

**Georgia Institute of Technology
Graduate Student Government Association**

**Executive Review
Fall 2020**



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Student Government Association Mission

The Student Government Association's mission is to empower student organizations, embody student opinions, preserve student integrity, and enrich the student experience.

President

Graduate Student Body President: Lea Harris (she/her), lea.harris@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **Covid-19 Recovery Task Force**, *created in April 2020 and charged with the mission of leading Georgia Tech operations in the reopening of facilities and laboratories and returning to in-person instruction.*
 - Helped lead the creation, release, and presentation of the “Undergraduate and Graduate Student Return to Campus Survey - Summer 2020” and “Classroom Experience Survey and Focus Groups - Fall 2020.”
 - Summary reports of these can be found at <https://comm.gatech.edu/moving-tech-forward/surveys>. Results from these student surveys have shaped SGA advocacy and decisions made within the Task Force.
 - Provided weekly critical student updates and advocacy to the task force as it pertains to student life, academic services, campus services, on campus Covid-19 testing, and preparation for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.
 - Continued advocacy and elevating international student concerns around access to educational resources during Covid-19 and the negative impact of the changes to OPT and DHS/ICE rulings this summer and fall.
 - Supported the Fall 2020 graduate student town hall and helped moderate the all students and family Spring 2021 town hall.
 - Collaborated with Georgia Tech Human Resources and Health Initiatives in critical student needs around mental health and support systems for working students and the overall student body.
- **Graduate Faculty Council**, *council of broader college units moderated by the Vice Provost of Graduate Education and Faculty Development for the purpose of discussing graduate student and campus-wide needs.*
 - Led discussion around faculty mentorship and advising needs, advocating for campus-wide updates for feedback and systems of support, accountability, and understanding student support prior and post pandemic.
- **Mental Health Joint Allocations Committee**, *manages the dispersal of the \$1M fund allocated from SGA and Georgia Tech administration in October of 2017 for mental health related initiatives across campus.*
 - Internal discussion with committee members around the future of committee expansion to include mental health professionals and key campus stakeholders.
 - Supported committee through external discussions with Dean Stein and President Cabrera to potentially extend the committee charter past June 2021.
 - Worked with the GT Legal Team to update allocations process and procedure to ensure content neutral practices and decisions in order to continue allocations.
- **Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee**, *charged with reviewing the current mandatory fee levels and making recommendations for fee levels for the upcoming fiscal year.*
 - Student committee members and SGA have highlighted the importance of and are committed to not raising aggregate mandatory student fee levels for students in FY22, especially with the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- SGA advocated for the increase of the Student Activity Fee by \$10 per semester per student, an increase intended to better support the growing needs of student organizations.
- All unit presentations and meeting details from this semester can be found [here](#) and student representative statement found [here](#).
- **Georgia Tech Police Department Reform Efforts**
 - During Summer 2020, supported efforts to meet with GTPD and build a system of reform around current training practices, policies, data transparency, and outreach to engage with a diverse community and understand student experiences.
 - Advocated and participated in the initial phase of student engagement in the prospective GTPD hiring processes.
- **Internal Student Advocacy**
 - Co-writing of Graduate Executive Leadership [letter](#) on behalf of SGA in response to the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in May 2020 and supported a joint Graduate and Undergraduate SGA [statement](#) in support of Black Lives Matter and charges for racial justice within Georgia Tech along with continued necessary campus engagement and discussions around necessary changes from the Institute.
 - Led a platform discussion with the new Provost, Steve McLaughlin, and a coalition of graduate student leaders across campus to provide a baseline for graduate student needs in academics and services on the institute level.
 - Led faculty discussions around graduate student advising, mentorship, and engagement needs to the Faculty Senate and Academic Unit Leadership.
 - Co-leading a joint GSGA and GT Alumni Association effort to develop graduate engagement media aimed at incoming graduate students to learn more about Georgia Tech history and traditions.
 - Leading discussions with online MS students to determine support systems and advocacy from SGA and the institute.
- **External Student Advocacy**
 - International Student Advocacy: Following the examination of the executive order to change and suspend the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program in the Summer of 2020, Graduate and Undergraduate SGA elevated international student concerns regarding the negative impacts to H1B/OPT/Work Visa status to Georgia Tech administrators and government affairs representatives. GSGA signed onto a public letter to the President of the United States regarding the detriments to the international population from the changes to the OPT program.
 - SGA partnered with Georgia Tech International Ambassadors to advocate against the September 25, 2020 rule proposed by the Department of Homeland Security that would arbitrarily limit international student visa lengths and place additional restrictions on student visas based on an individual's country of origin. You can read the letter sent to Senators Perdue and Loeffler [here](#).
 - Title IX Advocacy: Following the Department of Education's reforms to Title IX sexual assault complaint procedure, Undergraduate and Graduate SGA partnered with other University System of Georgia SGAs to successfully lobby the University System of Georgia to adopt a survivor-focused Title IX procedure that prioritizes the mental health and well-being of survivors. Our new Georgia Tech policy can be accessed [here](#). You can read our advocacy letter to USG [here](#).

