CAC Chair Candidate Debate 2020
April 6, 2020

Jema Esparza 0:02
Hello everyone, and welcome to the CAC chair debate for 2020. My name is Jema Esparza and I currently serve as the Executive Chair for the Campus Activities Council. I'll also be serving as the moderator for this debate. Also, with us are a few guests who are now going to briefly introduce themselves.

Justin Norris 0:25
Hello, my name is Justin Norris and I currently serve as the Student Government Association President.

Sam Quick 0:30
Hello everyone, my name is Sam Quick and I'm the Election Chair.

Ari Fife 0:33
Hi, my name is Ari Fife and I'm an OU Daily Reporter.

Jana Allen 0:37
Hi, I'm Jana Allen, and I'm also an OU Daily Reporter.

Preston Court 0:42
My name is Preston Court and I'm the CAC advisor.

George Ahmadi 0:46
My name is George Ahmadi and I'm the SGA advisor.

Jema Esparza 0:48
Okay, also with us are the candidates themselves. They will introduce themselves with their personal statement starting with Lafonzo.

Lafonzo Spigner 0:57
My name is Lafonzo Spigner, I'm a junior public relations manager from Oklahoma City. My pronouns are he/him/his and I am running to be your next Campus Activities Council Chair. My platform Flourish encompasses three main pillars, assess tradition, which basically means an organization that's been around for as long as ours has, needs to constantly be checking in looking at what we've done and why we've done it making sure we're making conscious efforts to better CAC. Cultivate unity, with an organization as large as ours, it can sometimes feel hard to understand what each piece of our puzzle does, we need to be working to create a culture of mutual respect, that leads to a more cohesive organization. As well as implement change, working to create real change within our organization to make us more inclusive and more equitable, making sure that we're consciously working to create systems processes and actionable steps that will ensure our change is lasting, equitable and attainable. I'm running to
be your CAC chair because CAC has given me so much, whether it be friendships or leadership
development, but at the same time, realizing that we are the programming branch of SGA, we
serve all students and realizing that we need to stop meeting people halfway and go the
distance to bring them to the finish line. And I'm ready to do that so we can flourish together.

Jema Esparza 2:10
Also with us is candidate Louisa Lee.

Louisa Lee 2:15
Hi everyone, thanks so much for being here. My name is Louisa Lee. My pronouns are she her
hers. I am a junior Creative Media Production major from Abilene Texas and I am running to be
the Chair of Campus Activities Council. CAC has given me experiences, it's given me
opportunities that I recognize not every single student at OU feels are accessible or attainable
for them. So I'm running for chair because I know that I have the platform, and the experience to
improve our organization, make our organization more accessible, more open to all students,
and do that through amplifying student voices. If elected, I will lead the charge in gathering
student feedback that we will use to make data driven decisions that improve our events and
develop our people and enhance the experience of every single student at the University of
Oklahoma. Let's work towards CAC in 3D.

Jema Esparza 3:17
Wonderful. Okay.
Lafonzo will begin with our first question, Louisa will follow and from then on, they will alternate
in who begins the questions. So, the very first question is: What is the first thing you would do
as CAC Chair? Again, what is the first thing you would do as CAC Chair?

Lafonzo Spigner 3:40
The first thing that I would do as CAC Chair is really go to these communities that have often felt
unheard by our organization. Really letting them know that I am actively working as your new
chair to really see and understand what you need. I'm working to be there for you and bring you
to the fold letting you know that decisions are not being made just for you, but with you included.
I want to actively work for all students and make sure that they understand that CAC is actively,
always trying to work for all students.

Louisa Lee 4:17
The first very first thing that I would do if elected CAC Chair is prepare the common app for fall
2020 to be more accessible, and by that I mean removing the formal resume component from
our executive committee application. This resume is a way to judge experience, which is not
required for joining Campus Activities Council. And it's important going into a new year after
having to cancel a lot of our events and being back on campus, getting people to apply. It's
important that we make our application process accessible. And by removing that resume, we
will gain a whole new applicant pool of people who don't see themselves as leaders and have
previously felt that CAC is not accessible to them. That is the first thing I would do as CAC chair
is improve the common app, so we're ready to go for fall 2020.
Jema Esparza  5:12
Thank you both. Louisa, so will start with question two. Question two is: How does your platform encompass all three of the CAC pillars? Again, how does your platform encompass all three of the CAC pillars?

