

# ASCIT Winter Elections 2022

## Candidate Statements

### Interhouse Committee Chair (2 candidates)

Michael Rose ([mirose@caltech.edu](mailto:mirose@caltech.edu))



I'm on the left.

TLDR: I believe it's a student government's responsibility not only to represent the people, but to listen to them too. If you elect me for IHC chair, I will be your foremost advocate to administration. My primary concerns are for the return of Interhouses and the longevity of the houses in response to admin's scrutiny.

Now is a time of important change at Caltech. Since the beginning of COVID, two years of our dear friends have graduated. And despite returning to campus last fall, nothing is quite the same. This year has been devastatingly bare of social events, and, despite this, with each day the houses appear to be under ever increasing scrutiny by administration.

In the stead of those who have graduated, we have gratefully received two new, wonderful years of compatriots. Next year, my younger sibling will be joining our fine ranks as a Caltech undergrad. I have always found a home here at Caltech, and I hope nothing more than that they do as well. Yet, this leaves me with the fundamental responsibility and deepest desire to open Caltech's arms to every member of our community—to ensure Caltech remains a home for each of us. And to those who do not feel like they belong here, I hope to extend those arms ever wider. To this end, I am running for IHC Chair.

As for a bit about me, my name is Michael Rose. I am a junior chemistry major in Ricketts, a former Ricketts BOC Rep, and president of the most esteemed Cheese Society; I am from Wisconsin and own a cheesehead. I am utterly thankful for my Caltech experience so far, I look forward to my final year to come, and I hope to pay forward all good things that have come to me.

Two primary concerns I have entering this race are for the future of social events on campus and the health of the houses. In particular we have not had Interhouses at all this year. I remember the bountiful joy and community they brought to campus, and I cannot imagine anything comparable. While we must work around the latent threat of COVID, I will dedicate myself to bringing them back third term.

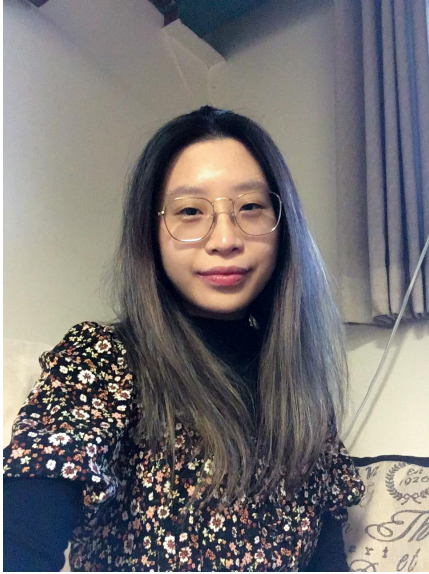
As for the houses, it appears they are under ever increasing scrutiny by administration. While I welcome accountability, some notion of boundaries and independence are necessary to preserve our distinct environment on which Caltech prides itself so highly. The houses also provide a fundamental opportunity for the Caltech community—across year, major, etcetera—to come together and recognize their common interest. If elected, I will work with every house president to ensure the health of the housing system, so that now and in the future, all students may enjoy their existence.

If I am elected, I hope foremost to listen to the needs and desires of you, my fellow members of the Caltech community. This government and position exist for your prosperity and the betterment of the Caltech houses.

Thank you all for taking a few minutes of your invaluable time to read this,

Michael Rose

Katherine Chang ([kchang5@caltech.edu](mailto:kchang5@caltech.edu))



Hello everyone! My name is Katherine Chang, and I am a junior in Lloyd and Avery. I've briefly summarized my objectives for Interhouse Committee Chair:

- [Accountability] Ensure members of administration are held accountable to promises and commitments made over the year, especially those made under the premise of COVID-19.
- [Funding] Protect the autonomy and availability of house dues; ensure the presence of student input in decisions regarding funding
- [Housing] Ensure the roompicks procedure will revert to the pre-pandemic (2019) system with house-run picks models
- [Rotation] Establish systematic student input in all aspects of the rotation process, from event scheduling to the algorithm; ensure there will be the regular pre-pandemic rotation scheduling and events for fall 2022 (assuming no unexpected complications)
- [Culture] Emphasize the conservation of house culture; ensure continuation of interhouses, waited dinners, house traditions, and other yearly events from before the pandemic
- [Security] Continue working on improving response protocol and training for security to property prioritize student safety

