Mai Nguyen: GSG Exec – Vice President of Internal Affairs

I am a fifth year graduate student in psychology, and I am excited to be running for GSG Vice President of Internal Affairs! I am currently serving as President of GSG, and I was previously the Facilities Officer. During this time, I focused on four major issues: graduate mental health, family support initiatives, sexual misconduct policy, and housing.

- On graduate mental health, I founded GSG’s Graduate Mental Health Initiative, which has two main components: First, we organized GSG’s first annual Graduate Mental Health Week, which included guided meditation sessions, puppy therapy, counselor meetings, and distress awareness training. Second, we are launching a longitudinal, comprehensive survey of graduate mental health.

- On family support, I have continued working with both the Graduate School and the Office of Campus Life to implement policies that support graduate students with children. This work has resulted in housing priority for grad student families, significant expansion of financial support via GCAP grants, expansion of childbirth and adoption accommodations to allow leave for both parents in two-parent households, and a proposal under review to improve coverage of labor and delivery costs.

- On sexual misconduct policy, I worked with graduate students in developing policy proposals for addressing sexual misconduct in faculty-graduate student interactions. These proposals were approved by the GS Assembly, and we are continuing discussions on improving sexual misconduct policy with the Graduate School.

- On housing and transportation, I serve as a member of the Graduate Housing Advisory Board, and I previously served on the Graduate Housing Policy Working Group, which introduced new housing draw policies. We also introduced a new, annual survey of graduate satisfaction with housing and housing policy, as well as a new ticketing system for responding to issues. In 2017, I also established a student transportation advisory board.

As VP of Internal Affairs, my goal is to both continue with these efforts and to support new GSG projects. My major aim is to improve outreach and better inform students about financial, academic, health/wellness, and sexual harassment/bias resources on campus. To do so, I would first provide logistical support for events organized by the GSG Exec Board on these issues. Second, I would like to provide each GS Assembly Departmental Representative with the knowledge and resources to support students in their department on these issues.

Thank you for reading, and I hope I have your vote!