

## Zhiwu Zheng: GSG Exec – Academic Affairs Officer



Hi All,

My name is Zhiwu Zheng, enjoying the third-year as a graduate student in electrical engineering at Princeton. I am asking for your support to be your GSG Academic Affairs officer. I would be passionate if I could have the opportunity to improve your academic life, the most important part of a graduate student.

If elected, there are several issues that I would like to tackle, since our graduate student community are facing several big challenges now.

First, a lot of our graduate students are still underrepresented. For example, international students who leave their home tens of thousands of miles away to pursue research are currently very hard to be eligible for most of the fellowship opportunities. Some of them are having to work very hard as teaching assistants for many semesters in order to fund themselves for research. This situation should be changed. To tackle this problem, I would like to advocate funds to offer fellowships to these underrepresented hardworking students, to help their research be fruitful. Generally, I would bridge the gap between the graduate students and the University and wish our academic community to have more freedom and success.

Second, we have bigger and bigger challenges currently to develop our careers both in academia and industry, but we currently lack strategies and resources to solve the problems efficiently. Fortunately, we have great alumni around the world who were very successful when they were at our stage. I would organize various types of seminars/forums to invite speakers to talk about how to develop our careers more effectively.

Third, GSG is becoming “invisible” to the graduate students. As academic life is very important for graduate students, their voice must be heard to function this position. I would like to open more channels to collect ideas directly from students and push them to action.

My past experience in organizing events and administration qualifies me for this position. Prior to Princeton, I was the academic affairs officer of the undergraduate student government at my undergraduate institution, as well as a member of the faculty-student committee. I am currently serving as a graduate student committee member in Electrical engineering department, organizing various events.

I welcome any of your suggestions and complaints as a graduate student at Princeton (my email is zhiwuz@).

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to serving you on the GSG.

Zhiwu Zheng