Louisa Lee  5:30
Absolutely. So for building community, my biggest thing is giving other communities and organizations that we want to partner with in CAC an external liaison so that we're constantly communicating with these organizations and communities instead of just reaching out to them when we have something that we want them to participate in. In the past, CAC has used to other communities and student organizations as a means to an end, and we can no longer do that, and we should not have been doing that in the first place. For developing leaders, I want to expand Vice Chair development day to be an opportunity for executive committee members to come together to work together on making CAC better, developing cohesively, and then for leaving a legacy, my platform establishes a foundation of getting gathering student feedback to make our, make our organization run on the feedback of student voices.

Lafonzo Spigner  6:34
For my platform flourish building community. Basically it encompasses actively working with these community leaders working with things on like my leadership Think Tank where leaders come together to talk about what programming we're missing at the university and actively working to change that. Develop leaders things like my community development day, where students will come together to talk about ways and systems and processes that they need to learn such as our PR, our PR teams coming together to figure out how to best serve and best get students invested in our organization learning by our PR director to really understand these processes. Leaving a legacy is creating these bridges and really working to bridge this gap between our organization and marginalized communities. To leave a legacy, we need to help them understand that this process is for them and this organization is fully for them. Oftentimes, they have not felt that way and we need to actively be working to leave that legacy that this is for all.

Jema Esparza  7:32
Awesome. Now we will have a question that was suggested or submitted by an OU student provided by the OU Daily.

Ari Fife  7:43
Alright, so the first Daily question is: How does your experience equip you to be a successful CAC Chair? Again, how does your experience equip you to be a successful CAC Chair? And we'll start with Lafonzo.

Lafonzo Spigner  7:58
Awesome I think for me, my experience is unique. I think that what really has equipped me is the fact that I've gotten to be a part of so much of campus. I think also getting to serve on
multiple CAC execs, I've really started to look at our organization with a critical eye, understanding the processes that we have really started to do in understanding what's working and what's not working. Also getting to see what's working for other organizations and bringing those into the fold. But I think at the end of the day, we really need to be understanding what these teams are doing on the ground, understanding the processes and the things that they have day to day in their weekly meetings and understanding how they work. Understanding how they operate and taking that to the Executive Council, I think is so detrimental for taking that paired with being big on leadership roles all over campus, I think creates an amazing CAC Chair.

Louisa Lee  8:47
Alright, I started on CAC, as, on a, on a committee as a committee member, worked my way up to being a vice chair and this year I've served as the Executive Vice Chair of Campus Activities Council coordinating all application, election processes as well as Vice Chair development day. As a member of General Council, I've gotten to work with each event chair, from the beginning of them getting selected to be a part of General Council, getting their committee and then seeing events come to fruition and supporting them in every, every step of the way. I've learned how every event works. And I understand the perspective at each leadership level, which is what prepares me to be a resource to everyone involved in CAC. But it also, it, I know what is possible and what can be achieved in one year, and I have a plan for exactly how we're going to do it and make use of the short time that we do have.

Jema Esparza  9:49
Okay, um, the next question will be, we'll begin with Louisa, and I'll repeat it twice: In 2018 CAC received the 15% budget reduction from the SGA Budget and Appropriations Committee. How would you respond if a similar occurrence happened during your term and what specific actions would you take? Again, in 2018, CAC received a 15% budget reduction from the SGA Budget and Appropriations Committee? How would you respond if a similar occurrence happened during your term and what specific actions would you take?

Louisa Lee  10:25
Absolutely. So, as far as reactions, I think that it would be better in this case to be proactive, not thinking if this happens one day, but when. As a branch of the Student Government Association, it is our responsibility to be a good steward of student funds and make sure that we are leading an example when we have such a large allocation to be working with. What we need to do and this is included on my platform is develop external sponsorship, and what this means is not getting more money next year. What it means is expanding to the OU community, or I'm sorry, the Norman community, showing sponsors the opportunities that lie within sponsoring a CAC event and then using that money to build our build up our events, but again, not becoming reliant on our allocation, because we are a branch of the Student Government Association.