- GA Legislative Advocacy: Presented on October 15th to GA Legislative Staff, with the Undergraduate SGA President, an overview of the impacts of the pandemic and legislation on funding and international students, the state of the student body and its contribution to the GA community, and needs of continued support from the Federal Government.
- **SGA Policy Update and GSGA Restructuring**
 - In August 2020 the University System of Georgia mandated Georgia Tech to adopt a new financial allocations policy, effective immediately, to ensure content neutral practices and decisions. This change relocated funding allocation responsibilities from the Graduate Student Senators to the Joint Allocations Committee. Since this enactment, GSGA has taken this as an opportunity to review our internal structure and how it can best serve the student body, we have entered into a partnership with Georgia Tech Strategic Consulting to evaluate our advocacy and find opportunities of improvement.
 - **Committee for Strategic Assessment and Navigation (CSAN)**, a graduate SGA ad-hoc committee charged with reviewing the long-term function and operating procedures of the GSGA.
 - Acting as a voting member from the GSGA executive branch and supported the committee in creating a constructive outline around the future goals of GSGA as it pertains to how it serves the student body.
- **JED Campus Team**
 - Georgia Tech is entering into the second year of a four year long assessment and implementation program with The JED Foundation, an external organization that helps schools evaluate and strengthen their mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention programs and systems to safeguard individual and community health. This semester, the campus team received the Campus Feedback Report and from it is now in the process of creating a strategic plan, aligned with the Institute's new strategic plan, within identified sub-group committees.
- **Faculty Governance Committees**
 - Faculty Executive Board, ex officio member
 - Faculty Senate, ex officio member
 - Georgia Tech Advisory Board, ex officio member
 - Georgia Tech Alumni Association Board of Trustees, ex officio member
 - Georgia Tech Athletics Association Board of Trustees, voting member
 - Georgia Tech Athletics Association Academic Committee, voting member
 - Georgia Tech Athletics Association Student Advisory Board, ex officio member
 - Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Committee, voting member
 - Georgia Tech Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, ex officio member
 - Naming Committee, voting member
 - Faculty Services Committee, ex officio member
- **Search Committee Participation**
 - Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, completed with the selection of Provost Steven McLaughlin

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue advocacy and support for the student body needs throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, with a special focus on graduate student mental health and support.
- Solidify efforts for increased stipends and advocating for not raising the mandatory student fee level in FY 22.
- Support and elevate student-led Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives to the administrative level.
- Work with administration to build tangible efforts to increase mentorship support and better advisor/advisee relationships with graduate students.
- Continue to set up a framework for SGA's internal restructuring efforts and support the different GSGA branch initiatives to serve the student body in Spring 2021.

Committee Memberships

- Graduate Convocation Event Planning Committee
- Special Events Student Advisory Board
- Student Center Advisory Board
- Alcohol and Other Drug Committee
- Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Joint Allocations Committee
- Committee for Strategic Assessment and Navigation
- Graduate Resource Information Network

Executive Vice President

Graduate Executive Vice President: Jay McKinney, jmckinney@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **Covid-19 Response**

- Drafted a [letter](#) with Graduate and Undergraduate SGA leadership to advocate for student needs during the pandemic in July 2020.
- Met with President Cabrera, Provost Bras, and other members of SGA leadership to discuss student concerns during the Covid-19 pandemic in July 2020.
- Served as a student member of the Health and Safety Task Force during the summer of 2020 and provided feedback on campus re-opening and closure plans. Advocated for a clear, coherent campus closure plan that is based on scientific evidence.
- Signed onto a petition with other SGA members and campus activists during the summer of 2020 to demand that Georgia Tech prioritize scientific evidence and protect the health of students, staff, faculty, and essential workers.

