

Hey Bulls!

My name is Alika Turton, I am a sophomore studying Political Science and I am running to be your next Student Representative for the 2023-2024 academic year. In my two years of being at UB, I have been in various student leadership positions that have taught me humility, the power of patience and the need for more student leadership on campus. For the students I have worked alongside, I have been able to see them grow into leaders, explore their majors and voice their concerns for issues affecting them in and out of the classroom. However, in this year alone, there has been much an urge by students to feel like someone is listening to their concerns, various members of student leadership groups presenting lack in transparency and not providing updates on what progress has been made in advocating for what students want to see on campus. As someone who has been in student leadership since she was in middle school and even just as a student has seen and felt the struggle of feeling like your opinions are not valued, I know what it means to need a Student Representative that puts their all into their position and is willing to call out UB for anything that harms the student body. If elected as Student Representative, it is my goal to **Lead**, **Empower** and **Innovate** the UB student experience.

- **Lead** : Be the student voice in spaces that need student representation, provide students with more clear information on rules and legislation that impact us at UB and set a precedent for what it means to be a student in leadership at UB
- **Empower** : Encourage students to continue actively speaking out about how they feel and what they need from UB and providing them with a platform that allows them to speak with me and actively see throughout my term what changes are being made to lessen the issues they face
- **Innovate** : Create a new way to provide students with more transparency on what the UB Council, Council for Advocacy & Leadership and Faculty Senate are doing to help us succeed in all areas of being students and a community as a whole and better the process of how UB goes about addressing student concerns

Considering the Student Representative chairs the Council for Advocacy & Leadership (COAL), I already have prior experience chairing spaces in one of my current student leadership positions

as the North East Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) Associate Director for National Residence Hall Honorary where I create monthly meeting agendas, enforce the regional Policy Book and follow Robert's Rules of Order just like any leadership or political group does. With my go getter attitude, no nonsense policy, extensive experience in student leadership and ability to work creatively with any task I am given, I know that I will be able to represent the student body of UB with great pride.

Thank you and Horns Up!

Alika Turton

Candidate for '23 -'24 Student Representative

### **Platform**

1. **Offering Better On-Campus Disability Student Services :** A sometimes forgotten population in UB is disabled students. Time and time again UB preaches in their Strategic Goals that they will promote a university-wide culture of equity and inclusion. However, they present no game plan for catering to disabled students. Many students are frustrated to see themselves or their friends not have opportunities that are available to others such as spaces for students in this group to have more say on what may not be accessible to them on campus, accessible living in residence halls when it comes to having resources needed to deal with late night fire alarms or other issues in dorms, having an outlet to express themselves in group settings and not having handicap door button that actually work when pressed which is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible. It is imperative that the University remembers what they promise students as students deserve to feel welcomed, safe and know that they are being listened to.
2. **Lowering Bus Wait Times :** A huge concern for students this year has been the issue of transportation. Looking at the UB Stampede, many students use campus busing as a way to get to classes. However, at times such as between 10:30am-1pm, it is extremely hard to get a bus as drivers begin to prepare for lunch time and that is when an influx of students are going to and from classes. By not providing this essential service in a timely manner with replacement drivers for the later rush hours to students, we are again not allowing them to have a key resource into getting to class on time. By working on this issue, students will be able to know that they have the ability to not only do better in their classes but also get where they need to be in a timely fashion and if they use buses more they can help keep our campus more green and help reduce climate issues.

3. **Better Meal Plans :** Another issue on campus is the amount of meal swipes that get wasted each week by students. Many try their best to collect as many meals as they can around Thursday and Friday. However, considering they are limited to 2 meals per period, this can only do so much. By allowing students to use more meal swipes if not taking the 2 meal swipes per period rule off on Thursdays and Fridays, this would allow students to use the swipes they paid for in full instead of knowing that due to various circumstances they could not collect all their meals.
4. **Better Access to Student Resources :** When it comes to finding resources on campus, it is a tedious process. Many times students are shocked to hear that a certain resource exists and then by that time what they needed the resource for is either gone or has a long wait time. By creating a resource, preferably a webpage and a video series that lists out all the various services and resources for students to interact with, students will be able to get the resources they need in a more adequate time period.
5. **Offering a Student and Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Celebration Week:** Although, the Intercultural and Diversity Center (IDC) does a lot for UB, there is a need for more opportunities to celebrate and learn about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on campus considering we all come from different backgrounds and may not have had the resources or training on what is fair for all students and it would be a great way to celebrate all students for who they are outside of the classroom whilst preparing them for what they may face in a business setting after graduating. The best way to go about this would be creating a week of celebrations for both students and faculty to both engage in DEI efforts because it could offer networking opportunities for both groups and it can help them to better understand one another in and out of classroom settings.
6. **Creating a Food Delivery Program :** Many times students get sick, especially when school first starts and after we come back from any breaks. Most times when this happens, we do not have a choice in being able to stay in the dorm without having to get food in areas where many people order. When this happens it increases the chance illness can be spread because there is no service to deliver students their meals. Incredi-Bull pizza used to have a delivery service and this could be extremely useful for students that are sick or have a fear of socializing. I know with the addition of this program, it could greatly help students when they need it and help reduce illness transmission in students.

See attached [my resume](#) for a more in-depth look at what student leadership I have done at UB, regional and national organizations.

If you have any questions for Alika, do not hesitate to email her at [alikatur@buffalo.edu](mailto:alikatur@buffalo.edu) or reach out to her on her campaign's Instagram page at [@ubvote4alika](#).