

Position	First	Last	Personal Statement
President	Johannes	Schmitt	<p>One of my main objectives as GPSS President would be to maintain and further improve the liaisons with administrators and other USC organizations (e.g. USG). I think that it is vital that GPSS is perceived as a professional and well-respected organization – and I think that we should always look for new ways to enhance its 'brand recognition'.</p> <p>As President I will be assertive when it comes to advocating for graduate and professional students' interests but also diplomatic when I get to sit at the negotiating table. These political efforts should be sustained by a sound PR and advertising initiative to raise awareness of GPSS among the graduate student body.</p> <p>From a leadership perspective, I would like to (in collaboration with the VP) further increase the communication and interaction between E-board members. I want to work on a strong team that is accountable to the Senate and takes its accountability seriously.</p>
Vice President	Venus	Lee	<p>I, Venus Lee, am running for the office of Vice President because I have the experience, skills and passion to help GPSS fulfill its mission of tackling issues specific to graduate/professional students and providing venues for them to interact beyond the academic realm. During my 5-year tenure at USC, I served as a Supervisor, Advisor, Vice President and Director of Tradition for student governments. Our organizations garnered numerous awards for actively programming, establishing new traditions and successfully serving the needs of our communities. These experiences refined my skills as a responsible, organized, flexible, open-minded and effective communicator, liaison, representative, leader, manager and team player. As a graduate student studying post-secondary administration and student affairs, I am wholeheartedly devoted to enhancing the overall student experience for everyone.</p> <p>I am running for Vice President of GPSS because I have much enjoyed serving as a senator this past year and would like to further serve the graduate population. I have participated in multiple committees, and my enthusiasm and dedication led me to be recognized as Senator of the Month after my very first month as a senator. I am currently working collaboratively with Johannes Schmidt, candidate for President, and Jennifer Reynolds, candidate for Academic Affairs Chair, in developing and organizing the first annual GPSS Poster Symposium.</p> <p>As Vice President, I would contribute my enthusiasm and dedication for promoting graduate student activities and education. I would like to see GPSS have a greater presence on campus and see the involvement of more graduate students in our activities. One specific idea that I would like to see implemented is a column in the Daily Trojans dedicated to graduate students.</p> <p>If elected my initiatives will include increasing visibility and promoting office hours so students know and use the executive board as a resource, and actively seeking out student concerns instead of waiting for problems to arise.</p>
Vice President	Jenny	Novak	<p>I have a long history of student service that will prove invaluable to my GPSS goals. As Attorney General of U.C. Berkeley I maintained the constitution and bylaws and oversaw campus-wide elections. I made substantive changes to the regulatory texts and implemented new procedures to ensure that elections ran smoothly.</p> <p>I possess strong leadership and communication skills and the ability to work as a team member. My past experiences in student office, ranging from appointed chairperson to elected departmental student-staff liaison, helped me learn to work efficiently under stressful conditions.</p> <p>I am a Law Student Senator aspiring to increase my commitment to you and accept more responsibility as your GPSS Executive Board Vice President.</p>
Vice President	Rosezetta	Upshaw	<p>I am eager to serve as Vice President of GPSS because of my deep-rooted passion to advocate for all graduate students at USC. Graduate students are extremely busy and need someone already in tune with their needs to secure resources and allay problems they face.</p> <p>As a student at USC School of Law I am well qualified to chair the Judiciary Committee, one of the VP's primary responsibilities. I have spent this past year developing the skill of analyzing and understanding the complex and varied laws of our nation, which will serve as a solid foundation for updating and improving the GPSS bylaws and constitution.</p> <p>Additionally, my past leadership experience as an undergraduate has possessed me with the ability to balance the interests of multiple groups, a skill necessary to successfully represent the diverse graduate programs at USC.</p>
