



SERVE. UNITE. BUILD.

Speech to the Board of Trustees
May 11, 2021

Hello everybody.

It really is a pleasure to be here for the very first time in my new capacity as President of the Temple Student Government. My name is Bradley Smutek, and I am a senior history major and political science minor. I had the honor of speaking yesterday with the student life & diversity committee, and I look forward to working with all of you and all of the committees this year.

I'm often asked why I ran for the TSG presidency after such a challenging year. My answer is that I ran *because* it was a challenging year. Challenging times lead to transitional moments. We are about to enter such a transitional moment, and I would like to play a part in creating the positive and necessary change that will come out of this time.

I also want to take a moment and recognize the successful graduation ceremonies that took place last week. The weather remained nice for the ceremonies, save for a few caps blown off by the wind. Anecdotally, I can say that many graduates, both from 2020 and 2021, were extremely appreciative to have ceremonies, so all due credit to those who made that possible.

Similarly, I also want to recognize the unquestionable success of Temple's six-week vaccination clinic. This made getting vaccinated against COVID-19 an extremely convenient and accessible process, and I know many students are grateful for it, myself included. All credit to those who made that possible.

Right now, perhaps unsurprisingly, students are struggling. From issues of mental health, to food, housing, and financial insecurity, to concerns over public safety, and more, all while trying to excel academically. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated these issues for over a year now. With growing numbers of our student population and our community being vaccinated, I see light at the end of the tunnel. I do hope that the Board shares my optimism for the future, but also recognizes the urgency of

addressing the issues I've mentioned. You will find me a willing partner in any conversation to discuss these topics.

The name of my campaign for the presidency was RenewTU because it is my sincere belief that Temple will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and better than ever before. I believe you will find myself and my Vice President, Samantha Quinlan, to be passionate but pragmatic, if not always this long-winded, and I hope to work with you to achieve the initiatives of the Temple Student Government. I am excited to be working with this Board over the course of the next year as we return to a state of normalcy to which we all so desperately wish to return.

Thank you.