Leading an organization is a tough challenge. A President should be trustworthy, so that his or her constituents can believe that he or she are upholding all the rules and commitments he or she should follow. A candidate for President should have courage and patience to attempt to create new programs and understand the risk for failure. A president should be able to work well with a team, so that ideas and suggestions from other people can be heard and acted out sufficiently. Finally and perhaps most importantly, a president should be a superb leader, guiding the association through the calm and turbulent times. I feel I portray all these characteristics and many more. That is why I would be an excellent President for the Residence Hall Association.

Being involved in RHA over the past year has been an unbelievable experience. I feel I have done all I can to support the organization during my time as a representative. My list of accomplishments proves my dedication and love for the organization. As President I would continue to give 110% for the organization.

The current Executive Board has been a great role model for all E-Boards to follow over the coming years. It would be my first goal to continue some of the issues that where made a priority over their term. I would continue to try to build a strong bond with MUSG. Hopefully we could encourage senators to attend RHA meetings so they can voice their opinions on certain Residence Hall issues on campus. Also I would love to see MUSG Senators and our own RHA reps work directly together on programs for the School. I would also continue to strengthen the close bond between NRHH and RHA. We do not just share an office we share the same interests by working to build leaders and improve the residence halls in anyway we can. I would make sure the new RHA Executive board would work hard on the planning of leadership conferences such as MULC.

Like the current Executive board has done so well I would continue working on getting the RHA name well recognized on campus. This would include a continuation of the newsletter and a frequently updated website. I also support the continuation of the Wacky Cash program. I would brainstorm with the new Executive Board on finding a way to make the program a success and a general knowledge of all residents. Finally, I would continue the current Executive Board’s goal of improving the organization by continuing to visit other campuses and bring ideas back to Marquette.

Without a doubt I would make sure the yearly RHA sponsored events would occur. These events include Mission Impossible, Flick and Float, Lil Sibs Weekend, MU Game Show, Crazy Fans, Miracle on Central Mall, HALLoween, and various fundraisers.

There are numerous new programs I would like to attempt organizing as President. I realize there are limitations to certain programs because of time, people, and money however I would work hard on attempting these programs and any other programming idea other members may have. I would look into a retreat for newly elected RHA representatives. It is important for the Association to work as a team. That
is the only way we can have a successful year. Therefore I feel it is necessary to hold a retreat where reps can get to know one and other and prepare for the hard work ahead of them this year.

As I mentioned earlier it would be ideal to have RHA be recognized more on campus. One way this can be done is to organize a Freshman Retreat day after the first couple weeks of classes. During this retreat time freshman can get to know floor-mates through games and activities, also freshman can learn more about what RHA will offer to them through the year. After the first week away from home freshman usually need someone to turn to. Often there is no one for them to do that to. What better way to let them turn to RHA. The more people get from an organization the more they will give back, by attending programs or even by taking an active role in the association.

I would also hope to work closely with Hall Councils to plan more Late Night Programs, possibly even working out a plan where there is at least one late night activity every weekend in a residence hall.

Personally I am passionate about community service. It would benefit the association to organize one more community program such as HALLoween. It is important to let the Milwaukee area know the Marquette students love the community they live in, and there is no better way then to offer programs for the children of the community.

I also look forward to hearing suggestions from residents about what programs they would like to see happen on campus. Even if programs can not be accomplished in the upcoming year it is great brainstorm ideas for the years to come.

Understanding RHA is not all about Programming and there are numerous hall issues the association is presented with yearly I would work on making sure all issues are heard and we do our best to solve any problems. I would make sure the Dining, Residence Life, and Hall Improvement Advisory boards all met regularly to discuss residents concerns. One issue I see being a potential problem affecting students in Residence Halls is the Marquette Interchange construction project. I would hope to have an Interchange Advisory Board that would meet frequently with University Administrators and construction officials to report how the residents feel about the progress, and to report any complaints students have. This would also be an opportunity for officials to tell students directly of upcoming road closing and other traffic changes do to the construction.

Also, I would work on making sure the RHA constitution is up to date and includes all issues that may eventually be problem areas. I would appoint a committee to make suggestions about our constitution and work with the entire association to delete or add anything they feel is necessary. Finally it is imperative to reach out to the residents. Not every resident can make Monday RHA meetings, Tuesday Hall council meetings, or office hours to express concerns. When it comes to this we as an organization representing the residents of Marquette are obligated to reach out and hold forums in central locations where residents can come and voice concerns.

If elected president I would hope to continue to build relationships, with other student organizations, build new ideas, and continue to build on the foundation the current e-board has established. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as President and I promise I will take this organization from a high level to an even higher level.

Thank You.
Jason Curtis
O'Donnell Hall #342
O'Donnell Hall Representative
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Candidate for: President of the Residence Hall Association

Accomplishments

- Elected by O'Donnell Hall Residents to Serve as RHA Representative (9/03)
- O'Donnell Hall Council Executive Board Member (9/03-Current)
  Weekly E-Board Meetings
  Weekly Hall Council Meetings
  Decorating for Halloween
  Banner for Crazy Fans
  Issues Table
  Ticket Sales
  Fundraising for Special Olympics
  Christmas tree Decorating
  Pig Roast 2004 Preparation
  Various Program Planning
- Co-Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee (9/03-Current)
  Weekly Agenda’s First Semester
- RHA Representative to the Dining Advisory Board (10/03-Current)
  2 Meetings Monthly
  In Charge of making sure all members are informed of the meeting date and times.
- Crazy Fans Rules and Regulations Committee (10/03-12/03)
  Set Standards for defining Crazy Fan and Banner Making
- GLACURH OTM Selection Committee (10/03-Current)
  Monthly Reading of top OTM’s within GLACURH Region, and selecting the top programs in each category
- Co-Chair Lil’ Sibs Weekend 2004 (11/03-Current)
- Chairmen Diversity Commission (1/04-Current)
  Plan and develop forums to discuss diversity issues on campus and report findings to Office of Residence Life
- WURHA 2004 Delegate-Display Committee (2/04)

Awards/Honors

- Nominee for the First Annual Mr. O'Donnell Award
  This is an award in honor of the person who best exemplifies the O'Donnell Hall Community
- Top 10 Program Presenter at WURHA 2004, “Out of this world OTM’s”
- Nominated for National Residence Hall Honorary
- Received McKean for work with Issues and Legislation
- Received Traveling Recognition Award for work with O'Donnell Hall Teeter-totter.