To begin, I am re-running to be IHC Chair to ensure a resolution occurs for a number of conversations the IHC was able to start regarding important House and student issues that have yet to be concluded under the caveat of COVID-19. Just as I have endeavored to do over the past year, I aim to protect the house system, promote the presence of student voices, and ultimately hold members of administration to their promised actions. During my past term, some things I have achieved include:

- Making sure rotation occurred in the fall despite strong administrative insistence for a delayed winter rotation and negotiating the presence of in-person elements during a rotation that was initially only allowed to be fully virtual.
- Initiating a commitment from the VPSA (Vice President of Student Affairs, Kevin Gilmartin) for implementing a systematic process for student involvement in all aspects of rotation (from event scheduling to the algorithm)
- Establishing an agreement put in writing with Housing that the system used for roompicks in 2021 would be effective for only that year due to COVID-19, and that there would be a return to the pre-pandemic roompicks system in 2022

Additionally, I have maintained a working relationship with Felicia, Tom Mannion, Joe Bennethum, the VPSA, the Deans, and other administrators while consistently and assertively standing my ground on perspectives the IHC has decided on. There were promises made to and unfinished business from the past IHC that have been carried over, so as IHC Chair, I aim to ensure everything we have started will be followed through with and resolved in a manner which fully promote student interests.

**[Accountability] Ensure members of administration are held accountable to promises and commitments made over the year, especially those made under the premise of COVID-19.**

In many discussions over the past year, underlying complications faced by the IHC during negotiations were COVID-19 concerns and policy, where the primary justification for delays and decisions from administration were related to COVID-19. Consequently, a number of negotiations were incomplete and the IHC was promised follow-up discussions after COVID-19 became less of an immediate concern. Such topics include rotation, housing, interhouses and large events, alcohol policy, security protocol, and DEIA concerns. As IHC Chair, I intend to carry these conversations to completion, and I will hold the members of administration who promised a resolution accountable to their commitments.

**[Funding] Protect the autonomy and availability of house dues; ensure the presence of student input in decisions regarding funding**

House control of their funding is important for self-governance and their ability to hold events as well as maintain house traditions. Historically, there have been regular efforts made by members of administration to centralize house dues within Caltech, further limiting the ability for houses to have autonomy over their dues and what they wish to do with them. Since funding is a critical component of the ability for the continuity of house culture, I aim to ensure the presence of student input on any modifications to the dues systems that administration may impose. Furthermore, I will continue to actively advocate for the importance of student input regarding all aspects of funding (dues, endowment, traditionally Tom Mannion-held events). Funding is very important, so I intend to continue advocating for house input and autonomy in any conversation regarding their money.

**[Housing] Ensure the roompicks procedure will revert to the pre-pandemic (2019) system with house-run picks models**

Due to the delay of 2021 roompicks from COVID-19 pandemic-related reasons and dealing with an over-capacity number of students, roompicks last year ran much differently compared to previous years. The IHC negotiated as much house autonomy in house picks as possible during the 2021 roompicks and obtained a promise from Housing that the 2021 system would be effective for that year only. Thus, I aim to fully hold Housing to our agreement and ensure that the roompicks procedure for 2022 will follow similarly to the pre-pandemic (2019) system. Particularly, I intend to establish the ability for houses to independently run their own house picks. Roompicks are important to students, so I will make sure the procedure support student desires. I have a working relationship with Joe Bennethum, and I fully intend to leverage this to ensure house picks happen.

**[Rotation] Establish systematic student input in all aspects of the rotation process, from event scheduling to the algorithm; ensure there will be the regular pre-pandemic rotation scheduling and events for fall 2022 (assuming no unexpected complications)**

Historically, issues from rotation have often resulted directly from a lack of student input, particularly involving the rotation algorithm. Following a review of the last rotation and discussions with the IHC, the VPSA committed to implementing a systematic process which would promote student input and involvement in all aspects of rotation, from planning events to running the algorithm. Consequently, I aim to hold the VPSA to his commitment and ensure that there will be increased student involvement in the entire rotation process, especially pertaining to the rotation algorithm.

Additionally, I intend to advocate for a regular pre-pandemic rotation for fall 2023. Particularly, I aim to ensure that there will be house dinners at their regular times, evening desserts to further provide opportunities for students to casually interact with the houses, and house Big Events run to their full capacity. Barring unexpected complications out of our control, I aim for fall 2023 to be a normal rotation just as it had been held in 2019 and years prior. Since the class of 2023 will be the only class which have experienced a regular rotation, I will do everything within my ability to ensure a regular rotation can happen so that this important component of the Caltech experience will not become a relic of pre-pandemic times.