- **Internal Student Advocacy**

- Co-writer of Graduate Executive Leadership [letter](#) on behalf of SGA in response to the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in May 2020.
- Supported a joint Graduate and Undergraduate SGA [statement](#) in support of Black Lives Matter and charges for racial justice within Georgia Tech, engaged with SGA's joint leadership in discussions around current and necessary efforts by the Institute in order to address systemic disparities, and continued to elevate concerns from Black Student Organization leaders to administrators.
- Co-leading a joint GSGA and GT Alumni Association effort to develop a graduate engagement media to learn more about Georgia Tech history and traditions.

- **External Student Advocacy**

- Title IX Advocacy: Partnered with undergraduate SGA and other University System of Georgia SGAs to successfully lobby the University System of Georgia to adopt a survivor-focused Title IX procedure that prioritizes the mental health and well-being of survivors. Our new Georgia Tech policy can be accessed [here](#). You can read our advocacy letter to USG [here](#).

- **Georgia Tech Police Department Reform Efforts**

- During Summer 2020, supported efforts to meet with GTPD and build a system of reform around current training practices, policies, and data transparency.
- Advocated and participated in initial efforts to engage students in the prospective GTPD hiring processes and sat in on prospective officer interviews.

- **Mental Health Joint Allocations Committee**

- Internal discussions with committee members around the future of committee expansion to include mental health professionals and key campus stakeholders.
- Participant in JED campus team outreach visit.

- **Constitution and By Laws Ad Hoc Committee**

- Committee formed, consisting of members of legislative branch, to review and revise governing documents (By-Laws and Constitution) of the graduate SGA.

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue Covid-19 advocacy efforts.
- Better survey members of the graduate student body to insure SGA is best addressing major issues/concerns facing graduate students.
- Continue to work with administration to provide better mentorship support and advisor/advisee relationships for graduate students.
- Assist in finalizing SGA's internal restructuring efforts for the 2020-21 academic year.

Committee Memberships

- Mental Health Joint Allocations Committee
- JED Campus Team
- Graduate Resource Information Network
- Georgia Tech History Committee
- Student Health Advisory Committee
- Student Honor Committee

Chief of Staff

Marc Muehlberg, marc.muehlberg@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **Constitution and Bylaw Review**
 - Chaired a committee of senators and executive members to review the governance structure of the organization
 - Produced comprehensive recommendations to revise the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization
 - Sorted out legal status of the organization with the Institute to ensure implementation of desired governance changes
- **GSGA Elections**
 - Oversaw the general election for graduate students senators in Fall 2020
- **Coordination of Institute Committee Representation**
 - Managed the recruitment and appointment of graduate student representatives to various institute committee's
 - Established a reporting and documentation structure to enable information exchange between the graduate executive cabinet and committee representatives
- **Mandatory Student Fee Process**
 - Served as student co-chair of the Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee
 - Organized student engagement with various fee stakeholders to produce a consolidated fee change proposal, ultimately adopted as recommendation to the President by the Institute committee
- **Support of the President and Cabinet Members**
 - Supported a variety of projects and tasks of individual cabinet members

Spring 2021 Goals

- **GSGA Elections**
 - Will be overseeing the special election for graduate student senator beginning of Spring 2021 and the presidential elections mid-Spring 2021.
- **Restructuring Efforts**
 - Serving as executive representative on Committee for Strategic Assessment and Navigation (CSAN)
 - Providing expertise from multi-year service in the Graduate Student Government to educate restructuring decisions
- **Support of the President and Cabinet Members**
 - Supporting a variety of projects and tasks of individual cabinet members

Committee Memberships

- Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee, Student Co-Chair
- Policy Steering Committee

Vice President of Academic & Research Affairs

Nettie Brown, nettie.brown@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **COVID-19 Response**

Served on committees and voiced graduate student opinions and concerns

- **Academic Task Force**

- Attended weekly meetings
- Brainstormed ideas on how to return to campus in the fall
- Drafted documents on student return and faculty return including
 - Class modalities
 - Changes in academic schedule
 - Faculty-Student expectations
 - Faculty and Student accommodations (for COVID)

- **Research Task Force**

- Attended weekly meetings
- Participated in subgroups to draft documents on area specific needs (i.e. maker spaces, breakout rooms, research labs)
- Advocated for undergraduate and graduate research continuation.

