Dear UC Riverside Graduate and Professional Students,

In this presentation you will find detailed information about each of our candidates for the UCR Graduate Student Association AY 2023-24 upcoming election on May 8, 2023.

Please take a few minutes to review these candidates’ answers to our questions about who they are, what they believe in, what inspires them, and how they intend to use their office to serve the graduate and professional student population at UCR and beyond during the next academic year.

Each of these candidates are exceptional and talented individuals who have a passion for leadership and a strong belief in the value and importance of public service.

Many of our candidates have chosen to include their contact information and we encourage you to reach out to them if you have any questions.

Finally, we appreciate your engagement and interest in our elections and wish to offer you our sincere thanks for taking part. The GSA would not be the effective and instrumental organization that it is today without the continued support of the many talented members of the graduate and professional student population at UC Riverside.

In Service and Solidarity,

The UC Riverside Graduate Student Association
Ivett Gabriella  
Candidate for President  
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences  
Psychology

Tell us about yourself:  
As a first-generation immigrant from Hungary, I know what it feels like to be outside of the dominant culture, and I have learned to appreciate and welcome the views of others different from mine. I moved to the United States at 19 years old, all by myself, which I found to be as liberating as challenging. I was free to do whatever I wanted, but with nobody to rely on, I quickly understood that having and nurturing a community around me is immensely valuable. This is where my desire and appreciation to be involved in campus life originated, and I would like to continue this deep level of involvement.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?  
During my presidency last year, GSA focused on several different areas. One of them was community building by bringing back GradBash three times a year, creating a weekly newsletter to communicate graduate student-related events and opportunities, and promoting other organizations’ events through our network of council members. We also focused on advocacy efforts by increasing the number of UCR students at UC system-wide meetings, and traveling to Washington, DC, to meet with representatives to discuss graduate student-related issues. In addition, I completed the draft for a Graduate Student Bill of Rights, which I plan on accrediting by the end of this academic year. If I continue as your president, I would be able to follow up on and complete many other projects we started working on this year, including increasing the number of campus housing units for graduate students, learning about and advocating for sustainability, and improving basic needs conditions, mental health, and well-being. I really would like to have the opportunity to continue with my work and serve my community of grad students next year.

Why are you applying?  
I served as the GSA president last year and was thankful for this opportunity. Although the past year had many challenges (coming back to campus full-time, a strike, and restoring work relationships), it was also one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I would like to run again for the next term.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?  
President, Mini GSA representative
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Zaira Vidal Cortes, I am a Mexican, First-Generation, Second-Year Graduate Student in the Spanish Linguistics Ph.D program at the University of California, Riverside, where I also earned my B.A. in Global Studies and a minor in Spanish. I have an extensive background in Business Administration and Social Behavioral Science. I am a DACA/immigrant ally and advocate. My inclination for language and social behavior along with personal experiences inspired me to continue my education in sociolinguistics, I believe language is one of the main foundations in society to consider when we strive for social change in every aspect of our society. I am interested in studying how a Latinx migrant community in Southern California constructs their identities through language and intersectional social factors such as gender, class and race.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

Throughout the years that I have been enrolled in institutions of higher education and collectives, I have learned and experience as many other graduate students several barriers such as language, financial hardship and lack of information about certain programs or aid for undocumented students to pursuit graduate degrees and just education in general. My main objective of my dissertation project and participation in collectives and student government organizations is to influence and find ways to support grad students from Latinx migrant communities along with other backgrounds in Southern California, who constructs their identities through language and intersectional social factors such as gender, class and race. Advocacy of this kind is fundamental, due to the fact that research on Latinx migrant grad students' identity formations stresses the need for studying growing urban centers to learn more about the special social dynamics that emerge from contact of different languages, ideologies, socioeconomic circumstances and the ways in which these students exercise their agency and become more resilient. I am motivated by the need for more legislations that really reflect the reality of graduate students like me in both my community and university, also the necessities to improve their conditions for education, inclusive graduate programs and social representation.

Why are you applying?

