

Candidate Name:**Parker Norman, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine '25****How do you work with or lead a team?**

When working on a team, my strengths include organization, offering help to other group members, and communicating clearly with purpose. I am a productive team member in many roles, while always prepared to lead as well. During college, I studied health policy and management within the school of global public health. Many of our long-term group projects involved writing health policy briefs or community health project proposals and presenting them. In order to complete outstanding work by deadlines, it was essential to meet with group members weekly, come to meetings prepared, and leave meetings with specific goals to complete by the next meeting. I often sent emails summarizing each meeting and goals for the next meeting, as well as reminders about meetings. I learned the importance of checking in between meetings and asking other group members for help if it was needed or offering to help them if my part was completed. I am currently special director of organizational development and former co-president of the Master in Law Society (MLS) at Penn Carey Law. The MLS was discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so during Fall 2022 I helped lead its relaunch. As the program is interdisciplinary, schedules vary widely among students. By coordinating email communication among board members, students, and administration early on and planning meetings far in advance, we successfully met our goal of relaunching the MLS by the end of the semester. In my new role, I assist the current board as they continue leading the MLS.

What leadership experiences have equipped you for the Speaker of the House role?

Throughout dental school, I have served in roles across the chapter, district, and national levels of ASDA. I first became involved in D1 year as an advocacy committee associate at the Penn chapter. Through this role, I quickly understood how ASDA is an advocacy-based organization and worked to promote involvement in advocacy initiatives and further causes that ASDA supports. As a D2 student, I served as advocacy committee chair at the chapter level and legislative liaison at the district level. Currently, I serve on ASDA's National Council on Advocacy as legislative coordinator for Districts 1-3. Through the legislative liaison and coordinator roles, I have worked closely with advocacy chairs and legislative liaisons across Districts 1-3 at both the chapter and district levels to help them carry out their goals. I also currently serve as Vice-President of ASDA at Penn. As Vice-President, I assist members of the executive committee and oversee the advocacy committee. I worked closely with our president to plan our first formalized leadership retreat for new cabinet chairs. This contributed to the positive and productive environment within our chapter. My leadership has been crucial in executing events with industry partners, which were largely absent prior to this year. This year students at Penn not only know about ASDA and what it offers but are excited to be a part of it. These diverse positions have prepared me well to be the next Speaker of the House and continue to lead ASDA to new heights.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of Speaker?

While there are many issues that are important to dental students and/or the position of speaker, three that stand out to me are dental licensure, work-life balance, and student debt. As part of ASDA's National Council on Advocacy, I recently had the opportunity to moderate a national webinar about dental licensure. The session discussed the educational, written, and clinical requirements to obtain a

dental license in the US, where to find information about clinical and other requirements by state, and how to create an action plan to become licensed. Past national ASDA leaders gave their perspectives and recommendations regarding the licensure process. Students were extremely engaged and had numerous questions about all topics discussed. Students want to be up to date about where licensure is heading in the future and want to know about various pathways and options available to them. Another important issue for dental students, myself included, is work-life balance. Students are not only concerned with work-life balance during school but want to have a work-life balance throughout their career as a dentist. Students enjoy connecting with industry partners and learning what life might look like during residency and in the oral health care workforce. The issue of student debt goes hand in hand with work-life balance. The National Council on Advocacy supports coalition letters and bills addressing student debt each year. Students at Penn value events about how to pay for dental school and achieve financial wellness, as shown through high member engagement at these events.