

## Karina Alventosa, *President*



Hello! I am your current Vice President on the GSG Executive Board and a third year PhD student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department developing a new and sustainable concrete material.

This year, I made it my priority to ensure that all academic departments have a representative in the GSG Assembly. I worked with the DGS from every department to guarantee that each student has the ability to voice their concerns and actively participate in votes pertinent to the graduate student body. This year I also started the weekly GSG Happy Hour series that works to build community in a centralized location at Campus Club, as well as introduce graduate students to a range of opportunities available to them at Princeton. I have established partnerships with the Graduate School, the Office of Sustainability, Career

Services and Professional Development, the Center for Digital Humanities and the Council on Science and Technology.

I am also the lead Graduate Student Representative for the Lake Campus Planning Committee. The new graduate housing complex across Lake Carnegie will greatly enhance the graduate experience. As a licensed engineer with years of high-rise design and construction experience, I have dedicated my unique perspective and time to ensure that you are a priority in this planning process.

I am working on several initiatives with the Office of Sustainability as the Graduate Student Representative. In conjunction with undergraduate representatives, I helped initiate and design a sustainable events campaign that will encourage all events on campus to respect the environment. We developed a set of guidelines that have already been adopted by both GSG and USG and will be effective immediately. Sustainability initiatives provide ample opportunities that foster a sense of community between the undergraduate and graduate students, which is crucial to further integrate graduate students into campus life. Additionally, I am working to help more graduate students furnish their apartments in an economical and environmentally friendly manner by expanding the furniture drive. I am also a member of the Farmer's Market Planning Committee.

If elected President of the GSG, I will make it easier for graduate students to get involved with GSG and continue my community building efforts. I have already scheduled happy hour partnerships with the Office of the Treasury, Alumni Affairs, the Council on Science and Technology, the Office of Sustainability and others. I am passionate about ensuring that each graduate student is apprised of all of the opportunities available to them during their tenure at Princeton. I would also like to create more opportunities for graduate students to interact with alumni and to help the graduate student body prepare for careers after Princeton. I would be honored to serve as the President of GSG and would appreciate the chance to develop these programs further, as well as making your voice heard. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

## Gabe Moore, *VP of Internal Affairs*



Website: <https://www.gaybemoore.me/>

Hey y'all! My name is Gabriel Moore, a 5th year in the Molecular Biology department, and I am excited by the opportunity to serve as your VP of Internal Affairs for the Graduate Student Government.

I've been an active member of GSG since coming to Princeton, first as an assembly member for several affinity groups, then as Social Officer and Special Events Officer these past two years. Through my involvement in GSG, I've largely focused on creating community for all graduate students through inclusive, accessible, and (frankly) just fun events! I've seen how these events from campus club to D Bar to academic spaces help bridge the silos formed by department and geographic location on campus, and further dialogue around our studies and what makes us who we are. As the GSG Social Officer and Special Events Officer, I've had the opportunity to work with new and existing programs including the musical Frist Summer BBQs, the joint graduate student/postdoc happy hours at Ivy Inn, GSG Furniture Drive, and taking up a notch our already excellent parties at Campus Club (and now, Frick Atrium!).

While I've loved work I've done on events and hope to see them expand even further, I want to use my remaining time at Princeton as VP of Internal Affairs to ensure that the institution that is Graduate Student Government can remain an effective conduit for professional and social connectivity amongst students, even long after the music stops at my last party this March. Some of my top priorities for the year include:

- Working with administrative offices/student organizations to ensure social programs that graduate students of all backgrounds and disciplines see as important are institutionalized
- Reassessing the current GSG Executive positions in order to create opportunities for new positions on the board, particularly around activism and outreach
- Envisioning creative solutions to obstacles that prevent student organizations from holding their idealized spaces for community building
- Continuing to support my fellow GSG exec members on their and initiatives

Thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement, feel free to ask me any questions during the "Ask the Candidates" segment of elections, and I look forward to your vote!