I am applying for this specific position because I was part of the Advocacy committee this Spring 2023 that travel to Washington D.C., this experience completely motivated me to get involved in our student government and made me understand how important is for us, as Graduate students, to get involved in policy making; I also learn the value of advocating for issues that affect our daily life as grad students such as housing, immigration polices, disability rights, nutrition, food safety and other issues, is extremely important, as well as building alliances with other groups to work together for better living conditions. I was inspired to run for office by current GSA elected Officers such as Fernando D. Márquez Duarte, Ivett Gabriela, Dulce Alarcón along with other UC GSA members.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

Hispanic Studies GSA Vice President & I am currently a Spanish TA and GSRA.
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Katie Vidueira and I am a 5th year PhD Candidate in the Philosophy program. My research focuses on marginal agents and the way they rationally deliberate.

I am proud to be a Hispanic woman in a field where Hispanic women are historically underrepresented. I am also proud to be a graduate student at UCR. I believe the graduate community here is truly supportive and special. This is one of the reasons I have enjoyed working with GSA for the last three years. I enjoy advocating for our community and pushing for what we as a community truly deserve.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

Throughout my life, I have tried to advocate for those who are often marginalized. This is especially shown in my research on marginalized agents. I plan to bring this same focus in my role as VPAA. I think this is especially important when advocating for graduate students who often are in need of basic essentials like housing and food. I believe graduate students are also in need of support so I plan to focus on planning events around supporting graduate students in their academic and career needs.

I plan to approach these issues by continuing to serve on committees, such as the housing committee, and speaking on behalf of graduate students. I also plan to find out more about what graduate students need by sending out surveys and polls quarterly. This will allow me to properly advocate for graduate students.

Why are you applying?

I am applying to be the VPAA because the position allows me to advocate for specific graduate student needs, such as housing needs. I have worked as the VPIA for the last two years. This experience has prepared me to move into a different role that works even closer to the academic needs of graduate students. I truly enjoy being a voice for graduate students and the VPAA position will allow me to do so effectively.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

VPIA - 2021 to Present which entails being a member of multiple committees; Philosophy Graduate Student Rep- 2020 to 2021
Tell us about yourself:

Hi everyone! My name is Marina Murillo (she/her/ella), a 4th year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History. My field of study is Ancient Mediterranean, specializing in Late Antiquity in the Iberian Peninsula, especially the 5th century. My research attempts to delve into the study of religious identities in the Iberian context, focusing mainly on the analysis of the discursive representation of religious deviance and the social realities behind religious dissent.

I came to UCR 4 years ago from my home country, Spain, and since then I have been very involved in community activities and student representation, being part of our Graduate Student Association for three years. One of the most exciting parts of my job so far has been getting to know many stories, perspectives and difficulties of many graduate students on our campus and being able to help even in the smallest way and knowing the concerns and interests of others has been a great experience for me to be able to find my own place in this university coming from a foreign country.

As a first generation international student, I firmly believe that being involved in university life and contributing to the community is key to a student's academic and personal development. I have by now a long experience serving in different committees and student organizations that seek to empower students by listening to their needs, ensuring their physical and mental well-being and considering and making visible their diversity. My wish is to continue to do so and I hope that I can be around to hear from you all next year as well, but if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to always help you!

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

If I am elected as VPIA next year, my priority will be to continue to connect with the student organizations that, so far, have been helping us very closely, but also focus on increasing GSA's presence in the different academic and administrative committees on campus to ensure that the voice of the graduate students is always heard and that we are included in all the important conversations that are taking place especially recently. That is why I would like to focus on increasing the participation of grad students outside of GSA in the Academic Senate Committees, making the connection between students and the committees that make decisions about our academic futures more accessible.

On the other hand, my experience as graduate representative in diverse committees this year has been very inspiring to want to work towards more communal, relaxing and comfortable spaces on campus, with Sustainability and Basic Needs being two of the key pillars that several GSA representatives have worked on so far and that I will continue to focus on if I am elected VPIA. Working closely with the different liaisons and having their insight from their different areas of work is one of the most exciting parts of what I would like to get into as VPIA. Personally, during these three years I have experienced that the best platform to work and create engagement with the other Grad Students is to be physically on campus, make yourself accessible and be able to have one-on-one conversations, so I will continue to advocate and prioritize that direct contact if I am elected.

Especially given the events we have experienced in recent times, I reaffirm now more than ever that we, as graduate students, can make significant changes that positively affect the entire community if we are united and supportive of each other.

Why are you applying?

