

GSA Candidate Statements

President

Kara Hisatake and Sarah Papazoglakis

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Position: Co-President

Join Candidate Statement:

We, Kara Hisatake and Sarah Papazoglakis, are running together to share the position of GSA President because of our interests in building graduate student collective power and using our organization and leadership skills to serve the graduate student body.

Kara and Sarah are both PhD candidates in the Department of Literature. As co-presidents, we plan to build community among graduate students, especially underrepresented graduate students and underfunded departments. Our goals include empowering graduate students through financial and intellectual support and protecting graduate student interests. Though we have not yet served on the GSA, we have worked at departmental and divisional levels to improve the quality of graduate student education at UCSC. Kara currently serves as Graduate Representative for the Literature Department where she has co-created surveys for graduate students to improve the Qualifying Exam process, developed a set of best practices for TA workloads, and organized potlucks and social gatherings for graduate students in the department. Sarah has participated in department-level committees and informally worked with fellow graduate students to improve teaching conditions for graduate students and to establish best practices for the Qualifying Exam.

In addition to our commitment to improving the quality of life and education for graduate students, we bring the necessary skillsets in event planning, budgeting, organization, and communication for leading the GSA. We have both worked with the GSA and multiple departments across campus over the past few years to host workshops with leading intellectuals in the humanities, such as Despina Kakoudaki's graduate seminar on "Robots and Slaves" and the "Writing and Publishing in the Humanities" workshop and reading group with Professor Eric Hayot for graduate students across the humanities and social sciences.

Collectively, we have a wealth of experience and enthusiastically look forward to working with and representing graduate students across the university.

External Vice President:

Whitney DeVos

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[\(626\) 676-0420](tel:(626)676-0420)

External Vice President

I have served the GSA as Internal Vice President for two years, on the Committee for Planning and Budget for three, as well in a number of other student representative positions since joining the GSA in 2012. Now that I have garnered extensive experience with respect to the challenges faced by UCSC and the UC at large, I look forward to having the opportunity to representing our home campus, along with other small campuses, as External Vice President. My deep knowledge of UCSC (as a grossly underfunded and high-needs campus), as well as my working relationship with various student representatives and administrators, makes me an excellent candidate for this position. As I have been for several years, I remain most committed to advocating for equal access to education for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Solidarity Officer (2 nominations):

Name: Jose Antonio Villarán

Email: jvillara@ucsc.edu

Phone number: [\(415\) 583-0575](tel:(415)583-0575)

Department: Literature - Creative/Critical Concentration

Position: Solidarity Officer

I'm a citizen of the United States, and have been living in this country for most of my adult life, but I was born and raised in Lima, Perú, where I lived until I was 17 years old. My mother was born in Mexico, and lived most of her life in the United States, where she became a naturalized US citizen. My father's side of the family is Peruvian, yet he also lived in the US for a good portion of his adult life, where he attended college and met my mother. The point I'm trying to make is that I come from a bilingual and multicultural household that celebrated the richness of our mixed and hybrid cultural heritages, and I believe this has made me particularly sensitive to issues of cultural diversity and plurality.

I'm interested in actively participating in the Graduate Student Association Executive Board because I would like to contribute in making the UCSC community a better place for graduate students. Furthermore, I firmly believe my sensitivity and openness towards cultural issues makes me an ideal candidate for the Solidarity Officer position, which seems like a great place to start my involvement with the GSA E-board, and something I hope to continue throughout my career at UCSC. This position coordinates issues of diversity and solidarity within the GSA and graduate student body at large, for which I feel particularly well equipped given my multicultural background and upbringing. I believe my contribution to the GSA E-board and graduate student community would be relevant, and I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to work towards improving my student community.

Your Name: Alex Flores, Karla Alcira Cativo

Your UCSC Email: joalflo@ucsc.edu kcativo@ucsc.edu

Your Phone Number: [424-278-5224](tel:424-278-5224) [818-486-4519](tel:818-486-4519)

The Position(s) you are running for: Co-Solidarity Officers

A Candidate Statement (no more than 300 words)

Alex Flores has worked on outreach and retention efforts in the Center for Educational Partnerships (CFEP) at UC Irvine. He worked with various organizations that promote diversity and services for students, including the RAZA Youth Conference and Southeast Asian Youth Conference. His current thesis project involves connecting undocumented student activist groups across the State of California.

Karla has worked in a variety of fields over the past ten years, including outreach and engagement for breast cancer survivors, as well as research on early childhood education trends throughout Los Angeles County. Her graduate work in the Latin American and Latino Studies Department revolves around Salvadoran Women's Transnational Leadership Capacities. She currently sits on the board of the National Association of Salvadoran Professionals (NASP).

As co-solidarity officers, Alex and Karla hope to create an environment that is all-inclusive and representative of the needs of the graduate student body at large. They aim to meet this objective by sponsoring a series of events and activities that promote networking, outreach, and services that are most relevant to students' needs. Their vision includes community volunteer/service opportunities, AB540 networking and workshop activities, food and housing informational sessions, as well as access to a community resource repository for the UCSC graduate student populace.

Alex and Karla are confident that they will be able to meet these goals as they are driven by a strong passion for community building and social justice. Their overarching goals are to promote success by connecting students to essential resources and allies that will best serve their needs, and to cultivate a culture of solidarity across all disciplines in order to enhance the graduate experience of all members of the UCSC community.

Treasurer:

Cathy Thomas
ctthomas@ucsc.edu
[310-292-2014](tel:310-292-2014)
Treasurer

I would like to continue in my current position as GSA Treasurer because I have developed valuable organizational knowledge, received financial systems training and experience, and built intercampus relationship; these are each vital to the Treasurer's operational duties. I bring to this position continuous professional insight from over 10 years of program management in and out of the UC System—UCLA Program Manager. I take great pride in collaboration. I am enthusiastic about developing innovative organizational strategies to streamline funding matters for our EVP and Solidarity Activities. While this may not be a wildly extroverted position as far as eBoard goes, it is a solid place to draw attention to where grads need money most. Necessary expenses like Travel Grants, particularly in the summer, is where I would like to draw University attention as summer travel is one of few opportunities we have to get research and writing done. I would like to work on increasing this budget. Plus, I love Excel.

Thanks!

Secretary/Webmaster:

Your Name: Jess Whatcott
Your UCSC Email: jesswhatcott@ucsc.edu
Your Phone Number: [707-826-1517](tel:707-826-1517)

The Position(s) you are running for:
Secretary and Webmaster

Candidate Statement

I am running for Secretary and Webmaster because I have great organization and communication skills to bring to the position. I have experience in all key areas required for the position: outreach to UCSC graduate students, agenda setting, note-taking, listserv maintenance, and web page updating. As Solidarity Officer I learned a lot about getting information to graduate students. As a long time activist I have participated in many meetings. Working in the non-profit sector has also contributed to these skills and given me the opportunity to do regular web site maintenance. I am particularly passionate about getting more grad students involved in the GSA, and would love to focus some time on outreaching to recruit more department reps and committee members. I am by nature very detail oriented and anticipate being very attentive to GSA forms and files. Ultimately, I am running for the E-Board because I want to stay involved in the GSA. I have been a Solidarity Officer for the past year and was a department rep the year before that. I think the GSA does great work advocating for grad student needs, and I enjoy being a part of this organization. I am open to and interested in passing on institutional knowledge to the next GSA E-Board.