- **GTPD Reform**

- Attended meetings with GTPD and SGA leadership to:
 - Understand current rules and regulations within GTPD
 - Understand training procedures for GTPD
 - Brainstorm ideas for more transparency on GTPD records and trainings
 - Discuss methods for more student involvement

- **Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee**

- Advocated for increased graduate student stipends and mandatory yearly increases
- Finalized amendments to current graduate student stipend bylaws for Dr. Ferri's office

- **Graduate Faculty Council**

- Proposed ideas for increasing faculty/student and advisor/mentee relationships

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue COVID-19 Response efforts
 - Spring planning
 - Fall planning
- Continue to advocate for graduate student stipend increases
- Continue conversations with Dr. Ervin on providing compensation for students serving on institute-wide committees
- Be active and engaged in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts on campus

Committee Memberships

- Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee
- Graduate Curriculum Committee
- Graduate Faculty Council

Vice President of Campus Services

PJ Jarquin, paulino.jarquin@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **COVID-19 Response:**
 - Worked with the Health and Safety Task Force to ensure opening procedures were safe for graduate students.
 - Ensured that graduate researchers would have access to personal hand sanitizer and face masks.
 - Worked for testing sites to be accessible for night custodial staff and graduate students who conducted night research.
 - Advised on testing sites to be equally accessible to students of color and international students through strategic positioning of sites.
- **Jackets-Protect-Jackets Campaign:**
 - Consulted the campaign for strategic messaging to encourage personal health practices such as weekly testing, hand washing, and mask wearing
 - Advised on how the marketing campaign would be most effective at reaching all students.
 - Assisted in ideation for campaign materials such as signage, social media posts, and testimonials.
- **NOVID App Team:**
 - Offered guidance on design, functionality, and aspects of the Novid App to assist in contact tracing efforts
- **GTPD Change Discussions:**
 - Participated in meetings to understand how GTPD recruits new officers, train new officers, and how they provide continuous training for current officers.
 - Offered ideas on how to be transparent about officer-student interactions to the students body.
 - Currently working on an updated website to display this information as well as procedures to ensure this information is updated on a regular basis.
 - Offered ideas on types of training officers should be taking as well as to be transparent about their recruitment process.
- **Meal Swipe Donation Program:**
 - Worked with USGA to try to bring a meal swipe donation program to campus.
 - Met with several stakeholders to discuss possible solutions to tackle food insecurity on campus.
 - Continuing talks to include the program with new Aramark meal plans.
- **LGBTQIA Health Survey:**
 - Teamed up with GT's LGBTQIA Resource Center, along with Stamps, to develop a survey to understand the health needs of LGBTQIA students.
 - Plans for the survey will be released next year

Spring 2021 Goals

- **Improved LGBTQIA Health Outcomes:**
 - Data from health Survey will provide useful points to improve care at Stamps for LGBTQIA students
 - Create an LGBTQIA health tab on Stamps' website that outlines services offered at Stamps that might not be readily available.
 - Offer changes to Stamps about ways to be more inclusive for LGBTQIA students.
 - Host a townhall-style event to discuss the unique health needs of LGBTQIA students and how GT can improve them.
- **Free GT Health Insurance Push:**
 - Develop a roadmap for GT to provide free health insurance for graduate students such as GTAs/GRAs.
 - Meet with stakeholders to have input of idea.
 - Part of a broader plan to increase stipends and graduate student wellness.
- **Wellness Days:**
 - Working to have a multi-faceted approach for wellness in absence of spring break.
 - Events will be geared for undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty to take advantage of.
 - Events will be equally accessible to on campus, virtual, and international students.

