

A portrait of Kaseen Graff, a young man with glasses, wearing a red blazer, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some faint architectural lines.

KASEEN GRAFF

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

My platform is rooted in one single principle: **supporting students**. I firmly believe that our students, more than anything else, are what have made and still make SUU the amazing institution that it is today, and I want to do everything I can to help you, my fellow students, in not only your academic endeavors but also your general health and well-being. I've identified and researched three main pillars thus far: Protecting DEI, Supporting Resource Centers, and Creating Programs.

Protecting DEI:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is deeply important to our student body's health and diversity, and after the passage of HB261 (the so-called "anti-DEI bill"), there has been much fear and uncertainty among myself and many of my friends as we wait to see if the resources we need and utilize daily will still be here next semester. DEI has allowed for the creation of resources that help students who need them the most, such as the Q Center and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and just the looming end of DEI on July 1 has already harmed our student body. I plan to fight against this attack on our essential diversity, providing support to the Centers and Organizations that need it and assembling documentation and reports to lobby for the repeal of HB261 in the next legislative session, and I also plan to meet with leaders from centers and student organizations to help plan the best ways to protect DEI for our students. As a student body, our diversity is our greatest strength, and I will not let it go down without a fight.

Supporting Resource Centers:

There are many resource centers on campus that do untold good for our students, and I want to shore up and support these. For example, the Disability Resource Center provides many students, including myself, with tools and resources to help manage our disabilities and succeed in our academic endeavors, and it is an essential part of helping our students thrive. After discussing the DRC's needs with Director Carmen Alldredge, I've begun developing a plan to get the DRC the resources it needs to help support students more, including more space to allow for increased privacy and confidentiality, increased promotion so students are aware that help is available, and funding to help students get the legally required documentation of their disabilities. I plan to have similar discussions with every other resource center on campus to best identify how to help them help their students.

Creating Programs:

There are student needs that aren't covered by existing resource centers. For example, while we have a Health Clinic, which gives our students free healthcare, it has limits on what it provides and will refer students to the local hospital if they need care that the Clinic doesn't offer. However, not every student has health insurance, and if they can't get what they need at the Clinic, they can't get it at all. I myself am effectively uninsured, because my insurance doesn't work outside of Nevada and I don't qualify for anything else, and other students have shared with me that they are in the same boat. Student Health is essential to effective learning, and having students unable to get healthcare is detrimental to that. Other Universities, including both the University of Utah and Utah State University, have Student Insurance Programs so that if their students need healthcare that isn't offered by their Clinics, those students can still afford to get it elsewhere. I plan to research and implement the creation of a similar program so that our students don't have to put off necessary healthcare because of cost concerns. Additionally, I plan to research and find other initiatives and programs that SUU needs and find ways to implement them.