## Gyoonho Kong, Secretary



Dear friends,

I started graduate school directly after my military service. The transition from Korea to America, from an Army Garrison to Academia, and from an undergraduate to a graduate student was not easy. I must be honest: I distanced myself from the larger issues, thinking I am powerless to make any changes.

Serving as a department representative for the GSG, however, changed my belief. I saw GSG officers and committee members actively interacting with the university administration to address the issues regarding graduate housing, safety, social atmosphere, mentoring, job prospects, mental health, and work-life balance, among many others. During this period, I found myself wanting to **do** something about the issues, taking one step further from voting and discussion.

As a part of this effort, I worked as a member of the Committee for Graduate Student Mental Health Awareness Month during Fall 2019, and volunteered to set-up a distress response workshop, and a work-life balance discussion panel. I am also serving as a member of the Graduate Student Mentoring Task Force (continuing in Spring 2020) which investigates different mentoring practices across departments, with the eventual goal of producing realistic mentoring guidelines that are more inclusive of the plurality of student needs and interests, and less dependent on the power and authority of individual faculty members.

Throughout the efforts to **do** something on behalf of graduate student interest, I also met numerous academic deans, faculty members and managerial officers of the university who showed genuine interest in improving graduate student life, and who were working hard to bring about change where it is needed—in other words, change was possible, and happening, but only where **commitment**, and **continuous** involvement existed.

Now, with my experience as a representative, committee member, and a task force member, I wish to serve as a Secretary for the GSG to contribute to the unctuous running of the assembly meetings and logistical work of the GSG. My wish is to encourage more graduate students to raise their voice and to get involved, and I am ready to work. I believe that change is possible, when you get involved.

I want to end by saying thank you for reading my statement, and by gently asking you to vote—but not just for me. I believe that your vote for the candidate who represents your interests matters, and that your action makes graduate student lives better.

Thank you.

## **Guanhua He, *Treasurer***

Hi my name is Guanhua He, a fourth year graduate student from MOL. I'm running for the treasurer position at the GSG and I hope you could support me. As a graduate student, I noticed that every graduate student would pay GSG fee in their university bills, which interests me about the role of GSG in our academic life. Then I realized that GSG actually can do a lot of things: it can support board game clubs, certain events and etc. Therefore, it is very important to use the money wisely and effectively. My goal as the treasurer is to keep a complete financial record and the budget, and to provide funds to the events and groups that benefit graduate students. I used to work in Chinese Student Association at Princeton and my main job is to obtain external funding and manage them. So I believe that I am capable for the treasurer position at GSG. Please vote for me!

## Irving Miramontes, *Special Events Officer*



Hello everyone, my name is Irving Miramontes and I am a first year PhD candidate in Molecular Biology. I truly stand by the motto “work hard, play hard.” In my first semester here at Princeton I have really enjoyed going to all of the great events hosted by Graduate Student Government - so much that I would love to share that happiness by throwing amazing special events for y’all as your Special Events Officer in the coming term! As I partake in the GSG assembly as a representative for Molecular Biology, I see how hard our current officers work to make these events really come to life and I feel confident that I too can achieve great events for y’all, through my hard work and dedication. As a model in New York City before graduate school, I partook in many fun events and gained a lot of experience on how to curate an interactive space. I look forward to putting my abilities and creativity to good use. In addition, as co-Social Chair for the Queer Graduate Caucus and Intersecting Queer Identities, it is

important for me to create safe events for people from all backgrounds, identities, and interests to have fun and relax. But most of all, it is important for me to help you connect with your graduate community. I hope you guys vote for me as I am eager to serve as your Special Events Officer.