Committee Memberships

- Library Advisory Committee
- CRC Advisory Committee
- Midtown Connector Advisory Committee

Vice President of Communications

Afra Toma, atoma6@gatech.edu

Committee Members

1. Emma Stutts (*estutts3@gatech.edu*)
2. Maria Romero-Creel (*mfr3@gatech.edu*)
3. Keion Howard (*khoward39@gatech.edu*)

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- Expand Social Media Platforms
 - Instagram: [@gtgradsga](#)
 - Reddit: [@georgiatechgsga](#)
 - GSGA Website:
<https://www.sga.gatech.edu/graduate-student-government-association/>
- #JacketsProtectJackets Marketing Campaign & Health Initiatives
- COVID-19 Testing and Mask Distribution Promotion
- Game Night v1 Promotion
- Weekend with Grad SGA Promotion
 - Cook with Us events
 - Game Night v2
- Committee Search Promotions
 - Events and Communications
 - CRIDC
 - Student Life Committee
- Library and Student Health Safety Discussions
 - Ensure students' safe return to libraries
 - Promote library events
- Promote Trans101 virtual training event

Spring 2021 Goals

- Increase followers on social media accounts
- Create Twitter: [@gtgradsga](#)
- Promote new platforms on Daily Digest and Graduate Institute Orientation
- Promote CRIDC events and poster sessions
- Promote Senate Special Election
- LGBTQIA+ Health Survey Distribution
- Work with Events Committee to promote Game Night v3

Committee Memberships

- Faculty Honors Committee
- Library Advisory Committee
- Consultant to CRIDC Committee
- Consultant to Events Committee

Vice President of Events

Raghav Apoorv, raghav.apoorv@gatech.edu

Committee Members:

1. Conan Zhao (*zhaoc16@gatech.edu*)
2. Darshan Sarojini (*sdarshan@gatech.edu*)
3. Shubham Jamdade (*sjamdade3@gatech.edu*)
4. Varun Sethi (*vsethi6@gatech.edu*)
5. Xiaoshu Liu (*lxs@gatech.edu*)

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- Organized Virtual GameNight v1.0, set up an online platform on Discord for graduate students to connect and play online board games. Facilitated with a plethora of online premium board games and created game specific student led groups
- Organized Weekend with Grad SGA, it comprised of -
 - Virtual Game Night v2.0
 - Live Cooking, we had students sign up to become chefs and we had two sessions of Graduate Students teaching other Graduate Students cook their secret recipe. We also had prizes for the students cooking alongside, and the chefs
- Raised \$10K to support our efforts during the fall events
- Collaborated with different Georgia Tech student led organizations
- Participated in Teams for Tech Program, and got selected into the Program for two of our events:
 - Snuggle and Cuddle with Pets - won the second runner's up in the Pitching competition: This event constitutes of bringing in pets on campus and letting students play with them and forget about their stressful lives for a while
 - Illuminate Tech: This event constitutes of bringing in people from Georgia Tech, faculty member, administrative staff, students, and they share their stories with fellow students
- Teams for Tech Program is helping us shape both the events for us to be able to better organize for the events, we are working with a mentor regarding the logistics, operations and planning of the event
- Part of the organizing team for the Graduate Student Convocation, for the first time we had a virtual Convocation

Spring 2021 Goals

- Spring Picnic, collaborating with SCPC to co-organize Sting Break and Spring Picnic
- Organize a workshop on mindfulness in collaboration with specialized groups that take sessions on meditation and mindfulness
- Focus on organizing more in-person events ensuring all social distancing protocols
- Organize Illuminate Tech
- Organize Grad Gala
- Organize Live Cooking v2.0
- Organize Virtual GameNight v3.0

Vice President of Government Affairs

Chandler Thornhill, chandlerthornhill@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- Increasing Voter Registration and Awareness
 - Worked with Voter Engagement Committee to increase student voting on campus. This meant planning ways of getting voting information to students through tabling and through social media
 - Voting team captains were recruited amongst student body to further help with information
 - Worked with BBUGS to help table and raise awareness
- Voting Precinct
 - Worked with Voter Engagement to make preparations for McCamish Pavilion precinct and aid in the planning
- Raise Awareness of policy changes
 - Helped to spread information about various changes that could affect the student body such as the DHS changes in immigration policy and changes to Optional Practical Training
- Interface with the Office of Institute Relations
 - Maintained contact the those in charge of State and Federal Relations to understand policy changes that could affect students and potential fellowships and opportunities for students
- Student Advocacy
 - Tried to join Amicus Briefing related to changes in student visas
 - Participated in letters of advocacy to State representative on behalf of international student community

