

2024 Minnesota State University, Mankato Student Government Election Candidate Guide

- Candidates who submitted a statement/photo by the deadline are listed on this document
- Not all candidates who are on the ballot have a candidate statement/photo in this document

President/Vice President

Roshit Niraula/Rebekka Jay - Mavericks United 3-4

Residential Life Senators

Haley Robertson - Independent

Andrew Colleran - Mavericks United

Abigail Andree - Mavericks United

Off-Campus Senators

Darnell Speltz - Mavericks United

Sebastian Emeline - Independent 5

Mark Moore - Independent

Prisca Payanzo Maba - Mavericks United

Nitiben Parekh - Mavericks United

Abhishu Karki - Mavericks United

Nawrin Reza - Independent

Rhys Riggle - Mavericks United

College of Allied Health and Nursing

Camille Hart - Mavericks United

College of Business

Bruce Lindau - Mavericks United

College of Education

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Alexis Kraska - Independent

Akorede Balogun - Independent..... 6

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Jason Ogilvie - Independent

College of Science, Engineering and Technology

Francis Mpanga - Independent 8
Yohana Bezuayene - Independent
Aaron Leeb - Independent
Aayushma Bastakoti - Independent
Anthony Lopez - Independent..... 9
Thomas West - Independent

College of Graduate Studies

Belal Muntasir - Mavericks United
Sierra Roiger - Mavericks United
Muhammad A Raja - Mavericks United
Aicha Maiga - Mavericks United

At-large Senators

Alexis Smith - Independent
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Newspaper Board

Centennial Student Union Board

Nahili Ansha - Independent
Andrew Colleran - Mavericks United
Nitiben Parekh - Mavericks United

Student Health Services Fee Advisory Commission

Nahili Ansha - Independent

Athletics Fee Advisory Commission

Nahili Ansha - Independent
Andrew Colleran - Mavericks United
Abhishu Karki - Mavericks United

President/Vice President

Roshit Niraula/Rebekka Jay - Mavericks United

Hello all,

My name is Roshit Niraula. I am a Junior studying the project-based Computer Science program here at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am an international student originally from Nepal. In my journey here at MSU Mankato I have had the privilege of being a part of the Speech and Debate team, the Honors Program, stepping into leadership positions within Student Government, MavPASS Leader and Peer Mentor, Teaching Assistant for the CIS Department and the Honors Program, and be involved with the project-based computer science program in different capacities. I

have served on the Student Union Board, the Technology Fee Advisory Sub Committee, CSET Dean Search, Parking and Transportation Committee, the University Budget, and its Sub-Committee for Student Wages, where I have been able to represent your voices and ensure student representation and consultation is present. It has helped me build networks and relationships with an amazing team I am running with this year, all of whom are passionate about working on projects or advocacy efforts to help support the students here at Mankato.

As we embark on the journey ahead, the vision that I share with everyone running with me for the upcoming academic year is that every student deserves a voice. Together we commit to prioritizing your needs, your concerns, and your aspirations above all else. From enhancing transparency through expanded communication channels and routine review of student wages to expanding mental health resources, we are committed to making positive changes that benefit the students here at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Additionally, we are committed to initiating conversations and taking concrete actions on important issues such as



bias reporting, improving information availability for transfer students, inclusion of different campus groups in campus-wide decision-making platforms, expanding Open Education Resources availability for students, and many more.

Together as Mavericks United, we stand united in our commitment to prioritize "Students First" in all that we do.

Go Mavs!

Hello!

My name is Rebekka Jay and I am running for Student Body Vice President with Mavericks United! During my time at MNSU, I've had the opportunity to serve on committees for student government, have an internship in the athletic communications department, compete in business analytics competitions, be a language partner, showroom host, and volunteer tour guide, as well as be part of RHA and various volunteer projects. My main goals as vice president this coming year is to connect and serve all groups on campus, especially those who I'm not already in contact with, work to make technology and other campus resources more accessible for students, professors, and faculty, and continue to work on college affordability for students. I believe all that serve our university and all that our university serves deserve to have a voice in how our place of learning, working, and connecting operates.

Go Mavericks!

Off-Campus Senators

Sebastian Emeline

Hi I'm Sebastian! I do Speech & Debate which gives me experience in advocacy. Mental health, LGBTQ, and injustice are things I like to focus on. Being apart of the government means I can take what I've learned and actually apply it. I like taking multiple sides of an argument or an issue and taking it into consideration. If I can make a difference I want to especially when there's many problems not only I but others experience that aren't being addressed.



College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Akorede Balogun - Independent

Vote for Change, Empathy, and Inclusion! As your candidate for the Department of Humanities and Behavioral Science, I am committed to fostering a supportive environment and amplifying student voices. Let's build a stronger, more connected community together!



Tracy Swartzendruber - Independent

Tracy Swartzendruber is pursuing a Political Science B.S. and Business Law Minor at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She graduated with her Political Science A.A. at Inver Hills Community College simultaneously with high school in Spring 2023 thanks to PSEO. As a student, there are three things that Swartzendruber values most: 1) her relationship with God, 2) developing and participating in enriching student communities, and 3) excelling in her academics. She has helped lead Bible studies as a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a student organization that seeks to provide a close-knit community where students can encourage each other to grow in their faith. She has also aided her classmates who were falling behind in their academics, such as providing coaching on difficult assignments. Swartzendruber is in good standing with the university as a Presidential Scholar and Dean's List finalist. These are her goals as a Student Representative for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences: 1) Making sure students know who their representatives are in student government and are informed on university policies that affect them, 2) being the connecting link between students and resources that will help them have better success in the classroom and find a community that is right for them, 3) meeting on a regular basis with professors and the dean to discuss the welfare of the College of HSS, and 4) letting students know that she is available for them and responding quickly to student concerns.



College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Francis Mpanga - Independent

As a candidate for the CSET major senator, I am committed to advocating for your needs and concerns regarding the CSET major and student body at large.



Anthony Lopez - Independent

As a candidate for Senator of the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology at Minnesota State University, Mankato, I stand firm in my commitment to champion the rights and aspirations of every CSET student. With a belief in individual liberty and personal responsibility, I pledge to advocate tirelessly for policies that empower students to thrive academically and professionally. Together, let's ensure a future where every voice in our community is heard and every opportunity is within reach.



At-large Senators

Emily Dittrich - Mavericks United

I'm Emily (Emma) Dittrich and I'm running for the position of At-Large Senator. I'm looking to continue my work to ensuring all students have equitable access to campus resources, and increasing awareness of the many resources that are available to students on campus.



