



Audra Gale for AUSG Vice President Platform

Every great policy starts with a conversation.

Let this platform be the beginning of a collaborative discussion: a journey filled with the exchange of ideas, expansion of understanding, and ability to listen to everyone, because we all have a voice that deserves to be heard.

Forget the politics, let's talk about what matters to you. Let's work together to make AU an example of a campus dedicated to collaboration and inclusive social justice.

Always, Audra

Core Improvements

Transparency:

- **Conduct open dialogue** between myself, the campus, and the appointed directors of Kennedy Political Union, Student Union Board, and Women's Initiative on a regular basis to ensure the accountability for our progress and collaboration.
- Have a "student-reviews" system following every event with

suggestions for improvement.

- Have frequent updates released on the new AUSG website of what we are working on.
- **Collaborate with all parts of AUSG** to create the most efficient, cohesive, feasible programming possible.

Vice Presidents Cabinet

- **My goal is to make the transitioning period shorter and more effective, leading to new ideas and projects being started as soon as possible by the new directors.**
 - Currently, this power to choose new directors lies only with the Vice President. I believe in divesting the power of the Vice President to make this decision a joint one between the VP and the outgoing directors to ensure someone is appointed who is ready for the job.
 - In having this conversation with the current directors about their own experiences and concerns, we found that sometimes-new directors spend a lot of time in their new positions playing catch-up.
- **My extensive managerial experience will help me to avoid micromanaging,** to be an effective bridge between these branches of AUSG and the Senate and Executive Board, and facilitate the growth of these organizations to new heights and depths. I believe that I will elect qualified directors, ready to collaborate on innovative visions for each of these organizations.

Kennedy Political Union

- KPU has restructured the arrangement of their e-board and staff this past year in a way that they find is most effective for the organization. **I plan to keep these existing changes, and facilitate new goals for the organizations.**

- Continue the impressive success KPU has achieved in promoting co-sponsorships with organizations on campus to connect the president's job of advocacy with the vice president's job of programming.

Accessibility:

- Making sure events are accommodating of those who need closed captioning.
- Making accommodations for those in wheelchairs.
- Hosting more events with guidance from the Student Support and Access center to better facilitate an inclusive environment for everyone who attends our events.

Student Union Board

- **Capitalize on using music and the arts as a vehicle for societal change and social justice**, bringing talented individuals from both on and off campus to create art with a meaningful political and social impact for our campus.
- A cultural hub like our campus deserves a student arts group that reflects our commitment to diversity both politically and in the arts. My experience as a musical theatre and poli sci double major will be able to facilitate the **rebranding of SUB that students want**. I hope to continue expanding SUB to it's full potential on an arts driven campus like AU.

Women's Initiative

- Moving forward, women's issues are more than just what women face on a day-to-day basis. **These are intersectional issues and frankly an issue of human rights that we have to fight for.** Following the hostile climate that has been enhanced during this past election cycle, we have more to fight harder than ever for,

- which we can do by hosting impactful and empowering programming.
- The Women's March on Washington gave great insight to what we are fighting for, and was a catalyst in the discussion of what really are women's issues. We are fighting for:
 - Violence against women
 - Reproductive rights
 - Economic justice, closing the gender wealth gap
 - Increase education
 - Close the gender wealth gap
 - Decriminalize & reform the prison system on spectrums of both race and gender equality.
 - Racial justice
 - LGBTQ justice
 - As someone studying Gender & Sexuality Studies at AU, a woman myself, and an ally to those feeling oppressed or misrepresented, I know we have many things to tackle, but the AU Women's Initiative has done a great job at facilitating the conversation of intersectional feminism. As Vice President, I plan to **continue an open conversation like this, increasing the diversity in leadership and having constant open dialogue and collaboration between the LGBTQ community and social justice organizations on campus in creating programming.**

Founder's Day Ball

- Looking to the future for next year's Founder's Ball, I plan to **continue the trend we began on of having many interactive facets at the ball** such as photo booths, jumbotrons, and full access to the amenities of the venue we hold the event at.
- In terms of accessibility to tickets, even though the event comes out of student's activity fees, this is not enough to ensure that each student is guaranteed a ticket in addition to catering the event and renting out the venue. While this is unfortunate, AUSG has expanded the amount of people able to attend the event, with this year being the largest founder's ball to date.

- **Open the conversation on the potential of having Founder's Day tickets available to every undergraduate student.**
- **Expand the amount of people we are able to host at our venue.**
- **I plan to continue the trend of making tickets a lottery system, but with older graduating students getting preference on tickets, based on the fact that they would soon be leaving the institution.**

Advocacy Through Programming

Inclusivity:

- **Regularly meet with the senate's committee on diversity and inclusion** to know what steps AUSG is already taken to give voices to marginalized groups.
- **Hold office hours specifically for advocacy based clubs and organizations to keep an open line of communication always,** and to discuss current issues on campus and to plan for collaborative events throughout the semester between organizations with mutual goals and ideas.

Greek Life:

- Partnering with The Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, and Intercultural Greeks to **foster a more inclusive atmosphere to various identities.**
- **Hosting more anti-hazing events, not just for Greek life, but campus wide.** This is an issue that goes beyond Greek organizations.
- **Hosting inclusivity/leadership training** events tailored towards the Greek community.

Sustainability:

- **Creating more transparency** within our current policies on recycling and composting.
- **Meeting regularly with the Office of Sustainability as well as**

the Environmental Science Department to make sure we are raising awareness of how to decrease our campuses environmental footprint.

- **Partnering with sustainable AU to make sure that people are using the resources we have on campus** to be green, especially following the decreased funding for the EPA.

The Arts:

- Capitalizing on the social justice work that is achieved through art, music and theatre by going beyond just **bringing speakers to campus and bringing artists and performances that can achieve as much advocacy work.**
- **Creating partnerships between our own student art and music groups** with SUB programming, including the voice of our own student arts council whose purpose it to unite all arts groups on campus, regardless of medium.

Sexual Assault:

- Creating more **proactive events** that go beyond OASIS, educating students about sexual assault prevention and action beyond just freshman Welcome Week and Eagle Summit.

Mental Health:

- Pairing up with HDP to facilitate safe and comfortable living accommodations.
- Having more programming related to mental health **resources, both on and off campus such as workshops, treatment centers, hotlines and clinics. We need to expand people's scope of knowledge on the resources available to them not just as AU students, but as DC residents.**
- **Host more philanthropic events on campus, donating back to the programs and organizations that offer assistance, recovery and awareness** such as Rock Recovery, a local non-profit dedicated to combatting eating disorders and helping people through this process.

Career Oriented Programming:

- In addition to working on advocacy through programming, we

need to work on accessibility through programming.

- Hosting events in collaboration with the career center, various schools, and professional fraternities to **give students' resources as well as inspiration in their career paths.**