

Daniel Cooney: GSG Exec – Academic Affairs Officer



To introduce myself, I am a fourth-year PhD student in the Program for Applied and Computational Mathematics (PACM), and I have been serving as PACM's representative in the GSG assembly for the past two years. I am running for Academic Affairs Officer because I would like to advocate for support and funding of interdisciplinary educational and research opportunities for the graduate student body.

As an applied math student with an adviser in ecology, I have had the opportunity to take classes, explore research collaborations, and to teach alongside students in from fields including quantitative biology, mechanical engineering, operation research, and science policy. While innovative, interdisciplinary research is a great strength of Princeton University, many of the opportunities for graduate students to work with and learn from each other, such as graduate student seminars, are conducted and funded by individual departments or academic programs. If elected, I would encourage the creation of interdisciplinary seminars and workshops through the graduate school's existing Interdisciplinary Scholarly Program, and would also advocate for the expansion of funding towards support for such programming.

I am especially interested in encouraging and facilitating efforts for GSG assembly representatives to work together in order to support collaborative opportunities. As a start, I would continue support for the GSG's program on interdepartmental social mixers to bring together the different academic programs of the graduate school. I would also prioritize putting together shared resources that can provide students with broader access to information about finding summer research or industrial internships, applying for fellowships, or the process for obtaining teaching assistant positions outside one's home department.

In addition to my focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, I also hope to advocate for potential improvements in the academic lives of all graduate students. In particular, a large proportion of students are enrolled in DCE status, and it is more common than not for students in my program to spend at least a year as a DCE. I would like to explore ways in which DCE students can receive improved support for being a part of the campus community and for completing dissertation research. To that end, I will also look to expand opportunities like Graduate Writing Days and potentially the availability of graduate working spaces to provide a greater variety of times and places for graduate students to work on research in a social and interdisciplinary environment.