on campus for the first time.

I am confident that my experiences and plans as ASCIT President would do a lot for us. I am grateful for the opportunity to materialize the needs and wishes of the student body. If you have any questions, feel free to email me: aodemuyi@caltech.edu!

Thank you!

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ASCIT 2021 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS / ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR (2 CANDIDATES)

Alex Hong

Hi! My name is Alex Hong, and I'm a sophomore in Blacker majoring in chemistry. I'm running for ARC chair!

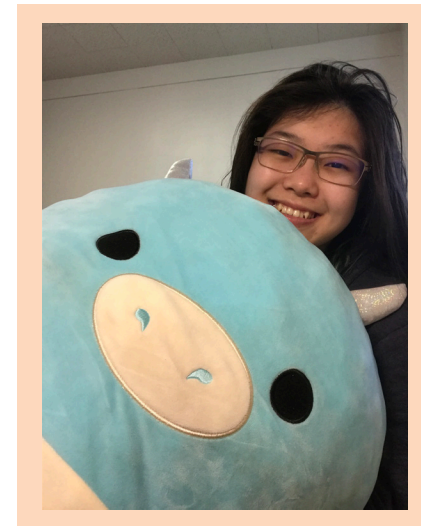
I've been involved with work similar to the ARC since high school, serving as a state district representative to the State Board of Education. I advocated for peers and teachers at the administrative level, and drove scientific education policy improvement. At Tech, the ARC has been a perfect organization for me to continue one of the things I'm most passionate about: bridging and closing the gaps between students, instructors, and administration.

I've previously served on the ARC as a frosh rep (2019-20) and Blacker House rep (2020-21). As part of the ARC, I've primarily focused on addressing immediate student concerns regarding classes, requirements, and more - with the goal of improving students' academic experience at Tech. This role as an advocate was even more essential during these emotionally and academically draining remote terms.

As a frosh rep, I helped organize student-faculty lunches that serve as an opportunity to connect frosh with professors, as well as developing the ARC research list to help students find research mentors. This year, I created part of the How to Succeed at Caltech presentation at orientation, and was also the primary organizer of the virtual SURF advising event earlier this year to help frosh navigate choosing and applying for a SURF.

If elected, my main goals as ARC chair are as following:

1. Addressing core curriculum issues
 - a. Working with the math department on improving the Ma 1a section 1 and Ma 1d experience.
 - b. Continue resolving Bi 1 curriculum and organizational issues, as well as providing more resources to distinguish Bi 1 and Bi 8/9.
 - c. Further exploring options to make adding CS 1 to the core requirements more tenable.
2. Updating ARC guides and resources
 - a. Improving accuracy and clarity for graduation requirements such as humanities and social sciences.
 - b. Increasing awareness of research resources, in particular creating a guide for SURF.
 - i. Although such resources already exist, I want to partner with the SURF office to centralize, clarify, and simplify them.
3. Improving general student knowledge.
 - a. Increase general awareness of what the ARC does and what kinds of things it can accomplish.



- b. Working more closely with house reps to reach more people at house events, rather than through campus-wide events or mass emails.
- c. Have personal availability to the student body regarding ARC projects and workings.

Over the last two years on the ARC, I've contributed to several projects and learned a great deal about the organization's workings and I hope to continue contributing what I can to improve everybody's experience at Tech. First and foremost, I will be an advocate for you. Thank you for reading, and please feel free to ask me any questions via Messenger or email (alexandriahong@caltech.edu)!

Mohini Misra

Hi everyone!

My name is Mohini and I'm a sophomore in Page House majoring in CS. I've had the pleasure of serving as your ARC Secretary this past year and Page House rep the year before, and I would love to continue my work as ARC Chair.