My experience at GSA these past three years has been very rewarding and I would like to continue serving the Graduate Student community in a new role this year. First as Conference Travel Grant Coordinator and as Vice President of Academic Affairs after, I have had the opportunity to work in direct contact with many students and that was the main reason I joined GSA in the first place. I would like to continue this work of creating community ties from the liaison position that the VPIA offers to work with the campus administration. I believe that my previous background in other positions, especially as a VPAA, working on onboarding students to GSA Standing Committees and being a representative on various Academic Senate committees across campus is a very strong background to hold this position next year. Being VPIA offers full involvement in this aspect, creating not only connections with the different administrative levels of the university but, most importantly, being able to present GSA as a united front that can push for changes and new policies on our campus that will improve student life.

I am really excited about the possibility of exploring GSA representation from this new role and I will put all my energy and will into the position if I am elected.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

Conference Travel Grant Coordinator (2 years), Vice President of Academic Affairs (1 year) and graduate student representative in the Graduate Council, CHASS Executive Committee and HUB Governing Board

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about my campaign at

mmuri024@ucr.edu
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Samuel Opoku Asiedu, and I was born and raised in a small town in Ghana, West Africa. I grew up playing sports and spending time outdoors, which instilled a love of nature and an active lifestyle that has stayed with me throughout my life.

After high school, I attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and earned a degree in Biological Sciences. I joined a research institute at the university to further explore research in infectious diseases affecting the poor and vulnerable in the society. After three years of working as a Research Assistant, I decided to further deepen my understanding about microbial pathogenesis by enrolling into master program in microbiology at the same university. Currently, I am PhD student in the Biomedical Sciences program with my home lab PI being Dr. Meera Nair.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

When elected as the Finance and Grant Writer position, I envision using my position to increase and deepen UCR graduate students’ participation in grant applications, with the end goal of graduate students winning research grants and fellowships. I plan to champion this vision by organizing regular workshops with seasoned professionals who have a track record of winning grants, funders, and successful grant recipients. As a Finance and Grant Officer, I aim to lead by example by applying for and securing grants for GSA.

Why are you applying?

As a former Graduate Assistant in Dr. Alexander Kwarteng's research group, an Infectious Immunologist, I developed skills in writing research papers, preparing research budgets, drafting research grants, and writing grant reports to funders such as The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). I gained these skills not only for my future as a potential Principal Investigator but also to benefit others.

With a strong belief in collaboration and sharing of knowledge, I am motivated to apply for the Finance and Grant Writer position in GSA. I aim to utilize my skills and experience to benefit the entire community by producing compelling grant proposals that will lead to successful research outcomes.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

GSA election committee member. I have held the position of the General Secretary for the students' counselling body in my former university (KNUST, Ghana).
Tell us about yourself:

"A long walk to freedom" by Nelson Mandela is a powerful autobiography that details his life and struggles as a South African.

I'm an Indian and I was born and brought up in a town, however I was provided the best education by my parents and I studied in one of the best schools in town. The hardships and struggles for me was transferring between different cities and understanding its culture when my father started getting transfers after his promotions to different places every few years. And now here I'm in the US as an international graduate student, 8431 miles away from my home country (India) with a completely different culture, but this is what has shaped me into the individual I am today. And just like Nelson Mandela I've been resilient despite all the challenges that I faced here during my tenure as a Masters in Finance student.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

I will focus on GSA funding, how it can be brought and where it can be used to minimize the expenditures to provide some consistency in the overall budget in the years to come. And at the same time I would ensure that graduate students are getting the right resources to enjoy campus life on the basis of their requests that they make from us. I would also try to inculcate things that can be helpful to graduate students.

Why are you applying?

I'm a current Master in Finance student and as a Finance student I've always been inspired to work in assisting people with the Finances (Be it small businesses or big MNC's). By becoming Finance and grant writing officer, I will assist the president in preparation of the early budget and act as a liaison between GSA president and members of GSC regarding the budgetary policy and help in serving the people which is what I would like to do.
Tell us about yourself:

I am a highly accomplished and driven individual with a passion for computer science. I earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Information Science from The National Institute of Engineering in India, where I was actively involved in various extracurricular activities and events. I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Computer Science from the University of California, Riverside, and I am dedicated to expanding my knowledge and skills in the field.

