NISG Application Questions
Joe Link

1. Why are you running for this position?
   - It’s to my understanding that far too often there are relatively few candidates that run to be senators to represent undeclared/general studies majors in NISG. I believe that, given my experiences, I can be an effective voice for these people that are often underrepresented. Being an undeclared major, I share the feelings of uncertainty that many undeclared/general studies majors may feel about the future. In a world where we can be anything, sometimes the hardest part is choosing exactly what we want to be. In order to best serve the interests of these students, it’s critical to have an effective, dedicated, and qualified representative serving these students as they navigate through life’s journey--these are all traits that I believe I can offer. For these reasons, I feel compelled to run for this position.

2. Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?
   - Being a freshman in college, it’s undeniable that my time on this campus has been rather limited; however, it’s indisputable that this time has been well spent. Shortly after arriving on campus, I was elected to Hagemann Hall’s Senate as an RHA representative. In this position, I’ve been involved in the planning, advertising, and execution of events in my residence halls, but also campus-wide events through RHA. Additionally, I serve on the committee in RHA that steers our programming efforts, which has allowed me to be a leader of my further subcommittee. Overall, serving in this position has helped me refine my communication, organization, and leadership skills--all of which are useful for this position. Before coming to college, I was also involved in Boy Scouts for many years, where I attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, lead and completed an extensive service project, was elected to the position of Senior Patrol Leader, and completed an official National Youth Leadership Course. My experiences in Boy Scouts--more than anything else--has helped me learn the importance of teamwork and compromise to achieve great goals.

3. What do you believe are some important issues facing the UNI student body?
   - The Panther Pantry program is a wonderful program for students who have food insecurity. Before surveying was done, the need for such a program was not evident. Given this knowledge, there’s also a possibility that there are other situations a large number of students may face and be unable to effectively solve in their current situations. One of these issues that comes to mind is mental health. Although we do have wonderful mental health resources on campus, I believe it would be a great service to investigate if there are students who need these
services but don’t have a good avenue to establish a form of communication with these resources. Another issue that I believe we as a student body can always work to improve—regardless of how well of a job is always being done—is being an inclusive and welcoming environment.

4. **What goals would you like to accomplish in your position?**
   - One issue (that is currently on the radar of NISG leadership) is student awareness of the NISG organization itself. This is an issue that, in my humble opinion, is of great importance and urgency to address. Informing and educating incoming freshmen about NISG and what the organization is and how to get involved in the organization are critical actions that must be taken with the overall goal of increasing student awareness and involvement with NISG. A more aware and involved student body can only help NISG grow and succeed.

5. **How will you accomplish these goals?**
   - There are multiple routes that could be considered for achieving these goals. In an effort to increase student awareness of NISG, I believe a great step to take would be holding some type of social and informational NISG event during the move in week that is targeted primarily towards freshmen students—and perhaps this event would be appropriate to include during UNI Now. Such an event would obviously be a social gathering, but also a time to inform students, perhaps with an information video, about what exactly NISG is.