OUR PLATFORM FOR PROGRESS

FOR GRADUATE SGA PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

GIT

Ishwar D. Ramnarine & Breanna D. Shi

Graduate Student Government

Graduate Student Senators for Executives

2022 - 2023
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A BUZZING VISION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP STATEMENT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHY WE WANT TO LEAD</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR PLATFORM</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Compensation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing Financial Burden</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work-Live-Play Balance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity-Diversity-Inclusion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A BUZZING VISION

Dear Diverse Graduate Students,

As the world around our institution hive evolves, and we live in an era where our classmates have formed satellite hives globally, we have the need to strengthen our academic bond, advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion at the forefront of our endeavors. Collaborating with both our local and global communities, we aim to provide the necessary mechanism to support each buzzing bee is evolving to their greatest potential.

Our multiplicity of majors, cultures, languages, nationalities, expressions, identities, approaches, and visions is what makes our institute community a flourishing habitat for success. With the proper support, which our platform intends to provide, each voice can achieve the necessary nectar from the finest blooms that our Institution and our graduate student government can nurture.

We seek to serve, support, and advocate for you all in blossoming to your fullest capacity as we construct a firmer national and international relationship in the year to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ishwar D. Ramnarine

Breanna D. Shi
LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

To ensure the success of every institute student is met through providing accommodation and representation to the diverse communities that make up our bee family, while simultaneously accounting for equitable and inclusive means of operation and acknowledgment. Our goal is to lead with understanding. We will serve as a catalyst for the change our graduate constituents wish to see in the institute community. We will be the voice that advocates for the student body and work to ensure all perspectives are respected, valued, and when necessary, challenged. From the college level to the department, and social groups to the individual, and even families, friends, and faculty, voices will be heard, and action will be taken.

WHY WE WANT TO LEAD

Our goal as leaders is to equip all graduate students with the necessary skills for diverse expression, acceptance, equitability, inclusivity, and collaboration. As leaders, we will enable the graduate student body to evolve as leaders themselves, to one day transform our professional world with skills acquired in our academic setting. We aim to ensure that every graduate student is comfortable in expressing themselves, and knowing that accommodation will be provided when necessary, and that their diverse expression has a valid place in society.

We will culture the graduate student body through collaborative conditioning allowing for differences to be viewed as diversity and not as adversity. We will secure an equitable playing, working, learning, teaching, and living field where individuals of various niches have a fair opportunity of accomplishment and success, while still being able to conduct their unique lifestyles.

We care about the institute community, and we have a vision for how we will make the lives of graduate students better. Commencing with listening to the voices of those who have long been ignored and integrating students’ lived experience into our advocacy for change will enable us as leaders to transform the graduate student experience into an ever-evolving and progressing organism for the facilitation of enlightenment.

We will run on increasing graduate students’ minimum stipends, decreasing student fees, creating a greater work-live-play balance for graduate students, and bringing the diversity that is embodied in our community to the forefront of the graduate experience. Both of us being graduate student senators have already gained experience in advocating for the graduate student population, and on the executive level, we know that we can make a greater impact in addressing the needs that even the smallest department, or remotest individual may have. It is not an issue that needs to be resolved, but rather a challenge that can artfully be accomplished.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to bringing all of your voices to the forefront of the graduate student experience. In an academic world where we work, live, and play together, in diverse expressions, there is a place for every individual to transform our society for the better, especially when that individual’s voice is not only heard but acted upon.
OUR PLATFORM

Graduate Student Compensation
One of the main changes we envision is increasing stipends for employed graduate students. To account for the effects of inflation, we will advocate for increasing the minimum stipend allotted to each graduate student. Accounting for each college and department, we seek to have a certain uniformity across each of these areas to ensure an equitable distribution of graduate student wages across the institute. We will advocate for both the underpaid and unpaid individuals of RA and TA positions, where there will be a mechanism to account for each role that is served, achieving this by working with the institution for a pay increase for TAs, in addition to their other work responsibilities. Working with these individuals we will gain insight into each department and how we can work better to accommodate both the department and their graduate students.

Reducing Financial Burden
Furthermore, in addressing the financial burden that many students face, we aim to decrease fees that disproportionately impact the graduate student experience in an unnecessary manner. To ensure that the necessary fees are being directly distributed to the graduate student body’s benefit, as determined by the students in collaboration with the institute. We will work for a reduction of the student parking fee, and decrease the health care cost, even advocating for it as a universally fee free system campus wide.

Work-Live-Play Balance
Moreover, striking a balance of the work-live-play experience for graduate students is not only important for their mental but also physical health. We will ensure greater transparency and communication to allow graduate students to take advantage of necessary policies when they need time off. It is important to account for both the mental and physical aspects of every graduate student and ensuring that there are adequate resources available to graduate students is a common service that should be available to the graduate student population at any time. This is especially true when there is a lack of councilors, and a lack of a variety of councilors that can focus on the unique stresses faced by graduate students. There should be a minimum time off available to all employed graduate students, as well as greater allyship training in the workplace. We will also work to have greater incentives, especially in relationship to graduate student matriculation.

Equity-Diversity-Inclusion
Diversity is all around us, and especially at our institution, where international diversity, local communities, and unique identities all meet in a melting pot of techies, creating and advocating in an environment that is safe, facilitative, and supportive of collaboration between these groups is essential. Through the availability of venues and events, we aim to create a setting where these unique groups can express themselves freely and enlighten the graduate student population of the diversity that is within their community and will carry over in the professional world. We will ensure that there is accommodation made for these diverse groups and enable positive action to be taken when necessary.

Vision
All in all, as being from diverse backgrounds ourselves, we will enable the graduate student population at our institution to be more expressive and accepting than ever before. Ensuring that there is equity, diversity, inclusion, expression, and support available to all. Together in a hive, which draws upon the world’s nectar, buzzing bee students can accomplish anything!