

- Do I believe that Seattle University is a premier institution for education, yes, but also for personal formation. I have spent the last 4 years learning from incredibly courageous, fierce, and compassionate professors, staff, and administration which has allowed me to grow into the passionate young leader you see today.
 - However, my educational and personal development has also been entwined with frustration, anger, and heartbreak when I have felt SU fall away from its support of students, particularly when progressive issues have come our way and SU has dealt with them unsatisfactorily.
- As I reflected on my experience at SU over 4 years and the hope for the future of this progressive innovative Jesuit catholic university, I see a significant need for better communication and genuine respect. I find it to be a fairly common experience that folks on our campus ask “why did this happen” or “what choices were made that led to this outcome?” Instead of engaging in the conversation from the start, which to be fair, if you don’t know about the conversation how are you supposed to join it?
 - We over-program and under-communicate on this campus in the hope that if we just keep taking actions—regardless of the actual impact or the reasoning behind them—that one day we will end up at this perfect resting place of being the most perfect progressive catholic university on a hill.
 - But this isn’t the reality we live in. This idea that if we can just execute certain steps and actions we will become perfect is a false narrative we tell ourselves to find an easier way out of the complexity and nuance that is SU.
- Seattle U exists in a dichotomy regularly; we are a catholic university with a school supported drag show, our mission states a future-focused on a just and humane world yet have strong ties with Seattle Police Department, I mean for heaven's sake, the student body president of this religious institution is agnostic! We are a school of grey at nearly every intersection, and if we are unable to reflect on the nuances that make up SU and this community it will be our downfall.
- However, that does not *have* to be our downfall. If we take more time as a community, and as individuals, to authentically communicate with each other, where might that lead us to? If we could accept fault when we have caused harm, and push back when the whole truth is not out on the table, what could that mean for our future?
 - We can not only be a prestigious university that offers the best education, but also a university that is focused and aware that we are educating the future of our world. With that understanding comes the responsibility to communicate openly, respect the critiques we receive, and push back when we are aware of others’ ignorance. That is our duty as members of SU if we are to truly live out our mission and vision.