

President Candidacy Statement  
Randy Villegas

Prior to beginning graduate school, I worked as a journalist and community organizer in my hometown of Bakersfield California. As a result of my experiences growing up, I've always been passionate about government. I know what a privilege it is to not only vote, but to work towards creating a better community. I'm currently a PhD student in the Politics department, and have served as the department representative to the GSA for the past year.

In addition to this, I carry experience of working for a state assembly member and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on Capitol Hill. In 2016 I ran and was successfully elected to be a delegate for the California State Democratic Party, representing the 32nd Assembly district. Recently, I received the UCSA (University of California Student Association) nomination to be the UC representative to the California Student Aid Commission. If appointed by Governor Brown, I will serve to pursue the central mission of the commission: Making education beyond high school financially accessible to ALL Californians.

As both a journalist and an activist, I have done my best to be a voice for the voiceless. Whether it was writing Op-Ed pieces or organizing marches, I've never been afraid to take a stand on issues, and have never been shy about emphasizing the need to be intersectional.

As your GSA president I pledge to always have an open ear to your concerns and to work towards creating an inclusive community for all. When meeting with administrators I pledge to bring your concerns to the table, and ensure that your voices are being heard.

I would like to serve as your next GSA President to be an advocate for all graduate students at UCSC, and I would be honored to have your vote.

Thank you,  
Randy Villegas.

Katie Hellier  
Vice President of Shared Governance

In the role of Vice President of Shared Governance of the GSA Executive Board, I will lead our student representatives in being a voice for the graduate population. As an active graduate representative within the physics department, I will expand my efforts to supporting all students in diplomacy, effectiveness, and communication. I will focus on ensuring the conveyance of information between representatives and students, recruiting active and passionate representatives, and providing resources so they can best serve the graduate student body.

Though I have not previously served with the GSA, I have experience in organizing committees, managing large groups, and helping with follow through of action items. Before graduate school, I organized the 2015 Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics at UCSC, which hosted 250 students from west coast universities. This required setting up committees to address specific activities and functions, and required guidance and extensive communication to ensure the tasks were completed. Within the Physics Department, I founded our Women in Physics and Astronomy group, which brings together women and allies to create inclusiveness, camaraderie, and to address topics of concern in our departments. In that group, we set up roles and committees to provide support and representation for students. I also helped establish our new physics Graduate Experience Development Initiative - a council intended to address issues physics graduate students face. We're in the process of developing structured representation and subcommittees, which will facilitate meaningful communication with department staff and faculty.

Graduate representation is necessary to ensuring the student experience is always improving, and having a voice is a key part of that process. As a passionate advocate for students and with the experience I have in working with communication between groups, I will be a great leader for our committees and representatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Ora  
External Vice President

As a past EVP, I would say my greatest accomplishment has been in finding and addressing holes in UC systemwide research on graduate and professional students, and my dogged advocacy for the implementation of the UC Graduate Student Wellness Survey and the Graduate Student Cost of Attendance Survey, which will now be conducted permanently in alternating years. This research will set the stage for future graduate student advocacy (and union bargaining) around experience, pay, and services. I have also established strong working relationships with systemwide administration and the UC Regents, and am currently trying to solidify asks for both a Student Affairs hire that deals exclusively with Graduate Student needs, as well as a Graduate Student Systemwide Task Force whose job will be to present current obstacles to grad student success before the UC Regents at a future date so that those making the decisions that affect our lives will understand our unique situation.

Since GSA representatives have pulled out of UCSA (the general UC systemwide student representative body) membership to form an independent grad organization earlier this year, I have served as a liaison and attended all meetings of both groups. I hope to continue as EVP in order to ensure that graduate students, particularly on our particularly underserved and underrecognized campus, are represented before UC Office of the President and the UC Regents, and that our issues are not only heard but also addressed, irrespective of organizational affiliation. I also hope to work to ensure that systemwide student government in the upcoming year can help to support UAW 2865 in its bargaining efforts, and to address legislative issues that pertain to graduate students. On top of these challenges, I also intend to continue advocating for graduate student housing and expanded access to food security services on campuses that do not adequately provide for graduate students and instructors struggling to live, work and learn in an increasingly expensive California.

As past EVPs have expressed, this position, as it is now, is not fully sustainable for a host of reasons, some of which have led to the schism in systemwide student governance. I hope to work with fellow graduate student EVPs to address these problems, and to try to set up structures that ease transition and pass on institutional memory for future representatives.

Radhika Prasad  
Chair of the Council

In my three quarters at UCSC I have attended a number of GSA meetings and been in close contact with existing members. I appreciate the work that the GSA does and its commitment to the interests of graduate students as students as well as teachers. The GSA's efforts towards issues such as graduate student housing, funding, childcare and the interests of international students, and recently sexual harassment, particularly interest me and I hope as the Chair of the Council to be able to take these forward. Being good at organising and facilitating, I consider myself suitable for the work of coordinating the Council meetings. I also feel like I have the appropriate communication skills to operate as the point-of-contact for Council representatives.

I believe that the work the GSA does is especially significant in establishing a space for graduate students from different fields to interact with each other and find networks of support, solidarity and community. I personally have forged many valuable associations through the GSA even in my first year and I'm excited about contributing to this community as well as extending this opportunity to others, especially those who will be joining UCSC in the coming year.

## Candidate Statement

Hello! My name is Jayashree Sridhar. I am running for the secretary position of Graduate Student Association, UCSC. I am from the Applied Mathematics & Statistics department and served as department representative in GSA for a year. Throughout my study life, I was part of the Student Representative Council in every school I went and was involved in all the functions and events. Prior to GSA, I was in the Graduate Geosciences Society at University of Western Ontario as Academic coordinator where I organized several workshops, talks and events for students. I have been active in this area and regulated symposiums. I was also the head girl during my high school. I consider myself a good team player and effective communicator. I believe by being part of the Eboard as secretary, I would play an important role in building communication and integrity to motivate and organize people. I would be glad to contribute my time and efforts in taking minutes of the council/Eboard meetings and managing the website. I would appreciate your vote for me, to serve on the GSA Executive Board. I can help you all stay connected and updated with GSA progress in a timely fashion. :)

Sasha Wasserstrom  
Solidarity Officer

The GSA is one of the few organizations on campus that is devoted to bringing the graduate population together. As a new member of the graduate student community, I am excited to get more involved and assist the Association in whatever way I am able. I'm running for the position of Solidarity Officer because it is an opportunity to organize events that grads can be excited about. With 5+ years in the private sector coordinating and overseeing campaign, projects and people, I am confident that I will be able to perform the duties of Solidarity Officer to the benefit of the community.