Jennifer Teschler and Nadia Roche - jteschle@ucsc.edu and nroche@ucsc.edu - President

We, Nadia Roche and Jennifer Teschler, would like to offer our candidacy for the position of co-president. As current representatives of our departments for the Graduate Student Association (GSA), we feel we are prepared to take on additional responsibility and labor to represent the graduate students of UCSC in collaboration with other GSA representatives.

In the capacity of co-president, we plan to work within the GSA to build community among graduate students and foster solidarity. We wish to build graduate community through GSA-sponsored events and workshops, as well as financially support other department and organization events. Our goals include better outreach and communication of what the GSA does and how to become involved to the general student body, as well utilizing the GSA as a platform to voice student needs and issues to the University. These issues include the need for continued support, financial and otherwise, for all graduate students, the decriminalization of student actions and bodies, and that campus-wide access and safety issues are addressed and remediated.

Whitney DeVos - wdevos@ucsc.edu - Internal Vice President

I offer my candidacy for re-election of Internal Vice President (IVP). As GSA IVP in 2014-15, as well as the 2013-14 & 2014-15 graduate representative on the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) and one of two 2014-15 graduate representatives on the recently-formed Graduate Growth Task Force, I have a wealth of experience interfacing with administration and advocating for a variety of graduate needs, including: lack of affordable housing, striving for equal accessibility of education for all students, improving campus climate, expanding resources for graduate student professionalization and post-matriculation employment opportunities, physical and mental health and wellness, and resisting increases in tuition and mandatory student fees, among others. I have spent the past year re-investing the previously hollowed-out position of GSA IVP with measurable results: the GSA now has 80% representation on Senate committees, up from just 30% before I took office; by targeting and recruiting graduate students to serve in positions relevant to their studies and personal interests, especially students who do not normally attend GSA meetings, I have ensured graduate students have adequate representation on campus committees—and that those who serve independently of GSA receive a stipend. Additionally, as a result of my involvement and personal interest in the UC system, I have a large network with faculty, administrators, staff, and personnel, and a nuanced understanding of the intricate ways in which these constituencies function at UCSC; my background provides access to the necessary channels to continuing to ensure positive change. As 2015-16 IVP, I will continue to work to ensure graduate voices are heard and addressed. Moreover, I will continue to reach out beyond the GSA, encouraging graduate students to serve on committees they are passionate about, working to build community among graduate students and foster solidarity across the campus.
Christopher Kan - chkan@ucsc.edu - Internal Vice President

I am running for your GSA Internal Vice President because I believe that UCSC graduate students deserve support so they can focus on their studies and ground breaking research. UCSC is a fantastic university with a vibrant graduate community. The campus though has lagged in addressing graduate needs particularly: quality of living and career support. I intend to focus on three areas to materially improve the lives of graduate students and to build resources that will support graduate careers.
First, I will campaign to improve graduate student living standards in the form of guaranteed TAships for normative time and, subsidized affordable housing. I believe that every graduate student deserves a steady income during their degree as well as dignified housing.
Second, I will continue and further my efforts to expand career resources. Graduate students more than ever are heading into careers besides academia. I will build campus support for seminars, workshops and classes that help students transition to these careers. I have already begun work in this area as a co-author on an academic senate supported proposal for a new Center of the Advancement of Teaching (CAT). The CAT will be a hub for teacher training and a place to learn the latest pedagogical methods. It will support graduate students seeking to teach professionally. I intend to continue work in this area to build resources for other careers paths such as government and industry.
Third, I will oppose increases in fees such as parking, housing and tuition. I have and will continue to articulate to the administration that graduate students are the university’s most vulnerable employees and should be exempt from fee increases.
I would greatly appreciate your support and deeply value the opportunity to be your next Internal Vice President.

Rebecca Ora - rora@ucsc.edu - External Vice President

I hope to continue to serve on the UCSA Board of Directors, where I have continued to work toward equity among schools in the UC system, gaining attention and serious consideration of graduate issues, and the general interests of UC students. As a member of UCSA, I hope to continue to fight tuition increases--which also affect grads!--lobby the state for increased support, better graduate experiences and professional prospects, and respond to serious climatic issues and shortages of responsive resources on our campuses. As a strong and diligent voice on the board, I try to make sure that our campus is not overlooked in favor of the interests of larger, more high-profile UC's. To do so, I have attended every UCSA meeting this year, participated in meetings with President Napolitano and Governor Brown's office, and attended Regents' Meetings--all to carry the voices nd interests of students forward. I hope to continue to work on the current graduate campaign, which deals with a more democratic hiring and retention process as regards faculty, and the problem of lack of diversity in faculty populations. I also think there are issues we can work on that greatly affect our students, some of which are not even acknowledged or understood by those in positions of power: lack of longitudinal guarantees for Ph.D students, post-ABD tuition fees, the affects of cutbacks
on TA burdens, and the neglect of graduate tuition increase by all proposals by the state to increase UC funding are a few.

**Miten Jain - miten@soe.ucsc.edu - Secretary/Webmaster**

I have been involved extensively with the GSA for 4 years now, in capacities as department representative and IVP at times. I feel that the GSA strives for improving graduate student experience on campus and am extremely interested in making a bigger contribution to the cause as an e-board member. During my terms, I have been involved as a GSA rep to Student Fees Advisory Committee, and Waste Control Committee and been part of changes that go toward student benefits real-time. I strive for creating better governance with GSA as a student body and contribute towards excellent opportunities and experience for graduate students at UCSC.

**Jess Whatcott and Edher Zamudio - jesswhatcott@ucsc.edu and ezamudio@ucsc.edu - Solidarity Officer**

We are running together for the position of Solidarity Officer because we are passionate about building community among underrepresented graduate students, and supporting graduate students of color, immigrant grads, queer grads, graduate students with disabilities, women in the STEM fields, first generation low-income grads, and other marginalized graduate students in advocating for their needs. Some of the issues facing underrepresented students, that we are passionate about are: developing resources for AB 540 graduate students; working with other divisions on campus to prevent and respond to sexualized violence and violence against LGBTQ campus members; addressing the low acceptance rates of graduate students of color; lack of support for and sometimes outright hostility against graduate students by their departments; and lack of affordability of housing, cost of living in general, and tuition/fees, which impacts underrepresented students particularly hard as they are more likely to lack additional resources outside of their campus financial support.

Some of the strategies we would take to respond to these issues are: community building activities among graduate students, peer mentoring, and building relationships with the undergraduate community; supporting marginalized graduate students in bringing speakers and organizing events that raise awareness about our struggles; encouraging and supporting opportunities for marginalized students to speak to administrators and legislators about our needs; and monitoring UCSC for compliance with relevant federal and state law and UC initiatives, such as around it’s duties to support AB 540 students and to address sexualized violence.