As secretary, I know the ARC inside and out: I've been integral in organizing events, working with the ARC budget, onboarding new reps, addressing student concerns, and communicating frequently with the admin. I work closely with Megan, our current ARC chair, and know what it takes for the organization to operate smoothly and successfully. I've been a house rep on the ARC as well, so I'll do a thoughtful job of delegating tasks within the ARC because I've been a representative myself. I've also communicated frequently with admin in my role as secretary and have developed a strong relationship with them. Because of these reasons, my transition to ARC chair would be seamless.

My favorite aspect of being on the ARC leadership team is the ability to take on initiatives that are meaningful to the student body. Here is a list of several I'd like to highlight:

- I have been creative about adapting traditional ARC events (such as Student Faculty Lunches and Option Advising) to a remote environment. This includes utilizing well-known platforms like the undergraduate Discord.
- I spearheaded the efforts to make Ma3 manageable last term, speaking with the professor to forge a compromise between his vision for the course and his students' requests.
- I was part of the team to write the pass-fail proposal for fall 2020, which although was not ultimately accepted, it granted extensive

accommodations to students with extenuating circumstances.

- I advocated for students who expressed concerns about the SURF application deadline, and ultimately teamed up with the current ARC chair to get the deadline pushed back.
- I am a primary organizer for this year's Student-Faculty Conference (SFC) (coming up on the 23rd!) and the chair of the Mental Health and Academics special committee. I pushed for this topic to be presented at the SFC because I think attention around the junction between mental health and Caltech academics is critical, and I wanted to get the conversation started.

I love undertaking projects like these and would be overjoyed by the opportunity to do so to a greater extent as ARC chair. If I were elected, in addition to continuing the strong tradition of the ARC's current programs, some of my goals are:

Transition back to campus

When I'm ARC chair we will transition back to experiencing Caltech in-person (fingers crossed). This will be such a special time, so my goal is to make everyone feel supported academically so we can all fully enjoy being back together. One example of this is hosting academic re-orientation sessions for the class of 2024 (on topics such as in-person collaboration, opportunities for working in labs, and knowing where the classrooms and libraries physically are) in addition to the regular orientation programming for the class of 2025.

One of the few benefits to remote learning is having recorded lectures to refer back to. I plan to work with admin on compiling recordings in a privacy-compliant manner so that these resources will continue to be available to students.



Creating a healthier academic culture

I want to promote a culture of viewing undergraduates as people and not just students. This is a broad goal, and includes starting more initiatives to make sure that the relationship we have with academics remains healthy and sustainable.

SFC Follow-up

I will take seriously the recommendations made at the SFC, both on a school-wide and option level, and ensure they remain relevant. This includes compiling an effective presentation for the Faculty Board meeting in the fall.

Being a present ARC chair

I want to be an ARC chair all of you know well and feel comfortable talking to. I plan to not only host regular ARC office hours but also come to house dinners at least once a term.

As current ARC secretary, I am confident that I am well-equipped to lead the ARC as chair, and would be thrilled to do so. Please reach out to me with any questions, either over Messenger or through email (mmisra@caltech.edu). Thank you!

ASCIT 2021 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (1 CANDIDATE)

Aditi Venkatesh

Hey everyone!

I'm Aditi and I am a sophomore physics major in Ricketts and Avery. I am running for Director of Operations again because I have thoroughly enjoyed being Director of Operations over the past year and I believe my experience will allow me to successfully continue the role as we move back onto campus in the fall. Some of my accomplishments as DirOps in the past year include

- Redesigning club funding for COVID
- Sending out frosh surveys to gain input from freshmen
- Working with the Donut Development team to add time zones and other features to Donut
- Working with my fellow ASCIT officers to plan and execute events like the ASCIT concert, Secret Snowman, ASCIT Valentine etc.

If re-elected as Director of Operations I plan to continue my current responsibilities as DirOps while expanding the role as we go on campus next year. Some of my goals for next year include:

1. Transitioning Club Budgets and Maintenance of Equipment

Due to COVID many clubs have been forced to move their operations online. As we go back in person, many clubs will start needing their equipment on campus and additional funding and support to restart in person events. I plan to develop methods to ensure the equipment is organized, maintained and stored safely after state it was left at the beginning of the pandemic and also continue supporting clubs by providing them requisite funding to kick-start events on campus.