Lafonzo Spigner  11:27
What I would, what I would first start off with doing is talking with my General Council, I think that understanding that CAC puts on events for all campus but at the end of the day, we are
more than events. We are creating a home and a community for students on our campus. How can we do that most cost effectively? The first step is listening to our General Council. I think after that, realizing that we're going to work with my platform pillar of assess tradition, leaning into SGA and speaking and talking with them, so we can better understand how we can serve our students as CAC, but also more importantly, serve our students as the programming branch of SGA. leaning into them, understanding the processes that they have in place that we better can serve and show to our students. So they can all understand that we're going to actively help you, but we're going to actively help you as the programming branch of SGA.

Jema Esparza  12:19
For this next question Lafonzo will begin and I will repeat it twice: In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic CAC has been faced with the difficult decision to cease the remainder of its spring events. How will you ensure CAC is focusing on contingency plans and overall health of the organization moving forward in the case of a similar scenario in the future? In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic CAC has been faced with the difficult decision to cease the remainder of its spring events. How will you ensure CAC is focusing on contingency plans and overall health of the organization moving forward in the case of a similar scenario in the future?

Lafonzo Spigner  13:02
I have nothing if I'm not flexible, and that has been proven by all students at the University during this time. I think my first step would be talking with previous and current Chairs. Like I said earlier, CAC puts on events and they are amazing. But at the end of the day, CAC is more than events. It's the people that we serve and it's the people on our execs the people on our campus. Working to actively pre-create processes and systems in place to where we can have things that they can do remotely, whether that be from home, or if they are on campus in small quantities. I think we need to fully realize that this has happened once we need to plan for it to happen again, what that looks like is talking with not only our previous chairs, but our current chairs in working with them actively as well as working with SGA and working with Preston Court to make sure that we are creating a system that combines both of the views of not only our previous chairs, but our current chairs, making sure we have a streamlined process for when this happens again, if this happens again. We need to be looking at it as if not, we should be looking at it as a when not an if.

Louisa Lee  14:07
What is most important for CAC coming off of this COVID-19 is making sure that we do not miss a beat, picking up our events and our application processes in the fall. Um what that means is doing the grunt work on the back end, working this summer with General Council on ways to keep their committees engaged, whether that be you know, zoom calls or playing online games together, whatever that looks like continuing to build that community because our events are more than events, they are people. Secondly, we need to be prepared and we need to be ready to hit the ground running with Howdy Week as soon as we come back in the fall. So that no OU student is missing out on the experience of that CAC should be providing for them. We have to
do the work as the leader-, as the leadership to make sure that they don't miss out on that opportunity.

Jema Esparza  15:07
Okay. Ari, if you have a question from the Daily.

Ari Fife  15:12
Yeah, so here's the question: Without Camp Crimson this year CAC will miss out on a large time for advertising membership for freshmen. What will you do to replace this? And I'll read it again: Without Camp Crimson this year CAC will miss out on a large time for advertising membership for freshmen. What will you do to replace this?

Louisa Lee  15:32
Absolutely, um, so the status of Camp Crimson and orientation programs is developing, of course, I'm excited to serve as a small group leader this summer in whatever capacity that ends up looking like. So working with Camp Crimson is being as flexible and gracious through this time as they have been certainly showing up for them when that time comes in any capacity, that we can but also, what I'd like to do is send out a survey to incoming students, to get them excited about the events that are going to be provided to them at the University of Oklahoma. We've had great success with like concert series, sending out a survey for artists, what kind of artists you want to bring to campus. So I'd like to do something similar like that. So that incoming students transfer or first year know the opportunities to get involved and also the events that are going to happen and that their voice is important in making those decisions.

Lafonzo Spigner  16:30
Being an employee of admissions, admissions and recruitment as well as orientation programs. I have gotten to see the work that they've put in to make this happen. It's going to happen like she said in some way in some capacity. I think fully working with Bridgitte Castorino and her entire team is so important and so detrimental, but also realizing that we have built in voices on the ground running in our SGL's in our orientation guides to spread the mission and spread the goals of CAC in their events, we have so many students who have been impacted or touched CAC in some capacity that we'll get to talk about that. But also really working with our incoming freshmen during our SOW. So our student orientation weekend. Really focusing events during that time making sure that they fully realize and fully understand what's happening. In understanding that like, although they didn't get all of that information during camp, we're going to still provide that for you tenfold just during SOW will just look a little different and have a little bit of a different time.