**[Culture] Emphasize the conservation of house culture; ensure continuation of interhouses, waited dinners, house traditions, and other yearly events from before the pandemic**

There are many elements of house culture which have yet to occur this year despite returning to campus due to COVID-19 guidelines such as interhouses, waited dinners, and certain house traditions. House culture is an outstanding element of the undergraduate experience for many students, so I intend to thoroughly continue advocating for these events to occur. The IHC has been actively negotiating for many of these traditions to occur over the past year, and I aim to continue doing so. Having negotiated with members of administration over multiple issues and obtained commitments to them that support student interests, I believe I will be able to

effectively work with the relevant administrators to bring these pre-pandemic traditions into the post-pandemic world by emphasizing the importance of these traditions while acknowledging and addressing the complications which arise. I truly believe in the importance of bringing back these critical components of house culture to promote their continuation in years beyond the pandemic, so I will continue advocating for their existence.

**[Security] Continue working on improving response protocol and training for security to property prioritize student safety**

As a byproduct of the COVID-19 pandemic, security responsiveness to and familiarity with the houses has been inconsistent and led to concerning situations. Additionally, as restrictions loosen and larger events requiring security presence begin happening, it is important to ensure that security is properly trained and informed of how student systems (such as with Orange Watch and Health Advocates) function in order to properly prioritize student safety, especially during situations of emergency. Thus, I aim to continue working on developing protocols with administrators and Caltech Security that can work towards building trust and properly supporting students in any needed manner.

**In closing**, thank you for your time in reading my statement! If you have any questions, feel free to message me on Facebook messenger or email me at [kchang5@caltech.edu](mailto:kchang5@caltech.edu) .

## Conduct Review Committee Co-Chair (1 candidate)

Winter Pearson ([winter@caltech.edu](mailto:winter@caltech.edu))



I have had the unique privilege of working as your student Conduct Review Committee co-chair during this past year, and I hope to continue with the job!

I believe the CRC is essential to the structure of the Honor Code here on campus. The trust we have built for each other is enormously valuable, and it remains easily one of my favorite aspects of Caltech. Since freshman year, I have also served on the Board of Control. All of this work has been deeply fulfilling to me.

I hope that I have provided a familiar face for the CRC, answered your questions, and effectively advocated on behalf of our community. The nature of this role often operates behind the scenes, but I look for every opportunity to connect it to people. I am always excited to see what the CRC can be next!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions at [winter@caltech.edu](mailto:winter@caltech.edu). Thank you!

## Board of Control Chair (1 candidate)

David Melisso ([dmelisso@caltech.edu](mailto:dmelisso@caltech.edu))



I have been on the Board of Control for two years, one as a Representative and one as a Co-Secretary, and in that time I have had a lot of time to examine the honor code. After sitting 10 cases and acting as secretary for 8, and chairing 2, I have seen a large range of reactions, explanations, weird circumstances, and most importantly reflections. I believe that most people understand the weight of the honor code, and I think people can be too quick to place moral judgments on people whose circumstances they don't understand.

I believe the pandemic has threatened the Honor Code in a new way. New students have had little opportunity to see an environment where the majority of students are extremely careful not to commit an Honor Code violation. Many came straight out of virtual high school where cheating was the norm.

This is all to say that I believe Caltech students can grow past their mistakes. Do not confuse this with leniency; I will act first and foremost in the best interests of the community at large. However, I do want to maintain a culture of understanding and reflection.

A student who cheats, gets caught, and learns from it gains a great deal even if it feels painful in the moment. They learn about respect, integrity, and honor. It will help them in their learning and in their career.

As BoC Chair, I will maintain a policy of education and encourage introspection. I will always advocate for what is fair, and what is in the best interest of the Caltech community at large. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dmelisso@caltech.edu](mailto:dmelisso@caltech.edu).