I have extensive experience in software engineering, particularly in application development, and have worked with various programming languages, frameworks, and tools such as Java, C++, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Spring, Docker, Kubernetes, Git, Jenkins, and more. I have worked on several projects in different companies, including Jio Platforms Limited, Motorola Solutions, and Manhattan Associates, where I have designed and implemented various software systems from scratch, ranging from content management systems to privacy management systems, and from order lifecycle management tools to slot management systems.

I have also been recognized for my exceptional work at both Manhattan Associates and Jio Platforms Limited, earning several awards and certificates of appreciation. Additionally, my volunteer experience showcases my commitment to giving back to society. My involvement with Truecaller as a Brand Ambassador and various student organizations reflects my ability to lead and organize events.

Overall, my awards and volunteer experience demonstrate my commitment to excellence and my willingness to contribute to the community. These qualities will undoubtedly make me a valuable asset to any organization or cause I choose to work for in the future.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

As a candidate for the graduate student association, my platform is centered on three key priorities: funding and financial support, mental health and wellness, and diversity and inclusion. I firmly believe that addressing these issues is crucial to creating a supportive and inclusive community for all graduate students.

When it comes to funding and financial support, I will work tirelessly to ensure that graduate students have access to the resources and support they need to succeed. This includes advocating for increased funding for research and travel, as well as working with the Finance Office to ensure responsible and transparent financial management.

Mental health and wellness is another critical issue that I am committed to addressing. Graduate school can be a stressful and challenging time, and I believe it's essential that we prioritize the mental health and well-being of our students. To that end, I will work to expand mental health resources on campus, including counseling and support services, and to promote a culture of openness and support around mental health issues.

Finally, I am deeply committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within the graduate student community. This means working to ensure that all students, regardless of their background or identity, feel valued and supported. I will advocate for increased diversity and inclusion training for faculty and staff, as well as for the creation of more spaces and resources for underrepresented groups on campus.

Overall, I believe that my interest in community organizing and advocacy, as well as my commitment to these key issues, make me the ideal candidate to represent graduate students in the association. If elected, I will work tirelessly to advocate for the needs and concerns of our community and to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for all.

Why are you applying?

I have an interest in finance, budgeting, and grant writing. I am interested in gaining experience in these fields and see the position as an opportunity to develop new skills.

Another reason is that I am passionate about advocacy and want to make a positive impact on the graduate student community. I am inspired by a desire to represent the needs and concerns of the fellow students and work towards creating a more supportive and inclusive environment for all graduate students. I also see the position as an opportunity to build connections with other students, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the larger academic community.

Furthermore, I want to apply for this position because I want to ensure that the graduate student association’s finances are managed responsibly and transparently. I am motivated to ensure that the association is able to secure funding through grants to support its programs and initiatives, and to maintain accurate and up-to-date financial records. I am also interested in working closely with the other members of the association’s leadership team to help guide the strategic direction of the organization.

Overall, I am motivated by a combination of factors, including my interests, passion for advocacy and community-building, and my desire to ensure responsible and transparent financial management.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

I have a variety of experiences in different fields. I volunteered for two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), CRY (Child Rights and You) and Aashman Foundation, where I was involved in volunteering and social media marketing, respectively. Additionally, I worked as a Brand ambassador for Truecaller, an app that identifies unknown callers and blocks unwanted calls, for about six months. Furthermore, I have experience in event organization and coordination as I worked as an event organizer for Technieks, a college-level annual fest, and ACE-2014, a CS department-level fest. I also served as a Committee Coordinator for the Association of Computer Engineers, Computer Science Division, NIE, and as Industry Relations Coordinator and Social Media Lead for the NIE IEEE Student Branch. These experiences show that I have a keen interest in volunteering and organizing events, and have also contributed towards social causes.
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Akshay, and I am a graduate student in business administration. Working MBA is a related subject area and a field I’ve always wanted to pursue as a double major in economics and public policy. UCR is one of the greatest universities for MBA programs, and the outstanding faculty profiles influenced my decision to attend. As a professional athlete, chief student director, and a candidate of bureaucracy, I am always eager to take on new challenges, which lead to my graduate studies, and I am always enthusiastic to learn new things throughout my life.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

If elected as the GSA officer for GSHIP at the University of California, Riverside, my campaign platform would prioritize accessibility, communication, and advocacy. I would work to ensure that all graduate students have access to affordable and comprehensive health care coverage through GSHIP, regardless of their socioeconomic background. I would improve communication between GSA, GSHIP, and the graduate student community, and advocate for the needs of graduate students with respect to healthcare. Overall, my goal would be to ensure that all graduate students have access to high-quality healthcare that meets their individual needs. Some of my strengths include being communicative, detail-oriented, and a competent leader, as well as having strong negotiating abilities.