Jema Esparza  17:32
Wonderful, moving right along. Lafonzo, you will begin with this question, and I will repeat it: This year, the CAC event Oklahoma Creativity Festival was brought to the CAC General Council as a potential event to discontinue. What is your response to this and how would you work to ensure that the students who participated in OCF could still experience its purpose? Again, this year the CAC event Oklahoma Creativity Festival was brought to the CAC General Council as a
possible event to discontinue. What is your response to this and how would you work to ensure that the students who participated in OCF could still experience its purpose?

**Lafonzo Spigner  18:12**
I think this goes back to my platform pillar, implement change, really listening to the student voice, listening to what they feel is what they need, but also understanding that at the end of the day, tough decisions do have to be made sometimes. Working actively with General Council and the OCF Chair to realize fully realize and understand if this organization has to cease if this has to be pulled from our umbrella. Also getting to speak with them. I think there needs to be more Executive Council, executive Council- Council being seen in the day to day processes of these events, working with their external liaison on Executive Council as well as me as Chair going to this group and letting them understand that these processes, one were important and what you've done is detrimental to our OU community, but also fully helping them realize our side on the Executive Council.

**Louisa Lee  19:04**
So being a part of General Council this year when this decision was being made, the two main things that we looked at were are the people on the exec getting a good experience? If people are not wanting to apply to be on this executive committee, what kind of experience are they having? Two are people coming to these events? You know, is this, is anybody missing out from us not continuing this event? And that was a really, really tough conversation, but what I think we all came to the conclusion of was is that we provide experiences for OU students, and if OU students are not coming to these events, we're not fulfilling that. Number two, we provide leadership opportunities, and if they are not, they are not interested in those. Then there's nothing that we can do. What we can do is expand Oklahoma Creativity Festivals mission of creating creative events. We can do that with Spring Family Weekend, Howdy Week more flexible events like that and give the students their same purpose.

**Jema Esparza  20:13**
Your next question will begin with Louisa and I will repeat it: Recently, the CAC General Council voted to merge the CAC events. Howdy Week and Winter Welcome Week into one single event to be known as Welcome Week. How would you ensure that the participants of these events and the members of their committees feel supported and considered in the upcoming year of transition - or transition? Excuse me. Again? Recently, the CAC General Council voted to merge the CAC events Howdy Week and Winter Welcome Week into one single event to be known as Welcome Week. How would you ensure that the participants of these events and the members of their committees feel supported and considered in the upcoming year of transition?

**Louisa Lee  20:54**
Absolutely. So again, what is most important is the experience of these students and that is absolutely what I would prioritize. Something I want to do more in CAC is a cohesion with our sister events. So Winter Welcome Week and Howdy Week, we currently have a Winter Welcome Week and Howdy Week committee. But I would love for them to work together on this Howdy Week getting them excited for what the future of the welcome weeks will look like.
Especially coming off of this COVID-19 and having had to cancel so many events. Howdy Week will be the first event that we'll have back at OU back on campus. So it's an opportunity for Howdy Week and Winter Welcome Week to create something really memorable and leave a legacy that how that week can be so much more for students than it's ever been before. And that's the possibility that comes with serving on any CAC committee.

Lafonzo Spigner 21:52
I think our two week chairs have done an amazing job of this already, but really working to let organizations see each other. I think that that's sometimes what the disconnect is between our organizations is they're all working towards their specific event, but they don't really see each other. Our two fam- or two weekend chairs have really worked to be seen whether it's co-, co-meeting together or different things like that, I think that we need to expand that more in in their processes. So really working with these two chairs, as well as with this exec and their liaison which is Louisa so we can better understand how to serve them. Listening to what they need as an executive cou- or Executive Committee, as well as listening to what the chairs need, in creating a unique experience for all. I think that the Louisa hit the nail on the head when when she said that we need to start working cohesively together to plan these events. So starting that off now and then creating that culture and that fostering of change and fostering of mutual understanding that will bleed into these for years to come.

Jema Esparza 22:57
Okay. Now, a question from the daily.

Ari Fife 23:01
Yeah. So we'll start with Lafonzo on this question and I'll read it twice. What tangible ways have you supported and advocated for all 14 CAC events? Again, in what tangible ways have you supported and advocated for all 14 CAC events?

