

Brittany Alba – KAMP Personal Statement

1. Please explain your involvement in FSA and what does FSA mean to you?

It is my first year in FSA and I have attended a majority of the events that have been offered this year. As a member of Isang Himig, KAMP, and Tech Crew I have been an active member in the community not only supporting my own aspect's events, but also the events of all the other aspects housed within FSA. But more importantly is what FSA is to me: a family. I know this word is used often used to describe the community at large, but I think it would be important for you to understand what I mean by this. To me, my family back home is a major part of my every day life. They are the ones who push me to my limits to challenge me to excel in what I do, they teach me lessons that can't be taught in the classroom, they're there for me when I can't support myself, and they're my reason to keep pushing through my struggles. My family expects a lot from me, so my standards are set high in order to make them proud. I've learned a lot from my parents and cousins – things that come through experiences and knowledge about my own history. No matter what the conditions, family isn't going to leave you. They're the ones who see you at your worst and help support you when you aren't strong enough to stand on your own. I know that my parents have gone through a lot in order to provide me with the resources I have at my disposal now, even though they weren't fortunate enough to have them when they were younger. So this makes me not want to let them down, so I do my best to show them that I appreciate their struggles and that I'm not taking their efforts for granted. And I feel like this is exactly what FSA is to me. It's a family that is there to teach me and help me learn from my mistakes while also motivating me to do my best.

2. Why are you applying for this position?

In the simplest terms possible - KAMP seems like the best fit for me. I want to see a lot happen next year within the FSA community, and KAMP seems like the best way for me to be able to reach a large portion of the community. Through KAMP, the FSA community at large is united because each member of the community is placed into a family. So I feel like my new ideas will be able to reach more members and affect more people because KAMP does cover a large portion of the community. Because I have had some bad experiences with the FSA community, I have seen some of the flaws within it and I wish to fix these issues. Even within the KAMP aspect, there are a lot of realistic ideas I have to offer to help improve the retention of students next year. I feel like I have a lot to offer the community, and I believe holding a core position that reaches nearly all the members of the community will help me improve the organization as a whole.

3. What are your goals for the position/aspect if elected? How do these goals relate to FSA as a whole student organization?

KAMP is a vital part of the FSA community because its focus is retention – something that often is put on the back burner when it comes to our priorities. Its goal is to have a 100% retention rate for the members of the community, and I would want to do whatever I could in order to get as close to this goal as possible. I want to see more KAMP families actually getting together and doing things together – they don't have to be big nights out or trips to get dinner somewhere, but even just getting together to study or getting food at the dining hall would be good enough. I feel that by having stronger relationships with more people in the community would help keep people on top of their work and give them more of a reason to not only stay in the community, but in school. I have a few ideas for KAMP next year, but my main focus would be creating a Kuya/Ate-Ading lineage. This would be in addition to the larger KAMP

families and each first year would be an Ading, and they would get a Kuya or Ate that is compatible with them from the second years. And the 2nd year would have a Kuya or Ate that is from the 3rd year, and same would follow for 3rd years. No one would be forced to be a Kuya or Ate, nor would a freshman be forced to be an Ading; however, I believe it would help if there is a smaller group within the families that stays the same all 4 years as the large families change because then it would help create a stronger relationship with people in the community. And it is also easier to coordinate getting together with a smaller group. But the stress of this mini-group would be what the ading wants and helping them adjust to the different challenges of college.

4. Leadership qualities that you possess that would help you with this position and any relevant experiences you have (ie planning events, working with organizations, being a member of other student organization)

In High School I was part of an organization called Ambassadors for Christ, which is essentially a group of students who do extra hours of service for the school. This position, after going through an application and interview process, was given to only a few students out of the many that applied. On top of the 60 hours of service required at my school, an Ambassador was required to complete at the minimum of 25 hours at specific events throughout the school year. Each of the three years I was in Ambassadors, I excelled and completed over 50 hours. Two of the three I was chosen, after another application process, to be an Executive Ambassador. This role put me in charge of a group of 7 other Ambassadors who I watched over throughout the school year. I ensured they were doing well in their classes (even tutoring a few who needed extra help), made sure they would complete their hours on time, and had events for our group to just get together to hang out. I feel like this is very similar to the core position for KAMP because it not only had a role in service and community, but also stressed retention.