2019-2020 GSC Executive Board Candidates

Nominations are open until May 7th at 5:30pm

President

- Curtis Peterson
  - As academic chair one of my goals was to push the training of mentors – with Eva and the rest of the Exec board we have lead the development of a training program. I hope to continue this work and see that it is implemented to faculty that mentor graduate students. This coming year I’d like to try and extend this service to help provide Dartmouth graduate students with the opportunity to learn how to lead research groups. Something that I have heard time and time again from faculty; they wish as graduate students they were taught how to be a PI. Let us break the cycle of creating PIs not trained in leadership by giving students the opportunity to learn what it means to lead others in research. Finally, I’m also looking to help in the formation of a graduate student senate which will create a formal process for the GSC to work with Tuck and Geisel student leadership groups. I hope to accomplish all of this while we represent the graduate students perspective as Dartmouth consolidates and strengthens the graduate school, moves to a new location, and considers its growth.

Vice President

- Qian Han
  - **What I will bring**: For the position of Vice President, I will assist the President in the execution of their duties and perform myself best as the role connect the Graduate School and graduate students. I also want to serve the who graduate students to bring better life for them. **Why I would like to run**: Since I served as the president of CSSA last year, I successfully hold approximate five big events like the Chinese New Year Spring Festival Gala (~300 participants), Chinese Student’s Orientation (~100 participants), Mid-Autumn Gala (~100 participants) and so on. Not only as the whole leader position, I also taking charge of the financial application and financial management of CSSA. Those roles I played last year makes me confident enough to serve as the Vice President of GSC next year. **What I want to accomplish**: Bring more activities to graduate students to establish the harmony of the community, and also I want to bring more benefits from Dartmouth to Graduate Students.

- Curtis Peterson
  - As academic chair one of my goals was to push the training of mentors – with Eva and the rest of the Exec board we have lead the development of a training program. I hope to continue this work and see that it is implemented to faculty that mentor graduate students. This coming year I’d like to try and extend this service to help provide Dartmouth graduate students with the opportunity to learn how to lead research groups. Something that I have heard time and time again from faculty; they wish as graduate students they were taught how to be a PI. Let us break the cycle of creating PIs not trained in leadership by giving students the opportunity to learn what it means to lead others in research. Finally, I’m also looking to help in the formation of a graduate student senate which will create a formal process for the GSC to work with Tuck and Geisel student leadership groups. I hope to accomplish all of this while we represent the graduate students perspective as Dartmouth consolidates and strengthens the graduate school, moves to a new location, and considers its growth.
• Sarah Steimel
  o Hello, all! My name is Sarah Steimel and I’m a PhD student in the PEMM program. I believe I would be a great fit for the executive board as I’m caring, sincere, open, and passionate about enhancing our quality of life here at Dartmouth. My main goals would be to focus on integration of the student body and improvement of our lives—both in and out of the classroom. For one, I would love to build upon the GSC’s progress in bridging the gap between graduate schools and graduate programs by creating events (both large and small scale) specifically aimed at fostering more of a community between students that spans professional interest. Additionally, enhancing our professional and personal lives here at Dartmouth is something I truly care about. I hope to work towards affordable housing, adequate benefits and compensation, improvement of mental health, and support for the LGBTQ+ community, POC, women in higher education, and first-gen students. As I will be at Dartmouth completing my degree for the next four years, I have a personal stake in ensuring improvements in our community become realized. If elected, I will work tirelessly to improve our community! Thank you for voting!!

• Ashley Wells
  o My name is Ashley Wells, and I am a first-year graduate student in the MALS program. I intend to run for the Vice President position on the Graduate Student Council Executive Board. I have been attending GSC meetings since September of last year, and I am so grateful that I have been able to witness the positive impacts that this organization is making on the graduate student population. Since coming to Dartmouth, I have been looking for an organization that I can learn from and grow with. I understand fully that the Vice President position is not an easy position to undertake. However, with the leadership skills that I possess and my willingness to learn, I know that I am up to the challenge. I obtained executive board positions on two different organizations during my undergraduate career, one of those positions being Vice President. I understand how important it is to both be able to uplift and support the President in his/her duties while also being able to be a leader in my own right and demand respect from the rest of the executive board and representatives. As a former Vice President, I have experience in making constitutional changes within an organization and in building relationships with other organizations in general. I also learned a lot from being apart of the Ad-Hoc Transportation Committee and I would be very excited to lend a hand to all future Ad-Hoc Committees. All in all, I am excited by the potential opportunity to be a focal point in the GSC and to be a source of influence on my peers. Given the chance, I will take strides to be an effective, level-headed, and open-minded Vice President. Thank you for your consideration.

