

Stephen and PJ

2020-2021 Graduate SGA President/Vice-President



Fellow Georgia Tech Graduate Students,

The graduate student experience leaves a lasting mark on all of us. As a body composed of a fantastic array of diverse minds, each graduate student sees campus from their unique vantage point. Just as each of us makes their own excellent academic and research contributions, so each of us experiences individual challenges and struggles in this pursuit. To this end, we have created a platform which we strongly believe will both build on the successes of the past while creating new efforts, experiences, and platforms to improve the well-being of all graduate students.

We look forward to working with all of you as we work to build a stronger and closer Georgia Tech graduate student community.

Sincerely,
Stephen Eick
PJ Jarquin

Platform

Stephen Eick and PJ Jarquin

For President/Vice-President of Graduate SGA

Graduate Student Engagement

- Advocate and outreach to include diverse graduate student representatives on institute-level committees to promote leadership and inclusion for a broader graduate student representation.
- Enhance cooperation with Undergraduate SGA to provide unified student support of meaningful experiences on campus and ensure a smooth transition towards a pre-COVID operational status
- Foster opportunities to enhance graduate student experience and involvement in the long-standing traditions of Georgia Tech.
- Continue collaboration with the Athletics Association and Student Athlete Advisory Board to increase graduate student inclusion within the Athletics supporter community.

Health and Wellbeing

- Continue working with the institute to mandate mental health remains a top priority on campus. Grow visibility of Mental Health Joint Allocation Committee initiatives, GradChats and other internal mental health resources available to graduate students.
- Establish a working relationship with GT's new VP of Student Engagement and Well-being.
- Advocate for a consolidation of all GT health services in one website for a unified student web experience.
- Provide greater awareness about services and coverage of student health insurance, as well as strongly advocate for more affordable off-campus service coverage of mental health and physiological specialist needs.
- Continue to work with administrators in ensuring that SHIP maintains a low cost and covers dental and vision.
- Work with the available resources to identify service barriers which inhibit access to counseling or psychiatry.
- Advocate for an increased presence of departmental counseling resources to support direct accessibility.
- Work with on-campus health and wellness services to increase capability of GT CARE, availability of counseling, and on-campus awareness of mental health and disorders that affect the greater student body.
- Advocate for increased diversity of counseling staff.
- Increase training for counseling staff to facilitate coverage of more mental health disorders.
- Be strong advocates for available nutritional and intuitive eating support which is size inclusive for eating disorder treatments.
- Advocate for free STI testing at Stamps.
- Advocate for a more inclusive experience at Stamps so that all students feel empowered and at ease seeking medical care.

Academic and Professional Development

- Provide all graduate programs and colleges, especially those which are recourse limited, with appropriate professional development networks and resources.
- Create more inclusive recruitment and networking opportunities for the campus student body.

- Continue to enhance graduate student career development and networking opportunities through the growth of CRIDC and graduate student career fair.
- Work with the institute's administration to establish feedback channels for graduate students to increase advisor and educator accountability to student success.
- Extend access and awareness of the institute's professional, leadership, and career development resources to all graduate students.
- Continue being strong advocates and supporters of campus-wide efforts to provide stipend increases for GRAs and GTAs that meet livable wages.
- Continue conversations with institute administration and executive leadership to expand efforts to recruit and retain more Black students, administration, and faculty.
- Advocate for the expansion of GT's Diversity, equity, and inclusion department implicit-bias training campus wide.
- Encourage widespread institution of microaggression training and education on campus.

Student Support

- Build services using Graduate SGA to support and strengthen research efforts across campus.
- Increase collaborative programs and events between Graduate SGA, cultural organizations, service organizations, and other campus organizations to provide visibility and increased campus awareness.
- Encourage student organization involvement and continued engagement for more effective decision making.
- Work to establish more transparent guidelines for student organizations in funding policies and better communicate changes.
- Be stewards of a more sustainable funding structure for student organization budget allocations.
- Engage with current and incoming Georgia Tech leadership to maintain relationships for graduate voices on campus.

Campus Services

- Continue with GTPD about communication and transparency over GTPD training, policies, and overall demographic numbers.
- Continue to advocate for affordable and high quality housing and dining options for graduate students on campus.
- Engage with institute-level leadership to start a conversation about long term sustainable campus infrastructure and moving toward more green initiatives on campus.
- Collaborate with institute-level administration to improve campus-wide communication of the information and services.

Advocacy within the State and Federal Governments

- Continue to advocate for a strong Student Health Insurance Plan for all Georgia Tech students with the Board of Regents.
- Continue to advocate for elimination of the Special Institutional Fee from the mandatory student fees, at both the Board of Regents and state legislature levels.
- Continue to engage with Tech's office of federal relations as well as members of the Georgia legislature to advocate for graduate research and the importance of educational funding on a federal government level.
- Establish communication with Georgia's Federally elected officials to offer input on a range of issues that affect graduate students such as healthcare, rising tuition costs, and federal research funding.