Vice President	Aliya Hussaini	Yousufi	<p>I love USC and look forward to improving the graduate student experience.</p> <p>My desire to run for the position of Finance Chair runs from my experience as a member of the GPSS Finance Committee and my past work experience in the finance industry. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have learned a great deal about the financial functions and goals of the Graduate Professional Student Senate. This includes but is not limited to a familiarity with the request and recommendation system for allocating funds and the current financial issues in GPSS (e.g. the current debate on travel grants). Further, having worked as an intern in finance I have developed the requisite skills for balancing budgets and making intelligent and responsible decisions regarding monetary matters. These experiences, alongside my enthusiasm for ensuring that the interests of all graduate students are recognized through the Senate's operations, I feel that I stand as a particularly qualified candidate for the Finance Chair position.</p> <p>My interest in Finance dates back to my years in high school, where I excelled in courses like economics and mathematics. When I was a junior I practiced pharmacy at our own family owned store, and took up duties both as a pharmacist and accounts manager. Currently, my work at USC EH&amp;S department entails assistance in bookkeeping and campus ergonomics. As a result, it seemed only logical that I pursue a position as Finance chair.</p>
Finance Chair	Blake Braden	Horn	<p>I am highly aware that the responsibilities of this position are key to successful execution of GPSS activities and of eventual personal growth of my fellow graduate student body, hence I intend to discharge my duties earnestly and to the best of my ability. I am thankful to my predecessors for their significant contributions and I hope you will give me the privilege to serve my fellow graduate students in this capacity.</p> <p>Rishabh Jain</p>
Finance Chair	Rishabh	Jain	<p>I am a 2nd year graduate student in Engineering. I have been a GPSS Senator for my dept. for 2007-08 and later on the Vice President at Viterbi Graduate Student Association. I had been responsible for organizing &amp; leading events for VGSA. As recognition of our teamwork, VGSA was awarded "Organization of month" in October. I am also Committee member of GPSS Academic Affairs Committee for 2008-09. I have also been involved with another USC religious student organization as its President since August 2007. I have an MBA degree &amp; 4 years of prior experience in Finance &amp; Technology and hence confident of my skills needed for the Finance Chair. I think GPSS is a natural progression as far as I am concerned with regard to my previous roles with USC student organizations. I hope to be good fit &amp; expect to provide leadership &amp; vision for the upcoming challenging year</p>
Finance Chair	Harikrishnan	Jayamohan	<p>I am Amrita, an international graduate student. I am a highly organized person who has strong work ethics and at the same time I enjoy what I do. I am currently a senator for the CS Dept at VGSA, the Technology Chair at CSGO and the VP of Finance at the Association of Indian Students.</p>
Finance Chair	Amrita	Agawal	<p>I would like to stand for the post of ER in order to encourage more people to become a part of our GPSS family. There maybe many who might be interested but do not know how to become a part of GPSS, I would like to provide more exposure to them. Also I would fulfill all the duties of my post as stated in the Bylaws of the constitution.</p>
Elections & Recruitment Chair	Elena	Taryor	<p>I think that GPSS does a wonderful job of bringing together graduate and professional students from different disciplines and with extremely diverse backgrounds. As a law student, of course, I'm really passionate about advocacy. So, I strongly believe leadership that is inclusive and representative of the diversity of the student population is an important step in providing a high level of service to the graduate community.</p> <p>If elected to serve as the GPSS Election and Recruitment Chair for the 2009-2010 school year, I hope to continue to build on GPSS's tradition of inclusivity. I also hope to brainstorm creative, new ways to increase GPSS's visibility among the graduate population while recruiting even more students to give input on GPSS's activities. Many know that GPSS is a wonderful resource for funding, but I want to reach out to students who will help booster GPSS's reputation as an organization that fosters community.</p> <p>Throughout my entire academic career I have been involved in planning/event committees that benefited the student community. While an undergraduate I was a peer intern, where my job consisted of planning educational, charitable and social programs to promote involvement and awareness. At USC I currently serve on the programming board for URSC. In this capacity I have planned/assisted with several campus wide events. I also personally created and executed an educational wellness event. I believe that through fun and engaging activity we can promote graduate student involvement in school activities and also support several diverse campus causes. I am very creative and truly enjoy planning fun and innovative events. I am very committed to serving my graduate peers in a way that can directly benefit them and I believe that this opportunity is the perfect catalyst for programming that graduate students can directly benefit from.</p>
