Candidate Statement 2021-2022

President

**Letty Treviño**
**Slate: B.E.A.R.
​Email:**l.lizeth.trevino@gmail.com
**Candidate Statement:**
I am Letty Trevino, a 5th year PhD student in the Spanish & Portuguese Dept., a first-generation, queer, latina student with a disability, and I am running for GSA President.
Concretely, my goals are to...

* Ensure a safe and equitable transition to in-person classes,
* Increase resources and support for our BIPOC Students, International Students, Students with Disabilities, and Parenting Students,
* Improve mentorship standards, and protections for students that report abuse.

During my time at UCLA and as the VP of Academic Affairs, I have...

* Represented graduate students on 20+ committees (discussing academic policy, accessibility, professional development, and COVID),
* Advocated for and won a NRST Tuition Waiver for International Students (working closely with our union),
* Administered the GSA Hardship Fund and lobbied the federal government to increase financial support for graduate students,
* And was always available to advocate for my peers.

Vote for Letty! Vote BEAR!

**Musibau Francis Jimoh**
**Email:**mfjimoh@g.ucla.edu​
**Candidate Statement:**
I am Musibau Francis Jimoh, a 3rd year PhD student in Materials Science of Engineering and I am running to represent ALL graduate students as GSA President.
As your Internal Vice President, my team and I secured a rent-freeze for all graduate and professional students in university housing & worked with UCLA Transportation to make free Bruin bikes available for the UA South graduate community.
As your President I will advocate for changes that support every graduate student’s well-being:

* Housing: Continue advocacy for accessible and affordable housing opportunities for every graduate student; including increased support from the university for international graduate students.
* Transparency: Build transparency between UCLA administration and graduate students by establishing collaborative systems where students’ voices count in decision making.
* Fostering Connection: Create new social events for graduate students to decompress, come together, and forge life-long cross disciplinary professional relationships.

Raise Graduate Student Voice! Vote for Francis!

Vice President of Internal Affairs

**Rodrigo "Froggy" Vazquez**
**Slate: Bruins Breaking Barriers
​Email:**vazquezrodrigo22@gmail.com
**Candidate Statement:**
My name is Rodrigo Vazquez and I am running for VP of Internal Affairs. I am a first generation college student born and raised in Boyle Heights Aliso Village Projects. I identify as a formerly incarcerated student, as someone who was involved in the street life, but I am also a community leader who is using my experiences to organize and create a new culture. I have over ten years of community organizing experience working to end gang violence, police brutality, and mass incarceration. I have created more opportunities for people coming out of incarceration to pursue higher education with the Underground Scholars. I have created policy committees challenging the way local, and state institutions, discriminate against people with prior convictions. As VP Internal Affairs, I plan to continue my work here and increase resources and opportunities for Black and Brown, first generation and formerly incarcerated students.

**Lewis Luo**
**Slate: B.E.A.R.
Email:**lewisluo@g.ucla.edu
**Candidate Statement:**
I am Lewis Luo, a 3rd year DDS Candidate in the School of Dentistry and I am running for GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs.
Concretely, my goals are to...

* Oversee a smooth and well thought-out return to on-campus education,
* Help graduate students utilize the resources at hand to better their academic experiences,
* Ensure that our graduate student constituents’ voices and concerns are heard regarding all matters, including housing, UCPD, and transportation.

During my time in GSA as the Director of Discretionary Funding, I have...

* Worked closely with UCLA SOLE to spread the word about GSA Discretionary Funding to its student organizations,
* Reviewed, revised, and approved virtually every application for funding that met GSA guidelines,
* And coached applicants throughout the funding requisition process and followed up to ensure that funds were made available as promised to student groups that qualified.

Vote for my slate, BEAR!

Vice President of External Affairs

**Neda Ashtari
Slate: B.E.A.R.
​Email:**neda.ashtari@ucla.edu
**Candidate Statement:**
My name is Neda, and I’m a third-year MD/MPP student currently serving as GSA External Vice President. Last year, I set out to do two things: (1) Connect students to the state legislature; and (2) Improve graduate student mentorship.
Over the past year, I’ve accomplished both of those things. This summer, in partnership with Senator Richard Pan’s organization, Protect Us, GSA will launch the Bench to Bill program. This 8-week training will pair graduate students with legislative offices to work on solving district-specific problems. At the program’s culmination, students will present their policy proposals to the legislature in Sacramento.
I’m also proud that the David Geffen School of Medicine has adopted a new Culture of Healthy Mentorship program that I crafted with my peers who’d experienced toxic mentorship and wanted to help craft the solution. The program includes faculty and student training, a mentor database, and a Mentorship Agreement.

**Brandy Compton**
**Slate: Bruins Breaking Barriers
​Email:**brandycompton7@gmail.com
**Candidate Statement:**
Hello Bruins!
I’m Brandy Compton(she/her) and I’m running for Vice President of External Affairs with the Graduate Student Association. I’m a first-generation Latinx student coming from the lovely San Fernando Valley and a first year MSW student with a concentration in social and economic justice. My experience working as an advocate for the house-less community and for Latinx working people has led me to run to be your VP and advocate for you. I will work to elevate the voices & center the needs of students who are often ignored or silenced- BIPOC, LGBTQ, immigrant, house-less and formerly incarcerated students. I will work to increase the voices of graduate students in policy processes that impact your experience at UCLA. With goals of serving with integrity, justice and service, it’s my duty to understand the needs of all Graduate students and elevate those issues to the highest levels of the University.

Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Isabel Benvenuti
Slate: B.E.A.R.
Email:**isabelben@g.ucla.edu
**Candidate Statement:**
I am Isabel Benvenuti, a 3rd year PhD student in the Spanish & Portuguese Department, and I am running for GSA VP, Academic Affairs.
My goals are to…

* Ensure that academic policy remains equitable as UCLA transitions to in-person classes,
* Advocate to remove or change policies that discriminate against students with disabilities,
* Eliminate the GRE requirement UC-wide.

During my time at UCLA and as Director of Academic Senate, I have…

* Represented graduate students in the Academic Senate discussing academic policy and UCLA’s response to COVID,
* Helped reduce graduate student food insecurity by getting graduate programs recognized as CalFresh exempt employment programs,
* Advocated for the removal of inequitable policies, including the GRE requirement and the presence of Incomplete grades on student transcripts

Vote Isabel! Vote BEAR!

**Noel Navarro
Email:**noel.navarro.2022@anderson.ucla.edu
**Candidate Statement:**
My name is Noel Navarro. I’m currently the Academic Representative for the monthly EMBA class of 2022 (Anderson School of Management), and I’m interested in serving my fellow graduate students further as their VP of Academic Affairs. After some discussions with some of my fellow EMBA friends we came to the realization that Anderson and the other graduate programs need to collaborate and interact closer.

As your prospective VP of Academic Affairs one of my objectives, in addition to the traditional role of the VP of Academic Affairs, will be to facilitate closer collaboration between Anderson School of Management, Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Geffen School of Medicine, and the other graduate and undergraduate programs at UCLA. I look forward to adding value to our experience here at UCLA. Thank you.