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue to track changes that could impact students as the administration changes and new legislation is passed
- Continue to find way to advocate for the student body in light of any new changes that may happen regarding international students or otherwise
- Organize town hall to inform students of policies that affect them and ways to be engaged

Committee Memberships

- Voter Engagement Committee
- Mandatory Student Fees Advisory Committee
- Graduate Leaders Meeting
- CRIDC Committee

Vice President of Conference Funds

Vishal Sharma, visharma@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **COVID-19 Task Force:**
 - Served as a student member of the Health and Safety Task Force during the summer of 2020 to provide feedback on campus reopening and closing plans.
- **SEVP Modifications to Temporary Exemptions for Nonimmigrant Students:**
 - Contributed to creating a document to address questions that nonimmigrants students had regarding the SEVP modifications (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nqzBstnJR3EvXVd4xNvPqqVFYcldH6OXDJK3hiawnps/edit?usp=sharing>). This document listed a set of questions for the Office of International Education at Georgia Tech in reference to SEVP modifications that affect F1 and M1 students (dated: 6th July 2020). This is a set of questions that helped clarify the situation for GT grad students who are on F1 visas in Fall 2020.
- **Conference funds:**
 - Updated the conference funds policy. Link to the updated policy: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dhE-C8VtKPZYwpf2-YaYyNepAAsJRswQUyhRs4saGlg/edit?usp=sharing>.
 - Verified and allocated funds to twenty conference funds applications.
 - Verified and approved fourteen expense reports for conference funds.
- **Career development funds:**
 - Created a career development funds policy to accommodate the changes in travels amid the pandemic. Link to the updated policy: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z_TRnfq8go4gqOgShgPsHQ-LkjDZCxaPwtvJpw_WnY/edit?usp=sharing.
 - Verified and allocated funds to twelve career development fund applications.
 - Verified and approved seven expense reports for career development funds.
- **Matching funds:**
 - Initiated discussion with the College of Design to set up matching funds, making the funds-seeking process for students from the college more straightforward and easier.
 - Initiated discussion with the College of Liberal Arts to set up matching funds, making the funds-seeking process for students from the college more straightforward and easier.
- **Updated SGA website:**
 - Created a new web page of conference funds on the SGA website.
 - Migrated the information from the conference funds page on the old SGA website to the new one.
 - Updated the conference funds page with new conference fund and career development fund policies.
 - Updated the steps to apply for conference funds and career development funds to address the confusions that applications had.
- **Academic integrity committee:**
 - Met with the committee members on a monthly basis to discuss ways to promote academic integrity in schools/departments across Georgia Tech.
 - Contributed to creating a document to start conversations with the deans of the

colleges about how to improve communication between faculty and students about academic integrity in their respective courses. This document was a shared space for the committee to put together ideas for questions and comments we have for the respective deans.

- **Presentations/talks:**

- Represented Graduate Student Association at the Graduate Institute Orientation conducted by the Office of Graduate Studies.
- Panelist at “Preparing for Graduate School: Set Yourself Up for Success” conducted by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Spring 2021 Goals

- **Setup matching funds:**

- Setup matching funds with the College of Design:
 - Create a memorandum of understanding with the College of Design to finalize the procedure of matching conference funds.
 - Setup matching conference funds with the College of Design.
- Setup matching funds with the College of Liberal Arts:
 - Create a memorandum of understanding with the College of Liberal Arts to finalize the procedure of matching conference funds.
 - Setup matching conference funds with the College of Liberal Arts.
- Setup matching funds with the College of Computing and College of Business:
 - Start discussion and setup matching funds with the College of Computing and College of Business.
 - Create a memorandum of understanding with the colleges to set up matching funds.
 - Setup matching funds with the colleges.

- **Academic Integrity Committee:**

- Meet with the deans of various colleges to discuss how to promote academic integrity in their respective colleges.
- Discuss ways to promote academic integrity across Georgia Tech with the committee members.
- Create a document with the plans to help prospective committee members to start from where we will leave.