Lafonzo Spigner 23:19
I think it's probably the same way that many of you probably listening to this have advocated for these events, you need to be going actively to these events and listening to them. But beyond that, not only participating in these events, I've gotten to have these conversations with these chairs, really working to fully realize these organization- or this organization in these events was so detrimental in deciding to run for chair. In creating my platform, I really worked to listen to not only the chairs, which is super important, but also listening to just the regular exec members fully understanding the experience from the top up as well as just a participant in multiple of these events, I think was so important to me. Actively working to understand them. To create systems and processes that will streamline the duties that they already feel, as well as trying to figure out ways in which that I can support them newly as Chair and put things in place that will leave us in a better place really working to leave that legacy for us to flourish.

Louisa Lee 24:16
So as the Executive Vice Chair this year, I've gotten to work with every single event chair and see their event come to fruition, see them get their committee. I think where I've where I've
advocated most is probably on the side of the application process and on the side of the timelines. So, as you know, we are on a quick turnaround all the time new chairs getting elected, a new committee is getting selected. What's most important is maximizing the amount of time students will get to spend on these executive committees, building community, developing themselves as leaders and getting to establish their own legacy. I think, you know, we've had decisions this year where we've needed to crunch some timelines, or we've been short for time, but I've always advocated to make sure that every student serving on our executive committees gets to maximize the time that they get to spend on their CAC event.

**Jema Esparza  25:19**
Okay, this next question will begin with Louisa and I'll repeat it twice: So a primary focus this year has been in our promise of developing the students on our executive committees as leaders. What do you think the benefits have been of the curriculum we have already established and what ways do you see us improving this in the future? What are some tangible steps you would like to further implement this as CAC Chair? Again, a primary focus this year has been in our promise of developing the students on our executive committees as leaders. What do you think the benefits have been of the curriculum we have already established and in what ways do you see us improving this in the future? What are some tangible steps you would like to further implement this as CAC Chair?

**Louisa Lee  26:04**
Sure. So I served-I facilitated and executed Vice Chair development Day this year, which in the fall was more of executive council, giving information to vice chairs and telling them how they could be successful. But this was not effective. This was not working. And no one was excited about this. No one, no one, I mean, they might- some of them enjoyed it, but it wasn't working. And so what we did is we evaluated it, and this semester, we totally revamped it into more of a conference style, where we saw vice chairs, taking responsibility and showing the things that they had accomplished on their event, sharing that with other vice chairs, vice chairs that were new to their position, and getting to see them learn from each other. Being on Executive Council it was so rewarding to create that experience for them, but then be able to take a step back and realize that there are so many capable leaders in our organization, and they're capable of learning from each other, not just us.

**Lafonzo Spigner  27:07**
I think our Executive Council has done an amazing job of really bonding their organization from the top up- from the top down. So our Executive Council and our General Council have actively worked to really be there for each other. And I think that that needs to be bled down into the executive committees. I think that they understand that they are leaders and our chairs do an amazing job of equipping them as leaders, our Executive Council have started to go more into these spaces and really show them that you guys can be these leaders. But I think that that, at the end of the day comes down to our our committee members, they know that they are leaders, we need to actively be equipping them with more tangible ways for them to get to explore that leadership outside of their specific event and outside of their specific role in their event. Whether that be giving them more duties to do and expand upon or more opportunities for leadership
development. They have gotten to see from the top how what happens when cohesion is started. We need to continue that upward momentum of cohesion bled down and really working to one not only just bond that group, but bond that group and give them moments of leadership to pop out and expand and grow upon.

**Jema Esparza  28:15**
Okay, next question we'll begin with Lafonzo. Um, and I will repeat it: If elected as chair, how do you plan to increase to- excuse me- to increase retention within our event's executive committees and community participants? Similarly, how do you plan to continue growing student interest in our events? Again, if elected as chair, how do you plan to increase retention within our event's executive committees and community participants? Similarly, how do you plan to continue growing student interests in our events?

**Lafonzo Spigner  28:55**
So my pillar, my pillar- Basically really encompasses this by inclusivity surveys. So what that looks like is I want to work with professors who specialize in data collection to create surveys that allow us to better understand how to create an inclusive organization. Now that these students have joined in have a seat at this table. Now that you're here, what's keeping you here? What are you enjoying? And what are you not? Taking that data and working it and really understanding what needs to change and what common threads between our events are shown so we can actively be working to fix that is super important. As the second part of your question, increasing outwardly. I think what that looks like is first in first focusing inwardly I think we are at a point where we understand who we are as CAC, but we're not understanding who we understand who we are as our specific events but we're not understanding who we are as CAC. We are working to better teach these students what CAC is, is super important for them to be able to go outwardly and increase retention tenfold.

