

500 Word Bio

Hello everyone, my name is Omar Riaz. I am currently the General Coordinator for the Concordia Student Union and I am seeking a second mandate to be able to better serve Concordia Students. It has been debated for a very long that executive positions for student unions should be a for a minimum length of 2 years. That is because, there is a big learning curve and by the time you become proficient, your mandate is about to end.

In my first year as GC, there were several challenges that I had to overcome. I had to learn the inner workings of the CSU but also how to manage such a large budget and operation, even though I had previous experience as a CSU Councillor, Concordia Senator, CASA Chairperson, and President of the Vanier College Student Association.

In my first year, I had the responsibility of overseeing two major CSU projects that are well underway to completion in the near future. I oversaw the construction and planning of the CSU daycare and housing project. I have continuously tried to make the CSU approachable to students that would previously not be involved or aware that the CSU is there for them. My efforts to start new initiatives for Concordia University were ambitious and could not be expected to be completed in 12 months.

Previously, I served as the President and Treasurer of the Vanier College Students' Association. During my mandate, with my immaculate management and financial planning I was able to accomplish many projects with my team that continue to serve the students. We established Jake's Café that is now profitable and funds student projects from around the college. We also funded a state of the art synthetic sports field that have enhanced the performance and reputation of the Vanier College athletic department. Vanier was also the first Cégep to ban the complete use of plastic water bottles and start a community garden in order to be more sustainable.

As the General Coordinator of the CSU, my focus is to continue using our resources to benefit and represent all students to the best of my abilities and bring all Concordians together. I think that students from certain faculties are still largely underrepresented and there is no collaboration amongst faculties, which can be facilitated by the CSU. I also want to make sure that student funds are used judiciously and that the large administrative and operating costs are decreased to reallocate those funds towards more student initiatives and services. I think the CSU needs to refocus on their purpose and put all students at the center of all their decisions.

75 Words Bio

My name is Omar Riaz and I am the best candidate for CSU General Coordinator given that I have already served in this position for one year and can hit the ground running. I am articulate and outspoken in the best interest of Concordians. My principle motivation is to improve the CSU to be more student focused and provide more services that will help students improve their university experiences.