Committee Memberships

- COVID-19 Health and Safety Task Force
- Student Honors Committee
- Academic Integrity Committee

Treasurer

Athulya Ram, athulya@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- GSGA budget submission for FY22
 - FY22 budget was submitted on 10/23/2020 (found [here](#)).
 - Major changes to the budget from FY21:
 - Stipends for the GSGA executive cabinet members will not be funded through the budget anymore according to the new RSO policy. Stipends will be submitted through the Center of Student Engagement.
 - Proposed budget allocates funds for Spring picnic, in addition to the Fall picnic.
 - CRIDC was not included in the budget as the event counts as fundraising, and RSO policy does not allow funding for fundraising events.
- CRIDC internal fundraising
 - The Treasurer and VP of Professional Development collaborated to raise funds for CRIDC from internal GT sources.
 - Funds were requested from the Office of the Provost, College of Engineering, College of Computing, College of Sciences, and the Executive Vice President of Research.
 - Decision was made to expand CRIDC awards to be used towards conference registrations, online classes, certifications and conference travel. Earlier, these awards were restricted as ‘travel awards’.

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue managing the Graduate Legislative Reserve and keep record of GSGA’s financial transactions.
- Review FY22 budgets submitted by RSOs with the Joint Finance Committee.
- Support the GSGA proposed budget at the budget review session.

Committee Memberships

- Joint Finance Committee
- Faculty Benefits Committee

Vice President of Professional Development

Ogun Kargin, ogun.kargin@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **CRIDC Poster Session**
 - Raised over \$30K for Professional Development Awards to be awarded in this year's CRIDC to graduate students from GT Colleges, EVPR and Provost.
 - Recruited GT Leadership and select industry partners to attend and judge the CRIDC poster submissions.
 - Marketed and coordinated the event with GT Grad Studies, VentureLab and GEFD Offices.
 - Negotiated with online poster judging and hosting software vendors.
 - Created a marketing plan to boost participation in this session.
- **CRIDC Career Fair**
 - Fundraised to host an all-online career fair.
 - Invited industry partners to recruit graduate students whose positions align with their research.
- **CRIDC Panel Session**
 - Organized five panels that serve the interest of GT graduate student committee as a whole.
 - Coordinated with graduate student organizations as well as diversity offices to select panelists.

Spring 2021 Goals

- Successfully hold CRIDC Poster Session
- Successfully hold CRIDC Career Fair
- Successfully hold CRIDC Panel Session
- Distribute CRIDC awards
- Secure \$100K budget for CRIDC for the upcoming year
- Establish a wider CRIDC committee for CRIDC 2022
- Create CRIDC main-communications list

Committee Memberships

- 2020-2021 Technology Fee Committee
- 2020-2021 Summer Planning Committee
- 2020-2021 CRIDC Organization Committee

Vice President of Student Life

Yousuf Bootwala, yousuf.boot@gatech.edu

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **COVID-19 Response**
 - Signed onto a petition with other SGA members and campus activists during the summer of 2020 to demand that Georgia Tech prioritize scientific evidence and protect the health of students, staff, faculty, and essential workers
- **Georgia Tech Police Department Reform Efforts**
 - Part of the SGA Executive cabinet which met with GTPD throughout the summer to learn more about their trainings, rules, and current and past practices and specific changes to their policies.
 - Participated in discussions to allow students to participate in the interview process for prospective GTPD officers.
 - This led to three interview sessions that allowed students to engage with new GTPD officer candidates
- **Klemis Kitchen Project**
 - Initiated and participated meetings on the working of Klemis Kitchen, the food pantry of Georgia Tech
 - Initiated discussions on opening the access to Klemis Kitchen to all Georgia Tech students and not requiring proof of need.
 - Setup a virtual walkthrough of the Georgia State University pantry to understand their logistics, funding, and food donations, since they provide access to all students.
 - Started the process to partner with the Atlanta Food Bank to get food donations – applications start in January 2021.
 - Evaluated the logistics by speaking to maintenance and facilities for unrestricted Klemis Kitchen access to all students for Spring 2021.
- **Advising the new Provost**
 - Part of the committee consisting of graduate student who will advise Provost McLaughlin to achieve his goals for the graduate student community
- **GradChats**
 - Started the process of scheduling GradChats sessions – a graduate students led discussion sessions, aimed to promote a sense of community and discussing issues faced by graduate students.
 - Invited applications for GradChats facilitators from the Grad students community. Facilitators guide discussions and questions during GradChats sessions.
 - Received almost 40 applications for facilitators, helping us to serve more graduate students per session (1 facilitator per 10 students in the session)
 - Collaborated with the Women’s Resource Center, specifically Dani Lechner, the Program Coordinator for organizing Women’s specific GradChat sessions.
 - With help from Dani Lechner, held training sessions for facilitators so that they can perform the duties of GradChats facilitators more effectively.

