

Melanie Galang - Internal Co-Chair Personal Statement

My experience with the Filipino Student Association started when I came up as a participant on ASF12. From that beginning I continuously became immersed on what it was to be an FSA member. From then, I took advantage all of the opportunities as I could to dance with Kasama for 3 years, acting with People Power this year and as well as dancing with PDT. I was a student of Pilipino Historical Dialogue class, participated in PCC for three years, volunteering and participating in ASF, being apart of KAMP then becoming KAMP coordinator for 2010-2011 school year then heading my KAMP family this year, volunteering for the first UCSC QPC, participating in Friendship games for three years, becoming administrative officer and working with HAM and then volunteering for FSA Grad and this year co-heading the planning committee. FSA is my family, support system, opportunity, and my struggle. FSA provides me with a family that I have away from home. FSA is my support system, where I have friends, leaders and people that will catch me if I struggle weather academically, socially and mentally. FSA gives me opportunities to use my strength and passion for the betterment of myself as a person and my passion for helping the community. It's struggle to find its Filipin@ identity in the masses of domination and privilege, is my struggle. FSA has been and forever will be my family, home, struggle, support system and love.

I am applying for this position because I really do have love for this community. FSA has been my college career, from my 1st experience being a participant on ASF then to mentoring, expanding into aspects and organizing. I feel like my experience that was given to me has guided me to the path of co-chair. I want to give back to the community that has given me so much and I feel like my skills would best fit the roles of Internal Co-Chair. I want to help and provide for this community and I know that through the guidance of my peers and mentors that I can successfully achieve those goals.

Some of the goals that I have for Internal Co-Chair would be to unify this community under one heart and a shared struggle. I want for each member of this community weather an aspect member, volunteer or student to have the amazing and inspiring experience that I had. I want to maintain the connections between aspect coordinators and co-chairs so that everything that the aspects want, are successfully achieved. I want to maintain community members interest. I want each community member to know that their presence and opinion matters to this community. I strive to successfully provide aid for aspects so that they can provide for the community members. My goals are for the betterment of the community as a whole through individual outreaching, retentions and the maintaining of the amazing space that we come to know and love. I continuously strive to be the make the change that I want to see in this community. Some of the leadership qualities that I have are because of the opportunities given to me by FSA. During my second year, I decided to run for KAMP Coordinator and was elected the position. I took the position and learned a lot about organizing events, planning ahead, constantly evaluating the community in their needs for retention. This year I was elected Administrative Officer, where I worked directly with FSA Co-Chairs. I also worked closely with Historian and Media Relations to provide the Mahalaya Newsletter every month. Being administrative officer also gave me the experience of working with PCC-Co chairs and being apart of PCC Core. Working with them and the PCC Programs Committee gave me the experience to lead my own meetings and plan ahead. This year I also decided to co-head the FSA Grad planning committee where I worked to plan, fundraise and provide members opportunities to get involved.

Apart from our community, a lot of my student activist stems from the Educational Opportunities Program that strives to provide for low income first generate college students. In my work, I organize events that illuminate the achievability of graduate and professional school. I

work to provide resources, events and opportunities to EOP students. I have experience working with engaging education and soar directly, organizing, planning ahead, time managing and using my strengths to provide for community. I have the ambition and strive to provide a safe and welcoming space because I'll be the catalyst for the change that I want to see our FSA community.