Why are you applying?

I reportedly qualified to appear in the world’s second toughest exam (UPSC), which is nothing more than the highest recruiting agency for top level civil servants for the central government; my experience as a program associate is through a social organization called Open Heart. My education, experience, and conviction have always kept me motivated to serve in public service.
Amir Saeidi
Candidate for Graduate Student Health Insurance Policy Officer
Bourns College of Engineering
Mechanical

Tell us about yourself:

PhD in Mechanical Engineering is a popular and challenging field of study that involves designing, developing, and analyzing mechanical systems and devices. My motivations are passions for technology and innovation, a desire to contribute to the development of new products and solutions, and a fascination with the mechanics of machines and materials, and to make a positive impact through my work.

Choosing to study at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) may have been influenced by a variety of factors such as the university's reputation for research excellence in engineering, the availability of top-notch faculty and facilities, and the location and campus environment. UCR offers a strong program in mechanical engineering with a focus on areas such as robotics, materials science, and energy systems, among others.

Graduate study in mechanical engineering can be a natural progression for me that have completed an undergraduate degree in the field and wish to specialize in a specific area, gain advanced technical skills, or pursue a career in academia or industry. Pursuing a PhD in mechanical engineering can also offer opportunities to conduct cutting-edge research, collaborate with other experts in the field, and contribute to the development of new technologies.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

My common priority is improving mental health services and support. As an elected official, it would be important to actively engage with the graduate student population and solicit their feedback and input. This can involve holding town hall meetings, creating advisory committees, and partnering with graduate student organizations to address their needs and concerns. It would also be important to be accessible and responsive to the concerns and issues that graduate students face, and to work towards finding solutions and making positive changes.

Some strengths that can be valuable will be strong communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to build coalitions and collaborate effectively, a deep understanding of the issues and challenges facing graduate students, and a passion for serving others and making a positive impact in their lives. It can also be helpful to have a solid understanding of policy and governance, as well as the ability to work within complex bureaucratic systems to achieve goals and make change.

Why are you applying?

My desire is to make a positive impact in the community, address social or environmental issues, to promote equity and justice, and to pursue a passion for advocacy and activism, and see it as a career path or a way to gain valuable experience in governance and leadership. It's part of a larger plan to gain experience and skills as an elected official. This may involve starting with smaller roles, such as serving on a local board or commission, and working my way up to higher levels of government. I'm curious about this type of service and wish to explore my interest in public affairs and governance.

In terms of inspiration, I'm motivated by role models or leaders who have made a significant impact in communities or on a national level. Such as historical figures, like Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, or contemporary leaders who have advocated for social change, such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez or Greta Thunberg. My inspirations are family members, friends, and mentors who have demonstrated a commitment to public service and inspired them to get involved as well.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about my campaign at amir.saeidi@email.ucr.edu
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Dulce Alarcon, and I am a third-year PhD candidate in Bioengineering at the University of California, Riverside. I am a Fulbright scholar from Mexico, and my research interests include the development of low-cost medical diagnostic devices. I love learning about other people's cultures and sharing mine with them.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

If elected, I will focus on regaining the sense of community that has been lost within the graduate student body since the pandemic. One way that I will achieve this is by providing spaces for graduate students to relax and socialize, which will allow them to connect and build relationships with their peers. Additionally, I am committed to creating safe spaces where graduate students feel heard and can share their experiences and concerns. Lastly, I will continue to facilitate the diffusion of resources for graduate students, ensuring that they have access to the tools and support they need to succeed.

Why are you applying?