2. SAC Renovations

One of my biggest goals next year is to continue renovations in the SAC: to specifically improve the soundproofing in the music rooms. I would also like to improve the student study rooms, and streamline the process of getting equipment like ASCIT lights and speakers and general club equipment for clubs, interhouse, and house events from the equipment rooms.

3. ASCIT Traditions

Most importantly, I want to help continue ASCIT traditions such as ASCIT Spring Formal, late night pies on Pi Day, puppies and a petting zoo in the RF courtyard, free food on the Olive Walk, Midnight Donuts, ASCIT Alternative Interhouse and so much



more when we go back in person. This past year has put a temporary stop to Caltech culture and I want to bring it back in full force in the fall!

Feel free to message me on Facebook or email me at aditiv@caltech.edu if you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns! I appreciate your consideration!

TREASURER (1 CANDIDATES)

Matthew Hajjar

Hello! My name is Matthew Hajjar, and I'm running to be your ASCIT Treasurer!

A little about me: I'm a sophomore in Fleming studying Computer Science and BEM. I'm a Title IX representative, and diversity and inclusion in the Caltech community are really important to me. I was on our Fleming Social Team, where I ran our house instagram (@fleming.hovse) during virtual rotation. I was a Freshman Camp Counselor this past year, and I hope to continue making Caltech a welcoming and supportive community. I will use my voice on ASCIT to ensure that the events we provide are as fun as possible for as many people as possible.

If I'm elected, my term will be defined by transparency, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Transparency: It's our money, we should know how it's spent. The role of the treasurer is to set and manage the budget, and to make sure that it's as inclusive as possible, that means that I will be as transparent as I can. I plan on releasing monthly

summaries of spending and our budget so that you can rest assured that we have our finances in check.

Dedication: I led my high school as the Spirit President, going between Spirit Club, Student Council, and my school's administration in order to run spirit rallies, coordinate dances, and host our annual talent show. I really enjoyed dedicating my time and energy to provide exciting events, and I will apply these administrative and collaborative skills to maximize your experience.

Enthusiasm: I am so excited to be on campus, and I'm sure you are too. With our return, we're going to be spending more money than we did virtually. I am excited to delegate how any potential excess savings from quarantine will be spent to make up for lost time, and I am prepared to deal with the rise in club, house, and individual reimbursements requests by working with the Bursar's office and administration.

With everything up in the air this past year, just know that you can *count* on me. (Sorry for that.) If



you have any questions, you can reach me over Messenger or at mhajjar@caltech.edu

Candidate Statements continued on next page

ASCIT 2021 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SOCIAL DIRECTION (1 CANDIDATE)

Kavya Rajagopalan

Hi everyone!

I'm Kavya, a current Sophomore in Lloyd house majoring in ACM and Economics and this year I'm running to be your ASCIT Social Director, with a few particular goals in mind. Some fun facts about me are that I volunteer through the Caltech Y, I'm a Lloyd PA, a current FCC, and am also on the Cheese Society Excomm. As Social Director, my primary goal is to ensure that all students have a role in the type of events that we can bring to life. The student body is wide and diverse, and it is my hope that we can continue to preserve the current social events we have, while also managing to introduce a variety of unique and exciting events that will make our time on campus fun.

Guaranteeing Student Involvement in Event Planning:

In order to guarantee that all students have the opportunity to present event ideas, I plan on doing a bi-quarterly survey to gauge student interest in specific events. I also intend on developing a forum in which the Caltech community can anonymously and honestly indicate ideas they would enjoy seeing implemented, and feedback on social events created by the BoD which might not be super exciting as well. In order to be transparent with students, I anticipate releasing all survey results so that we can most effectively create events which are tailored to everyone.