## **Andrew Finn, *Academic Affairs Officer***

I am running for Academic Affairs Officer on the belief that academics are a cornerstone of the graduate student experience, from your first graduate seminar to defending your dissertation and research. My experiences as the English Department's Academic Programming Chair have made this much clear: I have run events for graduate-level paper writing and will soon be sharing insights into General Exam preparation during a luncheon. Further, I am also exploring further opportunities for student professionalization and researching ways that the department website can better serve the needs of its students, such as making previous Generals lists accessible. What's more, co-running the department's Medieval Colloquium which hosts four events per year with scholars beyond Princeton has been invaluable to better understanding the realities of budgeting, academic administration, and above all the importance of reaching out to a broad cross-disciplinary community for rich work and discussion. Indeed, this involvement in my department has fostered my desire to engage with the academic side of the graduate school as a whole: while each department's discipline-specific standards govern its own singular principles, norms, expectations, and needs for its graduate students, interdisciplinarity is essential to a thriving graduate student community. And not just one that thrives on-campus, but also off-campus, for all kinds of enrollment. As such, researching opportunities for further encouraging and funding interdisciplinary events, such as the Graduate Writing Days, talks, conferences, and panels on- and off-campus, will be important going forward.

Paramount to these continuations and initiatives will be maintaining and increasing the funding and fellowships available to graduate students as a whole for research, travel, and sharing work with audiences beyond their home departments. Also crucial will be advocating for how libraries—where much of this work develops—can better serve graduate students in particular, such as offering training sessions for better taking advantage of the resources available and providing further opportunities for internships.

None of this would be possible without also advocating for university-wide parity among departments for standards of mentorship, stipends, and utility of departmental websites for graduate students. While mentorship differs from person to person, developing clear standards for student support and engagement from faculty within each department from the beginning to the end stages of graduate school is essential to Princeton's academic trajectory. And it is all stages of this trajectory that I aim to explore, research, advocate for, support, and further expand.

# Laura Bustamante, *Facilities*



This past year, I served as your GSG Facilities officer. The upcoming year (2020 - 21) I am excited for the opportunity to resolve the housing and transportation issues I have persistently worked on. I have established a great rapport with the University administration and have had the pleasure of working alongside other graduate students to enact change. I have an in depth knowledge of the most pressing issues and their most likely solutions.

## **Last year we accomplished:**

### *Improved pedestrian safety:*

- Installed traffic light at intersection of Alexander Road and College Road for students traveling to the Graduate College.
- Removed of greenery from the intersection of Hibben Maggie Road and Faculty Road to improve visibility.
- Repaved a bad walkway in an entrance to Lakeside Apartments.
- Installed new pedestrian signs on road around Lakeside roundabout to increase driver awareness.

### *Improved transparency:*

- Petitioned University to inform students in Old Lawrence Apartments of the presence of asbestos in their floor tiles (information that is now permanently on the housing website, and will be a yearly communication around room draw).

### *Improved facilities for families:*

- Built a new playground in Lawrence at a safer location (old playground was in range of the golf course and balls were falling where children play).

### *Improving policy:*

- Formulated a new policy for replacing a roommate when a student moves out mid-year. Now students can pull in any graduate student, from any year, as long as that student is not already in another University housing contract. Under the old policy, a random roommate was selected and residents had no control.

## **This year I will fiercely advocate for:**

### *Improved pedestrian safety and transportation*

- Even more pedestrian safety measures (which are too extensive to list here)
- Designate separate pathways for pedestrians and wheelchairs vs. bikes and scooters

### *Fair housing conditions:*

- Work with University to compensate students who have to use space heaters in Lawrence Apartments, which dramatically increase electricity bills. I have gone door to door to document the issue.
- Free laundry in all graduate housing, as is the case in undergraduate housing.

### *Support for students facing adversity*

- Continuity of housing for students who go on medical leave (as is the case for maternity and paternity leave). Under the current policy, these students get kicked out after 10 days.

Most importantly, I will address any issue that is brought to my awareness promptly with University administration. Thank you for a favorable consideration.