Elections & Recruitment Chair	Erin	Askin	<p>During my voluntary activities in many student organizations, Vice President of Iranian Graduate Students' Association and president of Material Research Society, I have accumulated a wealth of information and experience regarding social programs and student life at USC. My primary focus and concern was to lead and collaborate with other volunteer officers and members and organizing social and academic activities and events. Being closely involved in the social programming committee and events for past two years and dealing with graduate students at a personal and close level, which helped me understand different perspectives, cultural differences, and their need, encouraged me to apply for social programming position. I am looking forward to meeting with other GPSS officers and working with them. Here are examples of some extra activities that I strongly intend to do: sport day, formal night and gala on "boat", monthly movie screening, fund raising form out campus sources.</p> <p>The Trojan Legacy is entrenched in the welcoming hand of the Trojan Network. As graduate students, our Network is often limited to our respective degree programs, but it is extremely important that we continue the Trojan Legacy by extending our Network to the graduate community at large. Creating stress-free and convenient environments that encourage networking while helping graduate students restore some of the fun lost in last month's hectic schedule is key. My goal would be to give us monthly gatherings that are convenient, fun, and full of opportunities to meet new people through activities such as paintballing and go cart racing and through events such as mixers, talent nights, poetry nights and whatever else we can think up!</p>
Social Programming Chair	Ehsan	Barjasteh	<p>A man is social animal and loved to be a part of society.</p>
Social Programming Chair	Nadia Irene	Lataillade	<p>I enjoy socializing, meeting new people and to explore human mind. It always has been my passion to gather people from different backgrounds on same platform. My fascination landed me up at the position of "Event Manager" in my under graduation where I organized events like seminars, cultural fests, tech-talk etc. Such efforts made students from different colleges to form their social networking groups, share knowledge and of course to have tons of entertainment. Often, I have been able to work on my own initiative, which I have enjoyed immensely, it has allowed me to use my own ideas and thoughts but working in a group has its own charm and fun. I enjoy meeting my responsibilities with a smile. I believe that all our actions are determined, and one can achieve them with strong determination.</p>
Social Programming Chair	Anupama	Mann	<p>Hey friends, I am Rajat Shah - Master student in EE Dept. of VSE. I am currently EE senator in VGSA. As a senator, I have accomplished all the duties given to me and I was one of the most active senators throughout the year. For that I was awarded the best senator award by VGSA. I, alongwith programming committee at VGSA had arranged various events last term which were huge success &amp; also am leading our annual program "Dancing with the Engineers". I am also on the advisory board of VGSA. I know the working of GPSS is different from VGSA. But I am part of GPSS Social Programming Committee since last year and also have attended the GPSS meetings regularly. So I have good knowledge of how things work in GPSS. I am socially active person so I think I am more befitting for this position (No offence) and thats why I have only applied for this position. I would like to continue on the footsteps of Amelia, who has been doing tremendous work since last 2 years.</p>
Social Programming Chair	Rajat M.	Shah	

Social Programming Chair	Beiping	Zhao	<p>Who I am:</p> <p>1th year graduate student, in Electrical Engineering</p> <p>Previous relevant experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretary General: USC Chinese Students and Scholars Association</li> </ul> <p>2008-Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice President: The International Office, Montana State University 2006-2007</li> <li>President: The Academic Department Students' Union, Jilin University</li> </ul> <p>2005-2006</p> <p>I am Beiping Zhao, I am excited to run for the Social Programming Chair position. Having two semesters experience at USC, I truly understand the importance of Social Events. I believe that with my past relevant experience, I know more about how to improve our social events, plan our social events more successfully and make more students get involved and benefit from GPSS.</p> <p>We are all products of society as a whole; and have, at some point or another, drawn and benefited from legacies left behind by generations past. Giving back to society and adding to this pool of resources that humanity can draw upon - is as noble and lofty an ambition as one could hope to aspire to. This is my belief and if provided with this opportunity, I would strive to utilize this platform to serve our immediate community to the best of my abilities. Having headed a college debating society which has organized a multitude of programs, including a bunch of community service-centric ones, I have adequate experience, as well as a host of fresh ideas that could serve to catapult GPSS to even greater heights.</p> <p>I Shwetambari Gulhane, a Masters graduate Student at Computer Science Department USC wish to contest for the 2009 GPSS Elections as a Community and Special Events Chair. I have been a committee member of Public Relations committee during the last term. During my undergraduate studies I have been involved as an active member of NSS (National Social Service Scheme) for organizing various community service events. I have received accolades for my Go Green drives and education for girls from poor families while being as an executive member of JOSH a social organization of TechMahindra, India. I have organized various blood donation drives, AIDS awareness programmes among the college students, educational programmes for the under privileged poor children. I believe that my previous work with NSS and JOSH will help me to encourage participations from USC community towards the needy community around USC and work for the betterment of those people.