

Hi all!

I'm Emily Jiang, your outgoing Student Assembly President. It's been an incredible honor serving alongside you all for the past year as President, and before that as Vice President and deputy secretary.

Your Student Assembly accomplished many great things this semester, including the redoing of funding codes, the addition of several new budget lines, acquiring grab-and-go-meal mini-markets for Burke Library and KJ atrium, massive accessibility updates across campus (including Martin's Way and QR codes outside powered doors), and more. We have also seen increased engagement with the rest of campus, from an unprecedented amount of public comments to reestablishing partnerships with various administrative departments. During my calendar year term, your 2021-22 and 2022-23 Assemblies have set the groundwork for significant improvements in funding, Assembly functioning, accessibility, and dining, among other areas, and I'm very excited to see where the Assembly goes in the future. I'm confident in the current Assembly, as well as new members joining us, to take our work this semester and continue on improving the campus for everyone.

There have definitely been ups and downs, but all in all I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your President. This role offered an invaluable opportunity to engage with the college's campus and residents, and between reworking and passing legislation, having meetings every day, and partnering with various members of campus, I've learned so much about what it means to push for change, from the bureaucracy of getting things started to seeing the results of hard work. This position has allowed me to cultivate meaningful relationships with so many of you, and I enjoyed every moment I spent talking with students, faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni about what we want on our campus. I want to thank every single person I had dialogue with for the insights, suggestions, criticisms, and support that you gave me and the Assembly through my term as President. Though I did maybe a *little* more work than was required and spent a few too many nights staying up late working on Assembly matters, I truly felt fulfilled by the partnerships I've worked in and the fruitful conversations I've had, and my only regret leaving this position is that there is so much more I wanted to work on with all of you.

My advice to future Assembly members is to remember why you're there, and do your best. Give the small things the attention they deserve, but never lose sight of the big picture you're working towards, or the passions that drive you.

To the rest of the student body, know you have power to change things and you have support all around you. I'm one of the only Presidents in the last few years to serve through my full term, and it's entirely due to the support of the people around me, from my fellow Assembly members to my classmates and my mentors in the faculty, administration, and staff. We are all here together and we *do* want to make things better. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice, and offer yourself openly and honestly in return. We can do anything together.

Thank you all again for a wonderful presidential term.
Have a great winter break, and please stay in touch! :)

Emily Jiang '25 (they/them)
Student Assembly President
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