

## MAKING IT HAPPEN...

- ...by becoming an active voice and significantly changing the role of Student Government.
- ...by giving HLS students better access to academic and professional resources.
- ...by promoting an inclusive community and bring HLS closer than ever.

### Rachna Shah

Hi, I'm Rachna Shah ('13), and I am running for Student Government President. Over the past year as your **Vice President**, I have worked passionately to deliver on the campaign promises from last year – and at 16/17 accomplished thus far, we are almost there. My experience with HLS Student Government speaks volumes about my commitment to this school; I was a 1L **Section 2 Representative** and **Director of Faculty Engagement** last year before taking on the Vice-President role this year. In addition, I have been involved with several committees, including the **Student Funding Board** and the **Graduate Council**. Though much has been done to improve campus life via Student Government, there is so much more that can be done, and I hope to have the opportunity to restructure Student Government to best serve student needs.

### Andrew Chinsky

Hi everyone. My name is Andrew Chinsky ('14). This year, I am a **Section Representative** for Section 6. I came to HLS from the University of Michigan, where I served as a **Committee Chair** and **Elected Representative** to the central student government on campus. I am excited and proud to be running with Rachna because, between the two of us, I know we can strengthen the relationship between Student Government and students. She and I would be honored to have your support!

### **...by becoming a more active voice and significantly changing the role of Student Government.**

*Since last year, we have voted to disclose our budget and by-laws, invited students to our meetings, conduct 1-1 sessions with Board members, and more. But we can do more...*

- **We'll actually be here at HLS next year:** We can amend last year's Constitution to make that expectation clearer for those who deem it ambiguous.
- **Truly school-wide Bar Reviews and social events:** We as a student body must assert proper roles in HLS external relations. HL Central is a for-profit private corporation, unaffiliated with HLS, headed by non-students paying themselves six-figure salaries out of the money firms earmark for recruitment at HLS – money that should be going to students. “30-35 drink tickets” when almost 2000 students are invited? With an aggressive fundraising campaign, and HLS formally clarifying to firms the role of Student Government as compared to HL Central, we can, and will, do better.
- **Increased autonomy and true transparency:** Student Government is ready to take on greater responsibility like social events previously under the budget of HL Central's operations, but with that comes a duty to be as open and transparent as possible. From meeting minutes to our budget to agendas to by-laws, information should be public. We've got nothing to hide.
- **No parent offices; provide accountability for students:** As it stands, Student Government functions too much like a student organization and less like a government.

We can change this. We can empower our Student Funding Board to make funding decisions without administrative entanglement. We have established open office hours and invited students to our meetings and administrative meetings, but we can do more for students. We want to work WITH the administration instead of working FOR them.

- **Revamp internal operations:** We will replace Board meetings with targeted 1-1 conversations with Board members. We will increase, perhaps double, the number of general body meetings of the government; two weeks is too infrequent. We will tighten the attendance requirements significantly; representatives should not be missing the meetings they were elected to attend. And meetings shouldn't occur after offices close; there's no reason Restaurant Associates, Dean of Students, Dean Minow, or other administration or staff can't make our meetings when we move them to 12-1pm.
- **Easy to contact us:** Most people don't remember our law.harvard e-mail address. You won't forget the address [WTFatHLS@gmail.com](mailto:WTFatHLS@gmail.com). (Of course WTF means "What to Fix")

### ...by giving HLS students better access to academic and professional resources.

*Since last year, we have successfully advised the transition to HELIOS with the Registrar's office, launched an Academic Task Force, and tripled our student-faculty lunch program including Faculty Pub Nights. But we can do more...*

- **Course evaluations not created by professors:** HLS won't change the course evaluations it distributes. That doesn't mean we can't collect this information and distribute it ourselves. Instead of "Did you learn to analyze statutes," we will ask, "Was attending class mandatory?"; "Did you enjoy the lectures?"; and "Do you feel your grade an accurate indicator of your performance and effort?"
- **Coordinated inside scoop on jobs:** Student Government will work, with OCS and OPIA as appropriate, to create a Harvard-style "Vault" guide for firms and public interest positions, using our vast alumni network and upperclassmen to get 1Ls and 2Ls the type of honest, candid information we need on quality of life, compensation, and satisfaction.
- **Improve orientation:** Orientation needs to be more consistent across sections. New students should be given a "Cheat Sheet," detailing things such as: What is the difference between OCS and OPIA? Who do I go to if I have a problem? What is "outlining?" What is a "hornbook?" How do you read a case? Where do we buy groceries around town? If DOS won't do it, we will.
- **Basic needs:** For example, there should be printers on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of WCC. Enough said.

### ...by promoting an inclusive community and bring HLS closer than ever before.

*Since last year, we have facilitated collaboration, increased inter-group dialogue, and clarified university expectations on collaboration through the codification of Student Organization by-laws and Student Funding Board by-laws. But we can do more...*

- **Collaborate with student groups:** There's no reason Student Government should push for inter-group collaboration but not do it ourselves. From speakers to charity events to blood drives, we must provide support to our student groups.
- **Creation of a multi-cultural council:** As HLS, and legal theory, becomes more international, Student Government must spur the creation of multi-cultural council.

Student groups can come together here to figure out how to collaborate on important events, talk about big ideas, and have a source of funding for specific events.

- **Make room for new student groups and interests:** With increased funding and support from DOS, we will make sure that students have these opportunities.
- **Expand and improve events:** From Celtics to Red Sox tickets, to street fairs on Brattle to Food Fests, to theater shows right here on Harvard's campus, HLS should facilitate events that allow the student body to experience Cambridge and Boston together. A re-allocation of firm donations will help this.
- **Bring it back home:** Forget formals half an hour away – Student Government will secure campus space for new events.
- **Tailor events newsletters to our individual interests:** It may not be easy, but we would like to work with our Information Technology Department to figure out a way to ensure students get the news and events they want to see, and not so much that it becomes overwhelming. By indicating interests and preferences, we should be able to come up with a filter to *only* get the information on the groups and events we choose.
- **Outside the bubble – HBS, HKS, GSE, and others:** Other Harvard Graduate Student Governments collaborate on events; why don't we? We will reach out to the Student Governments of HBS, HKS, and other graduate programs to collaborate on large social mixers and academic events.

### Why are we qualified?

This isn't just talk. We back up what we say.

- **As Vice President, Rachna has:**
  - Completed 16/17 of her campaign promises, including:
    - Closely advising the end of MyPlan and launch of HELIOS
    - Working with Restaurant Associates and Dean of Students for better and more food options (1Ls, you don't know how good you have it)
    - Revising Student Funding Board Criteria to set objective standards
  - Continued work on her last campaign promise: holding a mixer for new student organization leaders
- Through his time on HLS and Michigan Student Government, **Andrew has:**
  - Made Student Government more transparent, accountable, and focused on student issues
  - Brought new groups to the process, encouraging collaboration.
- This means our ideas are **Realistic, Informed, and Honest**. Our **diverse backgrounds** will provide a great balance of ideas, leadership, and commitment.

**Please CONTACT US!** E-mail or gchat us at [RachnaAndAndrew@gmail.com](mailto:RachnaAndAndrew@gmail.com), or visit our facebook at [www.tinyurl.com/RachnaAndAndrew](http://www.tinyurl.com/RachnaAndAndrew). Individually, Rachna is available at [rshah@jd13.law.harvard.edu](mailto:rshah@jd13.law.harvard.edu) and Andrew is available at [achinsky@jd14.law.harvard.edu](mailto:achinsky@jd14.law.harvard.edu).