Spring 2021 Goals

- Continue advocating for increased access to Klemis Kitchen for all students at all times
- Plan to get more food donations by partnering with the Atlanta Food Bank to support existing donations to Klemis Kitchen.
- Hold general GradChats sessions biweekly interspaced between women specific GradChats sessions throughout the Spring 2021 semester.
- With inputs of Graduate students from these GradChats sessions, help engage the SGA Leadership with the campus leadership about issues pertaining to graduate students

Committee Memberships

- Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, completed with the selection of Provost Steven McLaughlin
- Student Activity Committee, helped charter around 15 campus organizations by advising them on their constitutions so that they meet Georgia tech policy

Joint Director of Sustainability

Robin Cornel, robin.cornel@gatech.edu

Committee Chair: Mica Landwermeyer

Sub-Committees: Susco Infrastructure, Susco Advocacy, Susco Education

Committee Membership: 50 students, comprised of both undergraduate and graduate students

Summer and Fall 2020 Projects

- **Green Meetings**
 - Transferred and solidified plans for semesterly meetings designed to connect sustainability organizations on campus and facilitate collaboration between student groups.
- **Guide to Sustainability**
 - Finalized the first publication of the GT Guide to Sustainable Living, available on the SGA website under the sustainability page.
 - This document will be updated continually as new information becomes available, or as campus policies around sustainability change.
- **Sustainability Strategic Plan**
 - Drafted a sustainability plan for SGA based on input from numerous student leaders within SGA and without, creating a roadmap for Sustainability Committee's efforts as well as for SGA as a whole.
- **Dining Sustainability**
 - Worked with dining to help understand their impacts on campus sustainability during coronavirus.
 - Ensured that messaging around sustainability was as clear as possible, and worked to resolve issues around packaging usage and disposal.

Spring 2021 Goals

- **Get WasteLess**
 - Transition our annual waste reduction event to a more covid-friendly delivery method.
 - Ensure access to the event is possible both for members of the GT community that are on campus as well as for those that are still unable to be on campus.
 - Ensure that the event still maintains the spirit of past years, so we can continue successfully hosting it both this year as well as in future years.
- **Sustainability Campus Plan**
 - Work with members of the administration to put together a comprehensive sustainability plan for campus, that takes the ideas from the strategic plan and creates clear, actionable goals around sustainability.
 - This plan will give guidance from a high level to different campus departments, allowing them to collaborate on sustainability related projects more easily and effectively.
- **Composting Expansions**
 - Ensure that the planned composting expansions are on track and still happen, so that all campus residents have access to easy, convenient composting services.
 - Verify that messaging and education around composting, both existing and planned expansions, is accurate and clear to minimize contamination and maximize efficacy of services.

- **Sustainability Education**

- Develop and implement a plan for increasing awareness of sustainability on campus, specifically focusing on what individual students can do to help campus become more sustainable.
- Support the inclusion of sustainability overlays in more courses on campus, ensuring that all students have access to sustainability-focused coursework.

Committee Memberships

- Community Market Steering Committee
- Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee
- Student Sustainability Advisory Committee

Recognition of Joint Vice Presidents

The Graduate Student Government Association Executive Review does not include the overviews of the Joint Vice Presidents since it is fully covered in the Undergraduate Student Government Association Executive Review, available [here](#), but wishes to recognize the efforts and support of their joint work.

Joint Vice President of Finance: Joshua Eastwood, finance@sga.gatech.edu

Joint Vice President of Campus Orgs: Joyce Karanouh-Shuler, campusorgs@sga.gatech.edu

Joint Vice President of IT: Cy Heffley, it@sga.gatech.edu