**Louisa Lee  29:58**
Absolutely. So, um, what is important in CAC, what is important moving forward is improving the student experience and listening to OU, student voices in order to make that tangible and important change. In the past, we've been satisfied with numbers, just because people are here, like we're doing good, that can no longer that will no longer be acceptable. What we need to take it back to is the experience. They're here, but are they having a good time? Are they in are they getting what they- what they were told they would get out of this experience? Really taking that consolidating it, and then using that data using that feedback, cohesively amongst our events, so that Fall Family Weekend is benefitting from the feed back Spring Family Weekend, we're developing as 14 separate events, but then we're also developing cohesively as one organization.

**Jema Esparza  31:01**
Okay, and now back to Ari with the Daily.
Ari Fife 31:04
So we'll start with Louisa on this question and I'll read it twice. How do you plan to remove the connotation of CAC being the "Caucasian Activities Council"? Again, how do you plan to remove the connotation of CAC being the "Caucasian Activities Council"?

Louisa Lee 31:23
Absolutely. So first, I just want to say as a white Panhellenic woman, I definitely hold a lot of privilege in the way that I've been able to have access to Campus Activities Council and the opportunities within it. And I absolutely recognize that it is my responsibility to make sure that those opportunities - that no student at OU, has to miss out on those opportunities. What I would like to do is rewrite our selection bias training to make sure that we are selecting executive committees that reflect the makeup of our diverse, OU student population, and I also want to put the focus back on experience, not just numbers. Just because these people have a seat at the table, just because these students, have a seat at the table does not mean that they're having a good time. We need to look at their experience to make our organization more inclusive, so that they will continue to come back.

Lafonzo Spigner 32:23
As someone who has definitely heard this from friends, I understand exactly the sentiment. I think the biggest thing is realizing that there is an internal problem that we need to address. One of the things that I want to do is create mandatory diversity reports to make sure that every event understands how they're reaching out to groups from marginalized communities, working to better educate them on the processes to go about creating a sense in a culture that they are involved in, they can be involved. Also going to these groups. I think that the thought that we - things are getting better and things are good and you have to stop working is a thought that we need to end. The term victory blindness is very rampant within CAC and really understanding that we need to push past that and work 10 times as harder. Really going to these organizations and bringing them into the fold. I think that we need to actively be listening to these organizations as well. It was said best that although campus activities council serves all students some don't want to partake and that's okay, but hearing what we need to best do for them so we can create new processes that will want- have people who want to be in the fold, because at the end of the day that's what we're trying to do.

Jema Esparza 33:35
Okay, and this question, we will start with Lafonzo and I will repeat it: The Community Experience Coordinator role on the CAC Executive Council now encompasses a data collection aspect that has historically not been a standard procedure of CAC. As Chair in the first year of implementation, how would you advance this initiative to ensure that Data Collection becomes common practice throughout the organization? Again, the Community Experience Coordinator role on the CAC Executive Council now encompasses a data collection aspect that has historically not been a standard practice of CAC. As Chair in the first year of implementation, how would you advance this initiative to ensure that data collection becomes common practice throughout the organization?
Lafonzo Spigner  34:24
Earlier in the night, I talked about assessing tradition and always looking back on what we did and why we did it. A former chair Evan Rabb was huge on data collection and actively worked to streamline that process, really looking back at what he and previous chairs have did and what worked, what didn’t work. Bringing that into the fold this first year is detrimental but also realizing that although there will be mistakes this person as we choose, this new Community Experience Coordinator needs to understand data collection, actively listening in there- those interviews to make sure that this is important to them and this is seen in making sure that not only are they applying to this position of community experience, but making sure that they understand the need and the necessity for data collection. Create a streamlined approach that we can use as an entire Executive Council is detrimental and super important.

Louisa Lee  35:15
Working with Ronnie Rhodes, the current Community Experience Coordinator this semester, as he's been so wonderful at collecting and accumulating this feedback is that if he can- the Community Experience Coordinator can prioritize external experience as much as they want to. But unless it's being prioritized individually on every single event, it's- it's not going to happen. My platform would make sure that every single event has a vice chair dedicated to outreach, recruitment, something along those lines that will then be held accountable by the ex- the Community Experience Coordinator on CAC exec so that each event is able to still operate independently, but that we will still have the accountability piece of the Community Experience Coordinator, making sure that we're amplifying Student Voices cohesively across all of our events.

