



name: **Hu, Jenny**

office: **President**

sponsor: **Mrs. Swinford**

school: **Seven Hills**

grade: **11**

Classics/JCL Experience:

Years of Latin/Greek: **6+**

State Conventions attended: **2**

National Conventions attended: **3**

Will you attend all Executive Board Meetings, Fall Forum 2021, and State Convention 2022?

(Y/N): **Yes**

Will you attend the 2021 Virtual National Convention? (Y/N): **Yes**

Experience/Activities:

Club Offices:

As local 1VP, I focused on promoting Latin Club to the younger students who were not aware of it, as well as holding combined club events for Middle and Upper Latin Club to foster a sense of community and encourage current seventh graders to join the club next year. Under my leadership, our very first combined club event had thirty-one attendees, compared to only fifteen people coming to Convention the year before. Three new members also planned on attending State Convention before it was canceled. As local secretary this year, I published meeting minutes on the club Schoology page where every member could view them, and I stored attendance in a shared Google doc so that everyone could view whether or not they met the attendance requirement to vote. I also co-wrote and directed our 2020 club skit.

Relevant experience or traits, general and with specifics for the given Office:

The President of the OJCL must both lead the executive board and carry out projects for the OJCL as a whole. As 1VP this past year, I've become familiar with the workings of the board, as well as how to delegate and collaborate with my fellow board members most effectively. I have a grasp on the best ways to communicate with the board and how to make sure everyone knows what part they must play in a larger project. In facilitating the OJCL Bake-off, for example, I coordinated with every board member to give them a chance to showcase their baked goods and compete for glory on the OJCL social media. This event also demonstrates my ability to think creatively--nothing like it had ever been done by the OJCL, and it allowed members to interact with the executive board more than ever before.

I've worked on three political campaigns--those of Nikki Foster, PG Sittenfeld, and currently, Aftab Pureval. Working on campaigns has given me a great grasp on the process of delegating; successful campaigns not only get work done efficiently but also keep their teams motivated, engaging all the resources at hand. From researching donors to calling voters, my experience on

political campaigns has taught me how to work as a part of a well-oiled team and how to push myself far out of my comfort zone.

This past MLK Jr. Day, I organized an event in partnership with the Biden Inaugural Committee for the National Day of Service. The event featured speeches from a city councilwoman and a Tiktok star with over a million followers, as well as a training by CARE International on how young people can get involved in politics. This highlights my ability to use my network, reach out, and successfully promote an event. It also demonstrates the same mindset I will bring to the OJCL presidency—using the most modern and most current ways to relate to others, whether that means Tiktok or Discord or any other platform.

Lastly, I sit on the board of Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition, a regional nonprofit. In my work with CMWC, I've coordinated various events, such as holiday parties for refugees, and led a team to run an arts empowerment program for BIPOC youth. I've worked with adults and my peers alike, showing my aptitude for collaboration and effective communication.

School & non-school related activities/sports/etc.:

I'm a published writer—my work has been printed in the US, mainland China, and Hong Kong. I also perform piano and the Chinese zither. I currently intern for Aftab Pureval's campaign for Cincinnati Mayor, but I've previously worked on Nikki Foster and PG Sittenfeld's teams as well. I'm an advocate with CARE International, where I lobby for legislation promoting women's rights in humanitarian emergencies. I hold a seat on the board of Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition and run a social project about mental health. I do Model UN and lead my school's club as president, and I founded and edit a literary magazine at my school.

I will balance these with my officer duties the same way I balance all these activities already—by prioritizing the ones that have an impact on others (this would include being OJCL President), and then working on my own art.

Executive Board:

Ability to communicate with students and adults (chaperones, sponsors, teachers):

As an intern on a political campaign, one of the most important things I do is communicate with others, from the campaign manager to the candidate to voters I've never met before. It's crucial that I can communicate effectively, making myself clear and never incorrectly conveying the candidate's platform. I also must be energized and friendly when speaking with voters, so that they leave with a positive impression of the campaign.

In my nonprofit work as well, I've demonstrated my ability to communicate well. From working with others in the same nonprofit to plan events or write grants to speaking with other organizations and donors, I have to be respectful, assertive, and clear.

Finally, when launching a social media project targeted at high school and college students and when starting a literary magazine at my school, I had to communicate closely with my peers. Though not working with adults, I had to be equally personable and cooperative. This often entailed sending out reminders to everyone, keeping track of everyone's tasks for them, and making sure everyone's ideas were heard and represented.

What have you done to understand the duties of the office you are seeking?

I've spoken to the current President to gain a better grasp of the office's duties, and I've asked current board members about the ways their offices work with the President. I've also read the Constitution and bylaws.

Do you have any goals/ideas for the Executive Board and/or the OJCL? Please be specific to the office you are seeking.

As COVID loomed over us all, I saw how important it was that the OJCL could be a community people felt welcomed and included in. Instead of just being a convention attended once a year, the OJCL should be a safe place where everyone has the opportunity to meet new people, share their passion for the classics, and find a space for themselves—even in a virtual world. As 1VP, I used social media as a way to communicate with members of the OJCL more than ever in past years, allowing OJCLers to have an input in the decisions of the executive board—the games played at our game night, for example, were determined via polls. This openness and level of interaction is something I would like to sustain and expand. As President, I will build and foster a sense of community with more chances for OJCLers to come together, whether that is in certamen practices or classical book clubs or AP study groups. There are so many niches in the classical community and especially in the OJCL—there is a place for people with any and every interest. With frequent topic-specific mini events and open discussion rooms, I will provide spaces for people to find OJCLers who share their interests, with whom they can form lasting connections.

In addition, looking beyond our organization, the field of classics is often said to be slowly fading out. When I spoke with Dr. Sarah Bond, she mentioned something that resounded with me—that classics are often misinterpreted, misunderstood, and misused by parties who carry their own biases. This truth is sadly prevalent in our society, and as students of the classics, I believe it is important that the OJCL does our part to counter it. As President, I will run a project to inform and educate about the real historical truths of classics; from informative, shareable social media posts to podcast interviews with professors, I will push for the classical world to be understood as the vast, diverse, and relevant place that it was. I will also provide pamphlets and promotional materials for middle schools to encourage their students to take Latin, as well as information on classics scholarships and potential fields of study for high school students to consider when looking at universities. By promoting Latin curriculums in middle schools and compiling resources for high schoolers to use when exploring college selections, the OJCL can help revitalize the study of classics.

Other Biographical Information/Comments:

I've loved serving the OJCL as 1VP this past year, and being able to serve again as President would be the biggest honor!