</p> <p>Hello USC Graduate and Professional students!</p> <p>If you could take a quick break from studying and close your eyes, let's go on a trip into the community.</p> <p>Imagine knocking on a door and being greeted by a toothless-grinning grandma, you hand her a tray of hot fresh food as she thanks you with a handshake. Imagine spooning generous slices of meatloaf at record speed to accommodate the long line at the soup kitchen. You feel a pat on your back, and surprisingly it's not yourself, but a peer, a friend. Servicing the community brings people together, and provides wonderful opportunities to enhance the Graduate and Professional student's experience at USC.</p> <p>Those festive imageries were some memories of programs I coordinated throughout years of experience with volunteering, programming and coordinating community events.</p> <p>My name is Christine Kim and I am running for the Community Service and Special Events chair.</p> <p>I am running for Community Service &amp; Special Events Chair because I believe I am capable of doing a job my peers would benefit from. A proponent of community involvement since high school, I remain an avid volunteer. My personal experience and passion will translate into the programs and events chosen. During high school and undergraduate studies, I did not attend schools that had organizations such as GPSS available to the student body. This present opportunity has me eager to use the skills culled in my professional life as a Girl Friday, event planner, administrative and personal assistant, Office Manger and now, as a graduate worker in the Office of Protocol &amp; University Events. I want to put this experience to the benefit of our organization's members and non-members, because the goal is to create exciting reasons for graduate and professional students to get involved in our Trojan community!</p> <p>My name is Mahmood Shirooyeh, and I am a graduate student at USC majoring in Materials Science. I would like to nominate myself to be a GPSS officer for the year 2009-2010.</p> <p>I have been closely involved with our graduate student community during the past years. I have served as a Materials Research Society (MRS) officer at USC during the last year and also I served as the GRUF officer to provide a better life experience for the residents of Graduate, Upperclass and Family housing in more than 10 USC housing buildings. Considering my past experiences at USC, I am certain that I have much to offer to the GPSS in the realm of community and special events.</p> <p>At the end, I'd like to thank all the GPSS officers for their great contribution during the last year to making such an outstanding and enjoyable year of friendship.</p> <p>As an undergraduate, I served as the Staff Coordinator of my college radio station for two consecutive terms. It was there that I developed a true appreciation for the art of communication. The programming, spanning a broad range of music genres, reflected the diversity of the staff. The individual interactions provided me with the skills to communicate more effectively. My experience has given me the passion to represent the graduate and professional students of USC as the Communications Chair.</p> <p>My goals are to promote GPSS on both campuses and enhance visibility of the organization amongst all graduate and professional students. Moreover, I will work to facilitate recognition and recruitment by expanding external communication efforts through broadcast, print, and other media. Lastly, I will uphold the responsibility to keep the graduate and professional student body well-informed as it is vital to the overall experience at USC. The major areas of responsibility of communications chair are, to serve as the switchboard for all communications between outside individuals/departments and executive board, to maintain and update the GPSS website, to maintain record of minutes of senate and executive board proceedings, and to send out weekly newsletters to the graduate student body. I believe that I have been able to fulfill all the above mentioned areas of responsibility in an optimal manner over the last year. I have upgraded GPSS website to a completely new format, worked in close conjunction with the Finance Chair and made the funding application pages much more functional and easy-to-follow; and completely over-hauled the HSC pages. I made a concerted effort to put up information about all senators on the GPSS website, for which I took pictures of all senators, edited them and put them on the website. There are still a few areas which can be improved considerably (e.g. our RSVP system for GPSS programs needs overhaul as well as some additional multimedia will jazz up the website) LASTLY, I think my experience of having worked in GPSS for three years will help the new Executive board in running GPSS affairs efficiently and smoothly.