Laura Bustamante: GSG Exec – Facilities Officer

I’m Laura, a G5 in Neuroscience and have served as your GSG Facilities Officer this past year. I would like to share with you my goals for the upcoming year, as well as my achievements from the previous year. All of the initiatives below are a product of the collective effort of a number of dedicated graduate students and University staff. My role is two parts; (1) to communicate the needs of graduate students (2) to identify needs by interfacing with the GSG and the graduate community at large.

My ongoing objectives are:

• Resolve issue of extreme cold and hot temperatures in old Lawrence apartments. To this end, I have had housing distribute thermometers to students in Lawrence and have created a GSG page to record submissions of abnormal temperatures: https://goo.gl/forms/GpdYo7NDcbgs0RbP2

• Resolve safety issues such as poor lighting and dangerous crosswalks on campus. We have conducted two safety walks during my tenure.

• Disseminate information about asbestos in older University residences, that don’t pose a danger except under certain damaged conditions so students can look out for any of these issues:
  https://ehs.princeton.edu/workplace-construction/occupational-health/asbestos

• Creating standardized recommendations for housing hardship applications.

• Advocating for bus routes suggested by TigerTransit users: for example adding a stop at e-quad for the PPPL line.

My additional objectives for next year are:

• Improving the experience for students who take leave with transitioning from housing. For example, extending how many days they have once leave begins to exit their unit, establishing affordable storage options, and providing a dedicated staff member.

• Establishing family friendly parking in Lakeside and Lawrence

• Improving the process for assigning new roommates mid-lease.

• Creating more gender neutral restrooms on campus.

• Encouraging more environmentally friendly housing practices.

Policies implemented during my tenure are:

• The University committed to a pilot program where partnered students would be able to share a bedroom in a multi-bedroom unit.

• Beginning this year, housing will adjust room draw priority for students who go on academic leave early in their graduate program.

• There have been persistent issues with golf balls hitting the Lawrence playground. Communications with the golf course have improved this issue. Housing has committed to building a new playground in a location far from the golf course.

• The municipality has installed traffic lights on Alexander and College road intersection, improving safety traveling to the Graduate College.