Jema Esparza  36:15
Okay. For this next question, we will begin with Louisa. Traditionally, the 14 CAC events frequent local businesses and donors for outside funding for the events. As this solicitation becomes increasingly difficult to maintain, what are some ways you will ensure CAC remain afloat with new funding methods? Again, traditionally, the 14 CAC events frequent local businesses and donors for outside funding for the events. As this solicitation becomes increasingly difficult to maintain, what are some ways you will ensure CAC remain afloat with new funding methods?

Louisa Lee  36:55
Absolutely, so one thing I mentioned it a little bit earlier but one thing I really want to prioritize is finding opportunities like the homecoming parade and rah rally or weekly Meacham movies with film series, that there are opportunities for the Norman and greater Oklahoma City area, community to participate in our events and enjoy some of the CAC and OU traditions that we all love so much. That will benefit our sponsors more than they have in the past, because we will be getting a whole other audience that sponsors should be able to advertise their business and products to besides just OU students. This is- this is increasingly important. Also, what I’d like to do is make sure we're keeping track of the data that we're getting from these sponsorships and making sure that we're developing good relationships with them. Year to year not using them as a means to an end.
Lafonzo Spigner  37:54
I think for me, I would have a two pronged approach. The first approach would be to really unders- work with these executive committees. So in my community development day, bringing all of the sponsorship committees together, the business committees, together actively teaching them how to be better at this really new world of sponsorship, but also, as that's going on, actively working with groups, not only in our circle, but understanding that although CAC is the programming branch of SGA, we're not the best at programming. Talking with other groups and hearing their experiences and hearing what works for these groups is super important. I think we need to stop thinking about this as in terms of the CAC problem. It's a campus wide problem that deserves a campus wide answer. We need to be working with groups on campus so we can collectively come up with an approach that will best fit all of us going forward.

Jema Esparza  38:49
Okay, Ari.

Ari Fife  38:50
Alright. So we'll start with Lafonzo on this and I'll read it twice: Are the candidates aware of the poor communication between CAC The International Advisory Committee? Are you planning on improving better collaboration between CAC and IAS, and how would you create higher involvement with international students in CAC? Again, are the candidates aware of the poor communication between CAC and IAS? Are you planning on improving better collaboration between the two groups, and how would you create higher involvement with international students in CAC?

Lafonzo Spigner  39:27
I think first, yes. I think also coming to terms and realizing that many of these students are capable. They bring applicable skills, they're necessary and vital, but realizing things that are in place like our selection bias training, not explicitly stating the reasons that they are biased against, I think is a first barrier in between this, what I mean by saying that is many times these students are discriminated against and they are not actively being brought into the fold of our organization. We need to actively work for them on the internal side so externally, we can work better for them as well. Also, we need to be talking in- increasing talks to them. Jema does an amazing job of being a steward of reaching out to organizations all across campus, touching each piece. But realizing that we need to continue that upward momentum, and really expanding that breadth as well. really working with different communities and helping them understand that we're not only going to be there for you, we're going to be there for however you need us to be there.

Louisa Lee  40:27
Um awesome. So what what I want to do is based on what Jema did so good at this year is continually communicating with organizations that we want- and organizations and communities- that we want to engage more. What this means is we need to prioritize that communication, just like we give every event an Executive Council liaison, I would like to give
IAS/IAC a external liaison that would be responsible for checking in on them week to week, asking them how we can show up and support them and then letting them know the opportunities that there are to get involved in CAC. But really being there showing up for them and continually communicating with them instead of just reaching out when we need something or when there is an opportunity, is going to be absolutely crucial moving forward, getting them more involved in Campus Activities Council.

**Jema Esparza  41:26**
Okay. I'm going to read one last question on our behalf and then Ari, if you want to select one final question on the Daily's behalf, and then after these two final questions, we will move to closing statements.
So starting with Louisa: What do you think is the most important part about leading CAC as an organization? Again, what do you think is the most important part about leading CAC as an organization?