</p> <p>I am running for the office of Communications Chair. I am in my third year of graduate study at USC and I work full-time at USC performing many of the same functions required of the GPSS Communications Chair. As the coordinator for the On-Campus Recruiting Program at USC's career center, I compose weekly e-mail correspondence sent to over 7,000 current students informing them of upcoming organizational profile events, workshops, and other networking events. I also compose a weekly "Who's Hiring" newsletter sent to 3,400 graduating students. I also monitor the career center's online calendar and update it with additional events as needed. Having worked closely with several academic departments within USC in addition to offices within the Division of Student Affairs, I regularly communicate and collaborate with USC students, staff, and faculty. I am eager to serve USC's graduate student population by utilizing my communication, administrative, and coordination skills.</p> <p>I am Deniz Kahrman from Industrial and Systems Engineering Department and I'm running for the communications chair. I believe that we can create a closer network among the members so we can benefit more from what we are doing at our organization. In my opinion, communication is one of the most important things in our lives and it is the string which binds us to the each other and to the rest of the world. Therefore, I want to take this responsibility to get our organization work more efficiently. Furthermore, I am very open to different kinds of communication ways which will let us become more active and have more fun! Hope to see you all soon.</p> <p>I believe this a great opportunity to give back to GPSS which has done an excellent job so far, and would like to help in continuing the effort further.</p> <p>My experience as the Vice President of Communications for the Viterbi Graduate Student Association (VGSA) as well as being a Senator of GPSS for 2008-09 has given me a lot of insight on the workings of a huge organization.</p> <p>As the Communications Chair, I would like to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serve as the voice of GPSS and all the Graduate students at USC.</li> <li>Effectively work on GPSS newsletter and website, so as to draw more student participation as I have been doing for VGSA.</li> <li>Promoting GPSS events, maintaining the online event gallery and the GPSS event calendar.</li> <li>Help in formulating policies by bringing in the student input.</li> <li>Enhance the Student-Faculty as well as the Inter-departmental relationships : The senators of each department along with the Communications chair should serve as a medium between the two.</li> <li>Market GPSS to potential employers by showcasing the talent pool in an effective manner by understanding their requirements in this difficult time.</li> <li>Enhance working and interaction of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate with other organizations.</li> <li>Make efficient use of Communications funds towards more publicity and awareness of GPSS.</li> </ul> <p>I would like to use my experience and take it further my rendering my knowledge towards the working for GPSS as their Communication's Chair.</p> <p>I have the right experience, motivation and skills to do justice to the post.</p>
Community & Special Events Chair	Ruchi R.	Deshpande	
Community & Special Events Chair	Shwetambar	Gulhane	
Community & Special Events Chair	Christine	Kim	
Community & Special Events Chair	Leah Faith	Rousseau	
Community & Special Events Chair	Mahmood	Shirooyeh	
Communications Chair	Erika	Chien	
Communications Chair	Irfan M.	Fazal	
Communications Chair	Elizabeth	Jordan	
Communications Chair	Deniz	Kahrman	
Communications Chair	Surbhi	Nin	

Communications Chair	Chaiti	Sen	<p>I am a graduate student of the Strategic PR program at Annenberg and have been involved in activities that aim at building bridges between Annenberg and its students. I have worked with the Director of Journalism's office in integrating the graduate student community. I have also been working closely with the admissions office to develop and provide support systems for new students. I am also the Co-President of TriSight, a student run communication and PR agency that provides communication consultancy to student organizations at USC, non-profits and small businesses.</p> <p>Through my involvement in Annenberg, I have come to believe that developing a healthy and interactive student community carves the way for a more enriching student experience. I would like the opportunity to translate my efforts to the larger student community at USC. My background in communication, along with my experience in student outreach programs will enable me to lead the communications chair for GPSS successfully. I would strive to take the communication efforts of GPSS to a new level by leveraging newer communication platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Yammer, etc. to encourage daily conversations with students, increase student understanding of GPSS and expand outreach.</p> <p>Given the opportunity, I hope to promote a highly inclusive study environment at USC that is supportive of fellow students and facilitates healthy exchange of ideas.</p>
Public Relations Chair	Abhinav	Chandran	<p>I am Abhinav, an international student here pursuing my masters degree. I am a kind of person who likes to get involved in any activity that involves team work or service to others. I have been here at USC for a little over a semester now. I have been a part of several organizations each very unique. I have been a part of the Association of Indian Students, where I was previously a Co-president. I have been working with VGSA where I am currently a senator for the EE Department. Also I am part of the PR committee at GPSS and have been working with Sujatha Dhole. I am currently also the Director of PR at the International Students Assembly.</p> <p>With the large experience of working with organizing different successful events with various organizations I think I have what it takes to be the PR Chair for GPSS. Lately I have been working heavily with regards to publicity of events and I would like to continue doing that for GPSS. "Everything you do or say is public relations" it's always been my dream to be in this committee, the sole objective to interact with students and alumni from different background and opportunity to enhance publicity and recruiting efforts of GPSS.</p>