## Sarah Marie Bruno, *Health and Life Officer*



I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Physics. I joined GSG in Fall 2016 as the off-campus housing representative. In summer 2018, I joined the newly-formed Graduate Mental Health Initiative. I had the idea for the first ever Graduate Mental Health Week and took a leadership role in planning this week of events. Graduate Mental Health Week was held November 2018 and included mindfulness-based meditation sessions, a meet-and-greet with CPS counselors and therapy puppies, Princeton Distress Awareness and Response training, and a panel on work-life balance. Anecdotes submitted anonymously by students addressing their experiences relating to mental health were also featured on the GSG Facebook page. My goals were to aid in reducing

stigma and to help graduate students feel less alone in their struggles. At the conclusion of the week, I was determined to make Mental Health Awareness Week an annual tradition at Princeton. It was clear from excellent attendance and active engagement at all events that programming centered on mental health advocacy is much needed within our community.

Last Spring, I was elected to serve as Health&Life officer for the 2019-2020 academic year. In April, I wrote a proposal for Campus Conversations funding and was awarded \$9K for a more ambitious, campus-wide Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental Health Month was held November 2019. With our significantly larger budget, we brought Dr. Sejal Shah, prominent mental health advocate and prolific writer, to campus to deliver our Keynote address, "Even if you can't see it: invisible disability and neurodiversity." Art With Impact also visited Princeton to lead a "Movies For Mental Health" film screening. A month-long "Unique Minds" art exhibition featured student artwork inspired by mental health. Dr. Sarah-Jane Leslie, Dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Calvin Chin, Director of CPS, gave welcoming addresses at our kick-off art exhibit reception. A full calendar of events can be found on our website.

I have greatly enjoyed my work as Health and Life Officer. I would like to continue in this role, building on the momentum I have established. Plans are already underway for Fall 2020's Mental Health Month. My goals include engaging with grad alumni as well as hosting events for students with children. In addition to planning Mental Health Month, I am also persistently advocating for extending health insurance coverage and housing benefits for grad students taking medical leaves of absence. Please vote for me to support these endeavor



## **Graeme Baker, *Social Officer***

For the past two years I've been running social events for the Canadian Graduate Student Association, first as Governor General and now as Prime Minister (equivalent to the role of President in most clubs). As GSG Social Officer, I will use my organizational talents to serve all graduate students, both domestic and international. My firsthand experience with the struggles of setting up and maintaining a student club puts me in a good position to help other graduate students run their events. Finally, my intentions in running for this role are pure as I already have a roommate with housing preference 🤔

## **Dylan Principi, CPUC Executive Committee**

As a current member of the CPUC Priorities Committee, Dylan is running to represent graduate student interests to the Executive Committee during the 2020–21 academic year. Dylan is in his third year of studies in the musicology Ph.D. program, where he precepts and serves as Music Department representative to the GSG. He is also chair of the Psychoanalysis Interest Group of the Society of Music Theory and Music Theory Coordinator of the Temple University Music Preparatory. As a potential member of the Executive Committee, Dylan hopes to relay the resolutions of the Graduate Student Government to the governing committee of the CPUC. In light of recent changes to the student health plan and conduct policies, and of future plans for new graduate student housing and sustainability initiatives, it is crucially important that graduate students have a clear presence where the University considers its decisions. In particular, Dylan is sensitive to the differing organizational structures that affect graduate students in the humanities and sciences, which is why he will work to ensure that graduate education at Princeton remains efficient, empowering, and affordable for everyone.

## **Sarah Wilterson, *CPUC Judicial Committee***

Thank you for considering my candidacy for an appointment to the CPUC Judicial Committee. I am seeking this position as an opportunity to continue my engagement with the broader Princeton community. Determining what is beneficial to Princeton as a whole is a complicated task requiring the input of a well-informed group of active participants. My training in the behavioral sciences has provided me with opportunities to succinctly synthesize diverse viewpoints into manageable components for discussion. My previous two years of experience serving as an advocate for graduate students on the counsel further qualifies me for this position.

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