

Dear SGA Executive Board:

I, Makayla Wood, have written this letter to announce my candidacy for the Student Government Association Vice President position for the 2023 year. Exactly 1 year ago, I started walking through the most challenging and ambiguous season of my life. I was not a medical student, rather, a full-time employee at an O&P Clinic. I truly had no idea what my future held, but I knew what I wanted it to look like. Instead of sulking through what could've been a very depressing experience, I decided to grab the bull by its horns and began working towards the position I stand in today. During this time, I grew in ways I'd never thought possible. I learned what it meant to be exceedingly vulnerable and to overcome one's pride, all while remaining very resilient in the face of great adversity. I tell you this, because I believe this part of my past has the most significant impact on the student and leader I am today. For this reason, as well as for the experience that I bring to the table from prior leadership positions at Appalachian State University, is why I believe I am the best candidate for the position of SGA Vice President. As SGA Vice President, I will work to achieve the following: To create an environment of inclusion and unison: With the optional attendance policy, it has been more difficult to build relationships with classmates, and even to pair a name with a face. The large class size can also make it difficult to connect one-on-one with other students. I'd like to use SGA as a way to close these gaps and provide personalized opportunities for student interaction outside of club events and mandatory gatherings. Act as a liaison between students and administration: It is oftentimes nerve-racking to reach out to school administration with questions or concerns. I'd like to reinforce to students that SGA is a safe place for these questions or concerns to be communicated, and trust that their voice will be translated to administration in a time efficient manner. Enhance quality of life and overall school experience: CUSOM has provided us with hundreds of resources ranging from those pertaining to mental health, to online study materials, to food insecurities. The plethora of resources can be overwhelming, leaving students unsure of where to even start. As a student government, it's imperative to continue streamlining ways for all students to easily and quickly access these resources. These are just a few goals that I have as SGA Vice President. I believe these goals can be achieved, at minimum, by working as a team and making the students' agenda, our agenda. Thank you for your time and for consideration of my application for the position of SGA Vice President.

Sincerely, Makayla Wood