Public Relations Chair	Romil	Savla	<p>During undergraduate I had an opportunity to become Event Manager (Mar 2008) as well as the publicity zonal head for the technical symposium under IEEE of my college. There were 975 Engineering students from Mumbai participating in 11 major events.</p> <p>Apart from that I was the sports secretary of my college. During my tenure (Aug'07 – Jun'08) I planned a 3 day sports meet that had seven outdoor events and three indoor events. The success of this meet was due to the fact that there were about three hundred plus participants.</p> <p>With these experiences I am confident to undertake and qualify for responsibilities of a Public Relation Chair.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Muhammad Ali	Amer	<p>As a PhD student, I have often been faced with academic choices that are somewhat limiting. Issues like a required course for a degree objective not being offered in the last year before graduation make for reasonable advocacy on behalf of the larger student population. While I acknowledge that the USC's academic curriculum and policies are tailored meticulously to benefit all students, there are times when students face unavoidable and challenging circumstances because of them. As a residential advisor, I have seen many a student face situations where although a course of action seems legitimate, but special Departmental permissions are required to overrule some policy for the student to benefit. I have gained precious exposure to the intricate working and the points for advocacy for academic domain. I am apt in programming and have a year's experience both as an RA and as a BG chair to back it up.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Vahidreza	Arbab	<p>Doing voluntarily activities has been always one of my passions in my academic life and I have always enjoyed being part of a body that can help other students and colleagues to achieve their goals and provide consultation, solutions, and available resources when they encounter problems. When I was doing my undergrad, I was a member of the student council at Sharif University of Technology, and here at USC, I have served as the academic affairs chair of IEEE at USC in 2007-2008. In all these environments, I have met fun and energetic friends from whom I have learned a lot and I have gained invaluable experience in doing team work and the art of constructively interacting with each other to resolve the issues and accomplish our tasks.</p> <p>Therefore, as a fourth year graduate student who is familiar with details of graduate student life and who has been serving in various on campus positions, including RA and TA, I believe I can be a helpful member of GPSS by using my experience to address issues facing the graduate student community at USC. I'm familiar with GPSS activities by attending the social events and I believe serving as the academic affairs chair of GPSS is both a big responsibility and a big opportunity for me.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Mitchell	Duckworth	<p>I am nearly half way through my first year of dental school and I have yet to get involved. Throughout my undergraduate studies at the University of Utah I found myself involved in different committees, societies and clubs. One of the most gratifying positions I held was serving as the academic affairs liaison for the pre-dental society for two years. I thoroughly enjoyed the social aspect of the society and took pleasure in making sure that the expectations of the pre-dental students as well as the academic affairs were understood and met. I feel that it is an important responsibility to express opinions and make sure that others are well informed. I believe that I would make an excellent Academic Affairs Chair and would love the opportunity to tackle the responsibilities of that position.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Sandra M.	Florian Segura	<p>I have always had a special interest in keeping a high academic standard. I am just finishing with a Masters program and am continuing into the PhD. I have experience being a student in a professional master program and now I will continue my career doing research in my field. As a USC graduate student, I would like to render my skills and motivation to coordinate and resolve any type of academic concerns that our graduate and professional students might have. I would also like to organize interdisciplinary academic events and bring together student's knowledge that can benefit our student community. I would be available to represent GPSS in any academic issue at USC. I am ready to take the challenge to be the Academic Affairs chair for GPSS.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Anurag	Gupta	<p>I would like to apply for this position as the responsibilities involved with the position excite me the most.