**Louisa Lee  41:57**
Absolutely. So I believe that the most important part about leading CAC, as an organization is understanding that we are 14 very unique, very different events, but we all fall under one umbrella. And so there has to be communication um cohesively amongst each event. And we have to make sure that every event has someone prioritizing the goals that we want to accomplish in the next year. My platform prioritizes gaining feedback from OU students, both internally and externally. So my platform would ensure that event has a vice chair that prioritizes internal and external experience. They will then be held accountable by the development coordinator for internal experience and the community experience coordinator for external experience because as I said, you have to understand that these events are all very separate- not separate- they're very unique. They're very different, but we have to develop and work cohesively to improve as one organization.

**Lafonzo Spigner  43:02**
Jema, can you repeat that question for me?

**Jema Esparza  43:03**
Yeah, for sure. The question was: What do you think is the most important part about leading CAC as an organization?

**Lafonzo Spigner  43:14**
I think for me realizing that CAC serves all people. Really focusing on all people is super important in my platform, specifically. Understanding that although we make up all of- all of CAC makes up different events, that we are all working cohesively, but also realizing that CAC serves all students and really working to bring them in the fold in our internal processes. I think that's where the disconnect is. The disconnect is we need more input from all of leaders on campus, really working with them to create new processes that better serve all students. We will- we have worked tirelessly on our exec to increase the user experience for them, but we need to be
working tirelessly to increase the experience for all students on our campus because as the programming branch of SGA Like I said earlier, we serve all of our students.

**Jema Esparza 44:02**
Okay, Ari.

**Ari Fife 44:04**
Yeah. So, we'll start with Lafonzo on this: What are the CAC pillars and what do they mean to you?

**Lafonzo Spigner 44:14**
Awesome. So we talked a little bit about- I'm sorry, getting comfortable- we talked a little bit about it earlier. But I think the three pillars to me really encompass not only the- the experience of this specific exec, but what that looks like outwardly to our students. I think that oftentimes we hear those three pillars of leaving a legacy, developing leaders, and we're just like, Oh, well, this is what's happening and this is what we're leading. I mean, in our, in our Executive Council interviews, these are things that we have to relate to our internal processes. But I think really understanding and realizing that we need to take these pillars and expand them outwardly. These are not just our mission statement. These are our true key beliefs that we will always exemplify and I think that for me personally these are the experiences as a leader that I will take and amplify.

**Louisa Lee 45:03**
Okay, yeah, so the CAC pillars, building community, developing leaders and leaving a legacy. I think that goes back to what I was talking about earlier. We are one organization with 14 very separate- oh, again, not separate- very unique, very different events that- that attract all different kinds of people. We need to but the CAC pillars ensure that we’re all serving the same purpose, and that is working to live up to our job of serving every single student at the University of Oklahoma. Building community, just bringing in communities that we haven't brought in before that have not felt welcome or included or that CAC is possible for them. Developing leaders making sure being a part of our organization is a worthwhile opportunity for OU students. And then leaving a legacy not being- taking what where we've been but not staying there, using it to improve and make our organization better and more, more serving of the OU students.

**Jema Esparza 46:09**
Okay, before we wrap up the debate, we can hear closing statements from each candidate. We will start with Lafonzo.

**Lafonzo Spigner 46:18**
Awesome. So one I want to thank you so much for tuning in and listening to us, but I want to say thank you for allowing me the opportunity to run for CAC Chair. I'm running for CAC Chair, because I never thought that this would be something that I can accomplish, but because CAC invested and instilled in me, it's gav- given me the opportunity. My platform directly correlates
with that in the sense that I'm working for the student and for the student experience, as well as the group experience really working inwardly and outwardly so that we all can flourish together!

**Louisa Lee  46:51**
I also want to thank everyone for being here tonight. Thank you to the election board, Jema, Justin, Preston, Sam, George, and the OU Daily. Thank you so much. Thank you to those of you who sent in questions, because what that does is that just affirms my- what my platform is based on and that is that every OU students voice deserves to be heard in Campus Activities Council in regards to our programming in regards to the way that we run our organization. I'm running for Campus Activities Council Chair because I want to make sure every OU student has access to the opportunities and experiences that I had. And I hope that you will cast your vote for Louisa Lee for CAC tomorrow. Thank you so much and have a great night!

**Jema Esparza  47:39**
Okay, I also want to do my round of thank you's. So thank you, SGA. Thank you, advisors. Thank you to the OU Daily as well as to our students who are so committed to this organization. Thank you to the candidates for being here and for preparing to be here, and everything that goes along with that, and that's all I have!