



For immediate release

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THE HARVARD COLLEGE DEMOCRATS TO EXPAND THEIR UC ENDORSEMENT PROCESS TO MEMBERS-AT-LARGE.

The Harvard College Democrats announced Sunday that they will take a step towards democratizing their process of endorsing a presidential ticket for the Undergraduate Council by extending the endorsement vote to their Members-at-Large (MALs) in addition to the sitting executive board.

Over forty members of the Democrats are titled as Members-at-Large, a position which places these members in leadership roles in cooperation with the executive board. MALs have the freedom to take on their own initiatives in the Dems' organizational structure and are assigned to deputy positions on the Dems' eight standing committees.

The executive board voted unanimously to extend the decision-making process for Undergraduate Council endorsement as a reflection of the central role which MALs play in the organization. The extension recognizes the invaluable work which the MALs contribute to the Dems' programming and expands the weight of the endorsement. The Dems will hold a town hall style discussion with the presidential tickets during the week of 27 November, open to all dues-paid members. MALs will then be allowed to vote alongside the executive board in a blind ballot which will determine the Dems' endorsement of a presidential ticket.

Historically, the Dems' endorsement has been one of the weighty on campus, and it comes fresh off of a successful endorsement of the Haddock-Riley campaign in last year's race.

Although the application for the MAL program is expected to become rolling, eligibility to vote will be frozen at the previous deadline to register in order to discourage attempts to politically stack the MAL register.

The executive board has, in the past, made the decision privately, a method still practiced by the vast majority of student groups in their endorsement decisions. The change represents a dramatic shift towards an expansion of the leadership of the group that is reflective of the strength of its membership and the commitment of the Dems to involving their members in meaningful, visible ways throughout the organization,

The Harvard College Democrats are the largest partisan political organization at Harvard University. With extensive campaign efforts, numerous events every week, the Dem Apples blog, and over three hundred active members, the Harvard College Democrats are a powerful and expanding group of undergraduates. For more, visit www.harvarddems.com.

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