Other Goals:

(1) Preserving old events:

First and foremost, I aim to ensure that in whatever capacity possible, we are both able to maintain and continue events that have been treasured by the Caltech Student Body (Midnight donuts, ASCIT formal, Live artists, ASCIT movie night, Club funding, etc). It's very important to me that once we are back on campus, no student feels as though they are missing out on events that in a normal year they would have had an amazing time at.

(2) ASCIT Formal:

For those who don't know, traditionally ASCIT formal is limited to a select number of students. My aim in the upcoming year is to work closely with the treasurer to find both a unique and special venue that, with the potential added budget from the last two years, would allow us to accommodate every Caltech student if they wish to attend.

(3) Social Media:

During rotation I helped manage and oversee unique instagram content on the Lloyd House page. We were able to increase visibility and activity on our account, and I hope to continue this trend with the ASCIT instagram as well. I hope to also branch into other social media platforms as well (eg. revamping the ASCIT twitter) so that we may increase direct communication with the student body. Not only do I anticipate soliciting more information on what students want through social media, but I also hope to engage more students in our social events this way.

(4) New Events:

What I am most excited about however, is my hope to implement new events that I believe the entire Caltech community would love.

For Big Events:

Top of the list, is a **School-wide Halloween event**. Whether this be an inter house type of event, or a large-scale activity which simply encourages more student engagement, I am committed to ensuring that this goal comes to fruition.

Assisting more students and houses to direct their own events (ie. Student directed **Multicultural Fashion Show**, a **Campus-Wide yard-sale/donation drive** to students in the Greater LA school district, frequent **student art and music exhibitions**, etc).

Other: Working with both the BoD and administration to allow for more unique school-wide parties



and events that are budget friendly and cater to all students.

For Small (frequent) Events:

Small-scale weekly events on campus (ie. **Farmer's market**, **Club Exhibitions**, **Scavenger hunts**, **School-wide water-games day**, etc).

As ASCIT Social Director, I am committed to creating unique, affordable, and new events in addition to what we have already grown to love. In the past I have helped to chair social events in both my high school and have also helped plan and host some unique house events as well. I believe my fresh ideas and flexibility will help to ensure that all students have an amazing time as we return to campus. I would really love to be your next ASCIT Social Director, and if you like any of the ideas I have listed above, I would appreciate your vote. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, feel free to send me an email (krajagop@caltech.edu) or message me via facebook. Hope to see you all soon, and can't wait to see what we are able to accomplish together!

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR APRIL 12, 2021

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Bylaw amendment proposals from Felicia and Tom

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (absent):

Option Advising Event
Sent out frosh option videos

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Nothing to report

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Event funding forms from APIDA+
Will send email tomorrow about leftover club funding

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Club funding deadline to submit reimbursement is 9/30
Request to increase Ditch Day funding from Senior co-presidents
Will talk to Megan about ARC funding
Doing club reimbursements
Will ask Kristin and Miranda about voicemail charges

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Fleming and Page cross-house event request

Secretary (Katherine):

ASCIT Newsletter poll feedback

Continue the weekly ASCIT newsletter as regular (on Saturday); if there are time sensitive events or many events, send twice a week (on Wednesday)

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:37 pm

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2021

TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

- Introductions - new dabney rep
- SFL Email Assignments
- Option video feedback-
 - Confirmation email?
 - Frosh felt like they had info
- SFC notifications
 - Getting people to register
 - Incentivizing attendance? (Grubhub)
 - Tell them what possible outcomes of SFC are
 - Communication what it is
 - Type up something to houses that reps can send
- Checking in on classes (Feel free to speak freely about Bi1 since I won't be there 😊)
 - James - Bi1 canvas page is very organized; no finals
 - Phys and math - seems to be going well
 - Menu - astro is better than prev years
 - Ge1 - quizzes
- ARC Tip of the Week
 - Sfc

The California Tech

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