Since I joined UCR, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the GSA can have on graduate students. Inspired by this, I want to help graduate students succeed by providing them with opportunities, support, and resources. As a current member of the social committee, I have experience serving the graduate student community at UCR. I would like to continue contributing to graduate students' well-being now as the public relations officer to further improve their graduate experiences.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

legislative advocacy officer, mini-GSA representative
Tell us about yourself:

Lan is a 3rd year PhD student in the Chemistry program. She works with a team of dynamic and driven researchers in the Su Lab to develop molecular materials involving silicon. Her research focuses on synthesizing molecular wires and switches with potential applications in nanoelectronics. Outside of research, she likes learning about psychology-related topics, spending time with friends, baking, and going to the gym.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

I aspire to make fun, social and informational activities more accessible to busy graduate students. My focus will be ensuring that the predetermined events occur smoothly, reach a broader population, and meet the need of the target audiences. I will also prioritize working and getting input and feedback from others about system-wise issues that impact graduate students. Subsequently, these issues can be resolved within the scope of event organization, either by improving current events or implementing possible new events.

Why are you applying?

I enjoy being the organizer for group’s events to make sure that everyone has a good time and optimize available resources at the same time. Having 5+ years of experience as a mentor, I always love to watch people from diverse backgrounds come together, connect, and collectively grow. Because of the individualistic and time-consuming nature of Ph.D. research, I find it more challenging for graduate students to engage in social activities outside of work. Therefore, I want to use my skill set to serve my community by delivering opportunities and enjoyment to the graduate student body. I hope to be a part of the GSA team to keep up the tradition of making positive and impactful improvements in the well-being of graduate students.

What are your previous roles serving in the GSA (if any)?

Events and Allocations Committee

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about my campaign at dpham079@ucr.edu
Tell us about yourself:

My name is Mehrnaz Ayazi and I'm a third year Computer science PhD student here at UCR. I'm an international student from Iran and I moved here three years ago. I studied Computer Engineering as an undergraduate student and after graduation and spending some time in academia as an intern I decided to get my PhD and enjoy my time as a student a little longer.

In my free time I enjoy hiking, reading books, cooking and photography.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?

I would like to help graduate student to reach out more to GSA and to know more about the resources that are available to them. I would like to use the platform to help graduate students build a network and a community that will help them succeed while being a student and also in their career after graduation.

I also believe that I have the technical knowledge required for this position.

Why are you applying?

I have been eager to be involved in GSA activities during my time at UCR since I saw GSA's potential to bring graduate students together and to help them enjoy their time as a graduate student at UCR. Public Relations Officer is the position that connects GSA to students and I have seen the importance of this role and it's effect on bringing graduate students together and informing them of what is available to them as a graduate student.
Tell us about yourself:
I was born and raised in a small town in western part of India. From a young age, I was driven by my unquenchable curiosity about everything that I saw. Being a Campaigner(ENFP-T) I was always intrigued by new adventures that life threw at me, be it leading my soccer team or capturing my online video gaming team. Being a leader came naturally to me, basically because I grew up watching my father and imbibed a lot of good qualities from him. Having a tech-savvy mind led me to pursue my bachelor's in Computer and MBA with IS concentration. I also did professional work for 4.3 years in the IT industry where I found my innate passion for Product Management and currently on the way to become one in a reputed fortune-100 organization.

What is your platform and what are your priorities?
My priorities are students and how to help them make their lives easier. I want to introduce quick and easy way to connect students with the resources or help them with a question. Introducing an AI bot at the home page of GSA will allow students to access quick links or help guides. the organized and fluent events ensuring safety of the students. Graduate students don’t invest their time in the searching for the resources, help or any opportunities provided by the Student Association, here the process can be improved by providing AI technology and a chat bot to provide all the answers. I will also focus on the events with low turnout of students and how to improve the marketing strategy to prevent them. A more streamlined process of feedback for the GSA where the students who receive any inputs from the GSA are able to quickly share the feedback with the team or the reporting heads of the respective departments, here bad feedback will trigger a warning and this will be reported to the board members of the GSA.

Why are you applying?
Being a PR officer at GSA will provide me with a much needed learning curve comprising of interaction with the students. I am deeply committed to the mission and values of this organization and believe that I have the skills and experience necessary to make a meaningful contribution to its success. I have been impressed by the organization's achievements, and I am excited about the opportunity to play a role in advancing its mission. I have always been drawn to leadership positions and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Based on my professional experience from my past, I believe I have the necessary soft skills, leadership, team-player spirit, and a thirst for growth.
Thank you for reading!

The GSA AY 2023-24 Election will be held from Monday, May 8 through Sunday, May 14. A link will be provided to our voting portal at that time.

Winners will be announced Monday, May 15.

For any questions, please contact GSA Election Committee Chairperson Robert Wilbur at publicity.gsa@ucr.edu.