



Meet the SGA candidates

A preview of the upcoming SGA election (April 19-21)

[Fadhel Kaboub](#) Mar . 22 . 2004

The UMKC Student Government Association (SGA) election will be held on campus and online over a 3 day-period (April 19-21, 2004). The two tickets on the upcoming ballot are the *Advocates* (with four candidates) and the *Vision* (three candidates).

The four candidates of the *Advocates* ticket are Geoff Gerling (President), Tom Kernan (Executive Vice President), Francesca Witbolsfeugen (Administrative Vice President), and Aretha Perry (Comptroller).

The three candidates of the *Vision* ticket are Eugene Lickenbrock (President), Tadros Abdelmalek (Executive Vice President), and Shermineh Adib (Administrative Vice President).

The following is an alphabetical listing of all candidates with a link to their bios

UMKC Student Government Association 2004 Election Candidates	
<i>Advocates ticket</i>	<i>Vision ticket</i>
Geoff Gerling (President)	Eugene Lickenbrock (President)
Tom Kernan (Exec. VP)	Tadros Abdelmalek (Exec. VP)
Francesca Witbolsfeugen (Admin. VP)	Shermineh Adib (Admin. VP)
Aretha Perry (Comptroller)	

"Our primary commitment is to represent the views of all students in a consistent effort to be responsive to their concerns," said Geoff Gerling, current SGA President running for reelection. "We are committed to making UMKC a more desirable and safer place to pursue higher education," he continued.

Geoff Gerling and his *Advocates* team reply on their extensive experience in Student Government, and other leadership positions. This might be an important factor during the election. The *Vision* ticket challengers are all residents of the UMKC Residence Hall and have an important network of resident students that they can rely on during the elections.

"I do not feel that experience is as necessary for the position of SGA as is passion," said Eugene Lickenbrock, leader of the *Vision* ticket. "I want to students to have a say in the events that occur at UMKC, and not just complaints. I want to ensure that student money is being used for what the students really have a vested interest in rather than what may be tradition," said Lickenbrock in his *Vision* election statement.

"As a resident assistant, residents concerns are my number one priority," said Teddy Abdelmalek. "We are interested in confronting issues that are at the top of students' lists," said Shermineh Adib. She also expressed her determination to work on issues such as better accommodations for students, parking, and more student involvement in student life

organizations.

Gerling affirmed that his *Advocates* team is committed to making UMKC a more desirable and safer place to pursue higher education. "In order to effectively learn of student concerns, we will adhere to an open door policy that will not be compromised."

SGA election director, Heather Yates, expressed her enthusiasm about getting more UMKC students involved in this year's elections. "If we get a 5 or 6 percent voter turnout this year that would be a great improvement," she said. Last year, less than three percent of the UMKC student body voted in the SGA elections. "It is much better when you have more than one venue covering the elections, this will help," said Yates in reaction to the SGA election coverage by the Kansas City Aurora.

The Kansas City Aurora will continue its weekly SGA election coverage with more articles and exclusive interviews with the candidates. So check out our special SGA election page for more updates on the 2004 SGA election.

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