

Graduate Student Association Candidate Statements

President

Co-President Candidates

Adrienne Ricker

Earth and Planetary Sciences, PhD, current 1st year

aricker@ucsc.edu

I would be honored and humbled to serve as the President of GSA and as one of the voices for the graduate student community on campus. Beyond the extremely important and urgent issues of affordable and secure housing and basic needs, some additional projects/issues that I would like to address as President include: availability and timeliness of mental health resources, professional development and training beyond the scope of academia, resources for preparing and supporting Teaching Assistants, increasing gender neutral bathrooms on campus and their amenities, and empowering safe spaces for individuals and communities. I began my involvement with GSA during winter quarter and have tried to be as active as possible during that time to best serve the community here at UCSC. I represented the community at a long-range development meeting, forum with the Student Regent Delegate, and throughout the process of application review/interviews for the future Student Regent. These particular experiences helped me understand more about the needs that UCSC graduate students have and how they can begin to be addressed. Some of my relevant previous (undergraduate) experience includes executive board positions in my residence hall government and geology department student organization, student ambassador/rep for my college, and member of the first generation student advisory board. I hope to combine all the skills that I have developed through these experiences in order to best serve the UCSC graduate student population. Thank you for voting!

Name: Nicole VanderMeer

Department: History

Degree Sought: PhD

Year in Program: The 2016-2017 academic term is my second year.

UCSC Email: nvanderme@ucsc.edu

Candidate Statement: UC Santa Cruz has a diverse and vibrant graduate student population invested in forward-thinking research driven by the desires to innovate and to make an impact. I believe the Graduate Student Association has the potential to be an effective vehicle for creating new networks of advocacy and production that could foster the development of collaboration, resources, and support across departments. In particular, the GSA Council's representative structure enables grads from across campus to come together and imagine new possibilities for grad life and well-being on campus. As such, I would love the privilege of leading the Council by serving as the GSA Council Chair for the 2017-2018 academic term, a position to which I will bring concrete ideas formulated through conversations with grad students from a variety of departments. Specifically, my candidacy is founded on four elements:

1. Development of a housing resources hub specifically for graduate students;
 2. Implementation of measures providing greater support for TAs, including focus groups, teaching workshops, improved TA training, and the crowd-sourcing of instructional resources to aid in the teaching of writing;
 3. Establishment of interdisciplinary colloquia to create new working groups, forums, and scholarly conversations across departments rooted in broader themes and collaborative funding opportunities through programs like the UCHRI;
 4. Assessment of digital and library resources available on campus—including a surveying of grad interests and needs—and subsequent advocacy for, and development of, corresponding acquisitions and programs.
- Although I am new to the GSA, I believe prior leadership experience, such as service in my department as a graduate representative, makes me a qualified candidate. Additionally, I am coming to the table with actionable ideas, I am well-connected to grad students across campus, and I bring commitment and energy to any project. Thank you, and I hope to serve our community soon.

Chair of the Council

Sara Nasab
AMS, 2nd-Year, PhD program
snasab@ucsc.edu

As a current rep for AMS, I would like to be involved more in GSA as the Chair of the Council. I initially joined GSA to be more aware of the issues affecting graduate students. And during my time as rep, I have been able to learn more about these issues. I am passionate about Title IX reinforcement among the graduate student population. The increasing amount of reports recently among women in the sciences are overwhelming. As Chair of the Council, I would like to pursue these issues, i.e. sexual harassment, favoritism, etc. that many graduate students have witnessed or been a victim of.

My objectives as Chair of the Council include:
Assisting the president in his/her duties.
Allocating duties among the E-board members
Maintaining strong communication among the E-board/representatives
Carrying out bi-weekly meetings
Recruiting more STEM graduate students

Since joining GSA, I have attended every meeting. And, through these meetings, I have gotten to know many of the representatives and governing E-board. The camaraderie of the members and the ability to constructively discuss issues is one of the reasons I enjoy being part of the GSA. I am known as a team player, and in that regard, would like the opportunity to facilitate meetings and be a spokesperson to issues affecting UCSC graduate students. In addition to my membership at the GSA, I am also involved in the GSC, the graduate social board. I would assist in being the communicator of these two major graduate student organizations. My strengths lie in my dependability and communication style, which are easily transferrable to my role as Chair of the Council. Thank you for your consideration.

External Vice President

No Candidates

Vice President of Shared Governance (formerly Internal Vice President)

Name: Daniel Oliver
Department: Economics, Phd Student, 4th year
Email: damolive@ucsc.edu

Statement: "I enjoy being part of the GSA because it provides a platform for exposure to inherently difficult topics covering campus priorities in research, social-climate, and resources. The discussions are valuable because they often involve students, faculty, and staff who are experts in diverse fields. Consequently, my involvement in the GSA as a representative from the Economics department (2.5 years) and as a student representative for the faculty academic senate on the Committee of Research (2 years) has provided me with insight on campus needs and how they are being addressed. The primary role of the Vice-President of Shared Governance is to help facilitate the effort of graduate students serving on campus committees. The topics of discussions in these committees are dynamic and often inter-related. Without coordination, the effort and information garnered by student committee members may be easily lost. As Vice-President, I will commit to serving as a point person for student committee members in order that the GSA can better serve the graduate student population.

I encourage individuals interested in serving as a campus committee member for the next academic year to contact the current GSA leadership or newly elected VP of Shared Governance as soon as possible. Committee meetings start immediately in the fall. Membership opportunities usually include but are not limited to: Academic Freedom, Affirmative Action & Diversity, Graduate Council, Information Technology, International Education, Library & Scholarly Communication, Planning & Budget, Research, and Teaching."

Treasurer

Juliana Nzongo
METX PhD 1st year
Jnzongo@ucsc.edu

I'm a current GSA representative for METX in the sciences. This is my first quarter being in this position and I've already learned more about campus politics than I ever knew. I'm interested in being the treasurer because I'm interested in graduate students having additional resources such as adequate funding for travel funds. I'm also interested in various proposals that go through the GSA and ensuring funding for those that benefit graduate students, as well as other campus member. I've worked with as a cashier in retail for over 5 years and I've also worked as a sales assistant for about 3 years. In my community college days I served as a treasurer for a Poetry club I started with friends.

Secretary

No candidates

Solidarity Officer

Yulia Gilichinskaya
Film & Digital Media, 1st year PhD student
ygilichi@ucsc.edu

I served as the chair of the International Graduate student committee at UCSC for the past year representing and advocating for the International graduate students. If elected as a Solidarity Officer, I will continue working on improving campus climate and advocating for underrepresented and precarious folks, trying to make this campus more inclusive. I am committed to promoting diversity and solidarity at UCSC, particularly among graduate students