## Board of Control Secretaries (2 candidates)

*Note from RevComm Chair: We elect two BoC Co-Secretaries.*

Teresa (Terry) Huang ([thhuang@caltech.edu](mailto:thhuang@caltech.edu))



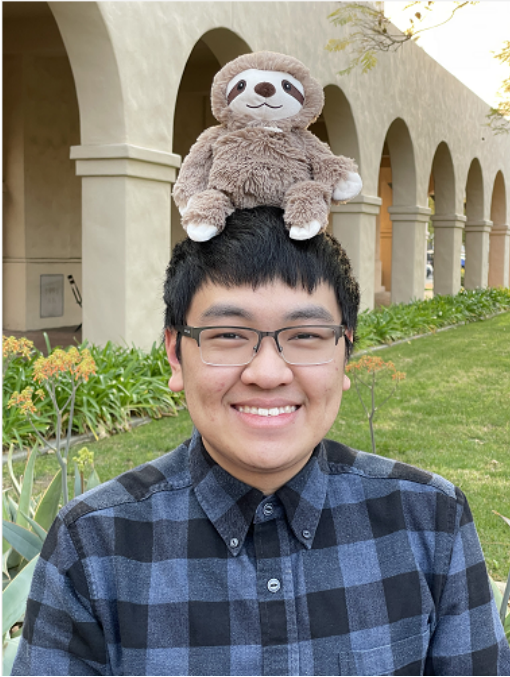
Hi Caltech Community!

I'm Terry and I am running to be your next BoC Secretary. Being BoC Secretary does not only include having integrity, but it also entails being reliable, understanding, and most of all fair. I have exemplified these traits during my time as a representative of BoC the previous year, in addition to my time as a student at Caltech. As an active member of the board, I have aided in helping to protect the community against Honor Code violations in a fair and just manner, as well as have the experience of being the role of secretary on certain cases. I believe that with the traits I possess and my experience on the board I will best serve the community as BoC Secretary.

Thanks!

Terry

Kayton Truong ([kayton@caltech.edu](mailto:kayton@caltech.edu))



*You caught me. Wait, what's that? [Points in the distance.] I think it's your honor!*

The Caltech Honor Code is one of the Institute's greatest treasures, and it is everyone's duty to uphold and protect it. It affords us many luxuries, including the convenience of take-home exams, access to facilities & amazing opportunities, and most importantly, trustfulness and reliability among all members of our community. We are able to go about our lives as if this is our home. We can count on each other for support and collaboration. We can leave our belongings somewhere and come back to either find it in a colleague's possession for safekeeping or find it where it was, undisturbed. We can pursue higher education in the sciences at Caltech, a world-class university, without worry that others are taking advantage of us.

It is this facet of Caltech that appealed to me so much as a college applicant, and it is what sets us apart from similar institutions. I consider my admission a stroke of luck. I am thankful for all the people I've met here and for all the memories I've made so far, and I love having the chance to learn and have fun alongside my peers and professors. It brings me happiness and purpose to give back to the community, and here I've been able to do exactly that through activities such as Science Olympiad, becoming a Health Advocate, serving in Blacker Hovse's shadow government, and serving as a Representative to the Board of Control. Every single one of us has the responsibility of upholding the Honor Code, and I wish to take my responsibility further by serving as one of the secretaries on the BoC. With this position (and with Slooth as my assistant), I will be sure to fairly manage BoC proceedings and help strengthen the Honor Code.

Thank you for reading my statement! I hope you will support us in this endeavor. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through the directory. By the way, Slooth also has a statement of his own and thinks he'll be the best assistant secretary ever: ":sunglasses:". Chances are that he can even help you find your honor!

Sincerely,

Kayton Truong

## Editors of The California Tech (55 tickets)

*Note from RevComm Chair: Candidates for Tech Editor can run as teams of multiple people.*

Aditee Prabhutendolkar ([aditee@caltech.edu](mailto:aditee@caltech.edu))

It has been an honor to serve as Tech Editor for the past year and to be an active writer for the past 2 years. We are proud of what we've accomplished, and we would like the opportunity to continue our efforts to produce quality journalism that has an impact on the Caltech community.

When we report on campus issues, we always make sure to interview students, professors, and faculty members to get their input and perspectives. We've also conducted polls on our Instagram page to gauge student opinions on recent developments. Our goal has always been to provide a window into the Caltech community's diverse perspectives, and once we return to campus, we hope that the fierce independence, passion, and activity of the student body will once again manifest in full force. It is our hope that you'll give us the chance to continue the work we've been doing. We appreciate your support.

*Note from RevComm Chair: The following 54 tickets include permutations of 7 candidates, all of whom accepted all of these nominations. The RevComm Chair has not receive their statements to the electorate yet. RevComm has recommended me to note that Maggie, Jonathan, and Nick are graduating seniors, who, in case they are elected, will need to "retire from that office or [may] petition the Review Committee" after spring term 2022, according to our Bylaws III.5.*

"Kenny Thai"

"Kenny Thai, Alem Snyder"

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