Hello! My name is Laura, I am a 4th year graduate student in the Neuroscience department. I have served as the Neuroscience Department Representative to the Graduate Student Government (GSG) for the past two years. Throughout my tenure I have had the privilege of communicating the concerns of graduate students in my department and beyond. I have seen the steady progress made by the GSG as they interface with the administration and would be honored to contribute to this work. This year I hope to be able to serve as Facilities Officer and build upon the great work completed by Genna Gilner and Mai Nguyen the past several years. I am excited about working on facilities because housing and transportation are resources that affect all graduate students in some way or another.

Along with carrying out duties already set in place I have a personal interest in advancing efforts to create gender neutral housing and bathrooms in graduate student spaces. I also hope to advocate for the needs of graduate students with children, for example placing units with families in proximity to each other and to resources relevant to families to foster a sense of community. Along with this I hope to address the desire for low cost housing – for example multi-bedroom units are often best for families, but also cheapest for individual tenants creating two very different sources of demand for these units. One resolution would be low cost single unit housing options. Currently the Princeton Housing Initiative is considering the development of new housing, and as Facilities officer I will express these concerns as well as talk to members of the community to shape plans for this complex.

As a research scientist I am enthusiastic about data driven decisions, which we have also seen are an effective mean with which to work with the University (for example through recent reports such as the Housing Satisfaction Survey, the Women in STEM report, and others). I plan to promote the continued efforts to collect such data about graduate student concerns of the many facets of life related to facilities.

In sum there are many duties of this office that I believe to be impactful to the graduate student experience beyond what I can mention here. I would like to promote sustainability efforts including an expansion of non-meat dining options, recycling, composting and so on.