</p> <p>I have been the organizer for a National Level Technical and Cultural Fest during my undergraduate. I was Academic Program Manager heading a team of 6. I was involved in the publicity, promotion of the event. I was also responsible for raising the funds for the event. I went to leading technical and business organizations, gave presentations to convince them to fund our event. My team raised a total of 1.4 million INR. We had a crowd of 1600 student from around the country.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Jamie Lynn	Lasecki	<p>For my experience at USC, I am a member of the VGSA (Programming Committee) and Association of Indian Students. A semester here has helped me get acquainted with the university atmosphere. I want to use my experience to make the academic events at USC a great success and help students feel free to address and resolve any academic concerns.</p> <p>In the past, I have demonstrated my hard work and self-discipline to my family and classmates by graduating from Carroll College with a major in biochemistry within three years. It was then that I discovered the root of college is not only meeting life-long friends, but it's the education. My past experience makes me a competitive candidate because I have served on the academic board during my undergraduate years. I would like to have the opportunity to hold the academic affairs chair here at USC, so that I can voice the concerns of my fellow colleagues. I have been working for a well-funded geomicrobiology lab along side of MEB graduate students for one year prior to becoming a biochemistry and molecular biology master's student last fall. My husband is a dental student here at USC, which allows me the opportunity to speak to diverse professional students daily.</p>
Academic Affairs Chair	Jennifer Leigh	Reynolds	<p>As the current Student Life Committee Chair, I focused on improving the lives of USC graduate and professional students socially and academically. Although I enjoyed being a committee chair, I am ready to take the next step into an Executive Board position.</p> <p>One of my big initiatives for this year was the GPSS Poster Symposium. I worked in close collaboration with the Academic Affairs Chair and realized that my passion lies in improving the interdisciplinary dialogue of graduate and professional students on campus. I have already forged relationships with many Deans of Academic Affairs from the different schools and look forward to working with them in the future.</p>
Health Sciences Campus Chair	Rosanne M.	Yetemian	<p>My goals for next year are: (1) to expand the Poster Symposium, (2) to host professionalization workshops, and (3) to organize lunchtime workshops with USC faculty from different departments and fields.</p> <p>The Graduate and Professional Student Senate is an essential component for graduate student success and unity; especially on the Health Sciences Campus. As a PhD Candidate in Genetics, Molecular, and Cellular Biology in the Keck School of Medicine I have dedicated hours of volunteer work to GPSS social and community service events and was fortunate enough to serve as the GPSS HSC Publicity Chair this past year. I worked closely with the current HSC Chair and learned valuable lessons about the responsibility and leadership skills which are key elements of the HSC Chair position. I look forward to using the skills to advance student advocacy and am confident that I can take on the challenge of HSC Chair. I understand the commitment of the position and am excited to continue my involvement with GPSS next year.</p>
Campus Affairs Chair	Rachit	Awasthi	<p>I am a member of the USC community and specifically the Marshall community and live close to campus. My choices have committed me to spending two years of my life closely associated with the USC campus. With the new Campus Affairs position instituted this year I see the opportunity to make a positive impact to the safety, cohesion, and vitality within the community I live in.</p> <p>I have a history of being involved in student organizations, culminating in being elected school captain in high school and best outgoing student at the end of undergrad. My affiliation with Challenge for Charity and Marshall Clubs continues this tradition of involvement. Half a decade in management consulting trained me to interact successfully with senior management to persuade them to agree to our interests.</p>
Campus Affairs Chair	Michelle	Farmer	<p>I believe my interest and experience uniquely positions me to infuse a new level of energy in our campus.</p> <p>I am confident that I can become a successful Campus Affairs Chair of GPSS. It is my intention to increase graduate student representation and to advocate for the needs of those students. As a graduate student who has lived on the University Park Campus and studied on the Health Sciences Campus, I understand the need to better integrate such students into the USC culture and advise them of the necessary safety precautions.</p> <p>This past academic year I have served as the GRUF (Graduate Residential Upperclassman and Family) Advocacy Representative and Building Government Chair on the University Residential Student Community. In past years, the GRUF Building Government has not had much visibility. My committed efforts have changed that situation by organizing events and ensuring that GRUF residents' wants and needs have been met. I have become familiar with the political workings at USC and have worked closely with various administrators.</p>