**Finance Officer**

• James Brown
• Rajan Bhandari
  o As a previous treasurer of “Celebrate South Asia,” a student run organization celebrating South Asian Culture at St. Olaf College, Laboratory Technician at Adrian Halme’s lab in University of Virginia School of Medicine and currently overseeing the finances in my laboratory, I hope to build upon my experiences with soliciting funds, managing resources, keeping expenses records and implementing ways to achieve more with less by cutting costs and limiting waste to become an active contributor to the decision-making processes for Graduate Student Council.
Qian Han
  - **What I will bring:** A great management of GSC’s whole year funding. **Why I would like to run:** I took charge of the budget of CSSA last year (using the block and standard funding for 5 big events) and I also have experience of funding application (From GSC, Thayer, and the President’s Office). Thus, I believe I have the ability to serve as the Finance Officer of GSC next year. **What I want to accomplish:** Serve as a good executive board member in GSC.

Communications Chair
- Catherine Pollack
  - I am running for the Communications Chair position on the Graduate Student Council (GSC) so that I can continue to facilitate outreach efforts to the general graduate student body that the GSC has implemented this year. As one of my department’s representatives this year, I have had the opportunity to design and produce the monthly meeting recap videos produced after each GSC general body meeting. Through this experience I have enhanced my multimedia design skills, which are a fundamental part of the Communications Chair role. If elected to the position, I intend to build on this and other GSC endeavors to improve the transparency of the council’s actions, in addition to introducing new projects (such as a welcome video for incoming graduate students) that aim to improve graduate student knowledge on the opportunities available to them at Dartmouth.

- Ashley Wells
  - My name is Ashley Wells, and I am a first-year graduate student in the MALS program. I intend to run for the Communications Chair position on the Graduate Student Council Executive Board. I have been attending GSC meetings since September of last year, and I am so grateful that I have been able to witness the positive impacts that this organization is making on the graduate student population. Since coming to Dartmouth, I have been looking for an organization that I can learn from and grow with. I consider myself fully equipped to handle the tasks and expectations of this executive board position. I was the secretary of two student-run organizations in my undergraduate institution. I also interned at New York Life Insurance Company during that time period. I am very comfortable in taking minutes and notes quickly and efficiently. I would also be very comfortable with lending a hand to the President when meetings get off track and the agenda is forgotten about. I have been in charge of many committees when I was on these two executive boards, and I would have no issue leading the Communication’s Committee. I am currently an intern for the Academic Skills Center at Dartmouth, and I have gained experience in posting events and in sending out general email communications to students. I also have experience leading executive board elections, as I did so when Vice President of a previous organization. All in all, I am excited by the potential opportunity to be a focal point in the GSC and to be a source of influence on my peers. Given the chance, I will take strides to be an organized and proactive Communications Chair. Thank you for your consideration.

Academic Chair
- Joshua Levy
  - I am very proud of all that has been done recently to address power dynamic issues between students and staff, but I believe that much is still needed to make our voices heard by our respective administration and mentors. I am running for Academic chair because I want to advocate for students who want their needs addressed, and are finding
difficulties in navigating their program, finding industry internships, and maintaining an equitable relationship with their advisor and program. I think a broad survey of student's academic and professional needs within each department and program is warranted to better understand what can be done to help address this issue, and if elected, I will work to make this happen. I will also maintain the duties of the Academic chair, sponsoring activities and programs to enrich our academic experience.

- Curtis Peterson
  - As academic chair one of my goals was to push the training of mentors – with Eva and the rest of the Exec board we have lead the development of a training program. I hope to continue this work and see that it is implemented to faculty that mentor graduate students. This coming year I’d like to try and extend this service to help provide Dartmouth graduate students with the opportunity to learn how to lead research groups. Something that I have heard time and time again from faculty; they wish as graduate students they were taught how to be a PI. Let us break the cycle of creating PIs not trained in leadership by giving students the opportunity to learn what it means to lead others in research. Finally, I’m also looking to help in the formation of a graduate student senate which will create a formal process for the GSC to work with Tuck and Geisel student leadership groups. I hope to accomplish all of this while we represent the graduate students perspective as Dartmouth consolidates and strengthens the graduate school, moves to a new location, and considers its growth.

