President
Candidate: Ontario Alexander

Candidate Statement:

I am Ontario Alexander, the current GSA President. I am seeking re-election. My proudest accomplishment this year was leading the UCSC GSA in officially joining the University of California Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC). With the help of the UCGPC, this year, the needs and concerns of the UCSC graduates students were lobbied for at both the California State and United States Capitols. My goal for next year includes working with UCSC graduate students to extend our lobbying efforts to ongoing efforts directed to our local, state, and federal representatives of both the Santa Cruz area and the areas from which our students represent. I also plan to work closely with our union representatives on initiatives that can support its efforts and goals. I will continue to place the voices of our graduate students at the forefront of my interactions with both our campus and system-wide administrators.

Chair of the Council
Candidate: Aditya Gadam (Sri Aditya Gadam)

Candidate Statement:

I have served for the past year as the Chair of Council, and have connected with various offices and people in the interest of representing graduate needs. This includes, but is not limited to, Digital Accessibility, the Women of Color Graduate Reading Group, Cal-Bridge, the SUA, and the Office of Emergency services. I am very interested in representing the needs of underserved and underrepresented populations in graduate school, in the interest of removing barriers to higher education for future generations, as well as improving the standard of graduate life.
Candidate: Stephanie Herrera

Vice President of Shared Governance
Candidate: Balakrishnan Raghavan

Candidate Statement:

I am Balakrishnan Raghavan, a third-year Ph.D. student in the cross-cultural musicology
program at the music department at UC Santa Cruz. It brings me great joy to announce my candidacy for the position of Vice President of Shared Governance in the Graduate Student Association. As a former GSA secretary and this year’s VP of shared governance, I have honed my organizational skills, meticulous attention to detail, and proficiency in navigating complex administrative tasks. I understand the importance of having graduate representatives in campus-wide decision-making committees, facilitating productive discussions, and promptly addressing student inquiries. My prior experience equips me with the necessary expertise to effectively navigate the administrative aspects of the Graduate Student Association.

As an international student, I am intimately familiar with the unique challenges we encounter while pursuing our academic goals. From grappling with immigration regulations to adapting to a new culture, we face distinct obstacles that can significantly influence our overall experience. I am dedicated to forging close collaborations with campus governance to address these issues and advocate for policies that cater to the needs of international graduate students. In addition, I am passionate about queer advocacy and firmly believe in fostering a campus environment that respects and celebrates the diversity of all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Furthermore, my active participation in the strikes has invigorated me with a profound sense of purpose and a wealth of experiences that have shaped our collective journey. The strikes have showcased the strength of solidarity, uniting students from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines. I firmly believe in creating inclusive spaces that not only acknowledge and appreciate our diversity but also actively foster inclusivity. I kindly request your support and the opportunity to serve as the Vice President of Shared Governance in the Graduate Student Association. Together, let us continue to build a vibrant and inclusive academic community that embraces diversity, encourages collaboration, and empowers each graduate student to thrive.

**Treasurer**

**Candidate: Wahaj Ayub**

**Candidate Statement:**

I would like to streamline the process of running the treasurer duties and set up clear guidelines for how these would be handled in the future. I would like to set up better opportunities to train members of GSA E-board with purchase requests. I would like to increase the transparency of the GSA finances, which is something I believe has been difficult. As the treasurer, I would like to set it up so that other members of the GSA are able to use the resources that the GSA possesses with as little friction as possible, which requires the treasurer role to be performed
efficiently. I have served one year as part of GSA's executive council in the secretary/webmaster role and would like to continue serving the graduate student body.