

Having been a member of the Alder General Council, I was made aware of opportunities in RCSA, the Residential Community Student Association, for leadership positions. Looking into these opportunities, I decided to apply to the RCSA Director of Government Affairs position that meshed well with my previous Alder Hall Senator position. Fortunately, I was offered the position after my first round of college interviews. This position offered me multiple opportunities as well as unique challenges. I was able to develop communication skills in particular as I served as the touchpoint between ASUW representing all UW Students and RCSA representing residents in particular. For example, I worked on the issue of improving campus safety as RCSA Director of Government Affairs. From the RCSA side, I had constituents asking directly for increase surveillance in common spaces and parking lots with cameras and personnel. In contrast, ASUW constituents and leaders in no uncertain terms completely disagreed and felt that these changes would disadvantage students of color whose relationship with police and surveillance is inherently different. This position allowed me to develop skills surrounding disagreements in those I represent and lead, working on creative problem solving to reach a reasonable solution. An additional challenge that came with this position was the time constraint it imposed. With 20 hours of work per week as a full time student, I had to work on time management in ensuring that none of my primary responsibilities were being dropped. Through prioritized lists, electronic schedules, and managing my expectations of myself, I have adapted a useful system to allocate my time while also giving myself some grace for smaller tasks.