**Student Life Chair**

- Eva Childers
  - Over the course of this past year, I have had the great honor of being the Student Life Chair on the GSC executive board. A large focus of the Student Life Committee this year was on raising awareness about mental health, and connecting students to resources on campus. Some of the things that I implemented this year are: Graduate Student Activity Fair, Mental Health Mondays, a monthly mental health newsletter, creating a GSC Mental Health Resources webpage, Suicide Prevention workshops and participating in FreshCheck Day in collaboration with Dick’s House. Additionally, I have been part of an effort to develop a power dynamics training to foster healthy mentor-mentee relationships. If I was granted the opportunity to be the Student Life Chair for next year, I would like to: organize a mental health seminar series, collaborate with the GRAD office to host town halls where students can express their concerns, and improve advertisement methods for Student Life events to reach more graduate students. As Student Life Chair, I have been able to lead an initiative to create a caring and supportive graduate student network, a cause that has been important to me since I arrived on campus, and I would be grateful for the chance to continue that over this next year.

**Service Chair**

- Joshua J. Levy
  - Having been a Special Olympics coach for the past 9 years, a crisis counselor, and a mental health advocate, amongst other roles, serving in the community has always been an important and fulfilling part of my life. As service chair, I will continue the GSC's community service events while maintaining and expanding our community presence by building relationships with outside organizations. I hope that these events can continue to serve as a fun way for graduate students to be involved with the community and destress from our scholarly lives.
Social Chair

- Sidhartha Jandhyala
  - I am running for social chair position because I think Graduate Students have been deprived of fun in Hanover with the closing of Canoe Club and BarHop. I personally really need an outlet where I can go dance and have fun in order for me to be productive and I’m sure that’s the case for many of grad students and the current social scene at Dartmouth and Hanover isn’t cutting it. I have had extensive experience organizing and promoting social events and will do my best to provide quality social outlets for all graduate students. The current GSC dances remind me of middle school dances and frankly I think we can do better. I hope to organize quality and fun social events for all grad students to have a good time and take their mind off work for a little while.

- Sarah Steimel
  - Hello, all! My name is Sarah Steimel and I’m a PhD student in the PEMM program. I believe I would be a great fit for the executive board as I’m caring, sincere, open, and passionate about enhancing our quality of life here at Dartmouth. My main goals would be to focus on integration of the student body and improvement of our lives—both in and out of the classroom. For one, I would love to build upon the GSC’s progress in bridging the gap between graduate schools and graduate programs by creating events (both large and small scale) specifically aimed at fostering more of a community between students that spans professional interest. Additionally, enhancing our professional and personal lives here at Dartmouth is something I truly care about. I hope to work towards affordable housing, adequate benefits and compensation, improvement of mental health, and support for the LGBTQ+ community, POC, women in higher education, and first-gen students. As I will be at Dartmouth completing my degree for the next four years, I have a personal stake in ensuring improvements in our community become realized. If elected, I will work tirelessly to improve our community! Thank you for voting!!

- Gretel Torres
  - As Social Chair, I hope to bring all graduate students together in order to unify our community and network with future leaders in our fields. Thank you!

- Ashley Wells
  - My name is Ashley Wells, and I am a first-year graduate student in the MALS program. I intend to run for the Social Chair position on the Graduate Student Council Executive Board. I have been attending GSC meetings since September of last year, and I am so grateful that I have been able to witness the positive impacts that this organization is making on the graduate student population. Since coming to Dartmouth, I have been looking for an organization that I can learn from and grow with. During my undergraduate career, I was involved with two executive boards that regularly hosted different events for the college community. I have had the opportunity to have hands-on experience in coordinating these events, dealing with a limited budget, renting a location, and more. I really enjoy the impact that social interaction can bring to a community of students, and I would love to have the opportunity to have a hand in future dances, banquets, galas, and other events for the graduate school community. All in all, I am excited by the potential opportunity to be a focal point in the GSC and to be a source of influence on my peers. Given the chance, I will take strides to be a trusted and effective Social Chair. Thank you for your consideration.