

Claremont Graduate University • Graduate Student Council
Statement of Intention to Run for Executive Board Position

Shamini Dias – running for President

1. Why do you wish to run for this position? What are your goals and objectives? (max 250 words)

I wish to run for President quite simply because there is unfinished business I must complete before I move on. As GSC Vice-President for the year 2008/09, I helped begin a process to improve communication and information across CGU to make students' academic work and achievements more visible, as well as help us network academically for research collaboration and exchange. This initiative has yet to bear fruit and I seek to serve another year to ensure it takes root and can be developed by the Council as a whole. Having worked for over 6 months on this, I have a comprehensive knowledge of the process and would be the best person to move it forward with the rest of the Council.

I also aim to continue and complete developing our internal management systems to ensure a stronger management system and continuity from one council to the next so we can connect coherently with the student body in different schools and reach out more comprehensively to our diverse student body.

Underlying these two goals is my desire to see the GSC work to build a stronger community at CGU that gives added value to graduate student life; these are the absolute, final days of our long journey through formal education after all, and they should be fun, rich, and memorable.

2. How will your leadership in this position benefit the student body at CGU? (max 250 words)

In working with the school to develop a stronger academic and professional community we can all be proud of, we will create greater visibility for student research and achievements on our websites and publications, as well as stronger coordination among schools for student-led academic events. Improving student work visibility at CGU will raise the school's profile which will also generate long-term career benefits for all of us. Our community is highly diverse; we have students with families, students from out of State and from across the planet, people with jobs as well as full-time students. The current Council has developed and improved GSC events and Travel Awards. As President, my leadership will ensure we push the envelope further on our standards so that we reach out to this diverse community. I also believe that because I am a full-time CGU student, I will be accessible to CGU students for conversation to explore ideas and help with issues they bring to the Council.

3. What skills or abilities qualify you for this position?

I am an excellent communicator and can integrate different perspectives when there are problems to be solved or new ideas to explore. I lead by building collaboration and have experience in developing high-functioning teams, having initiated and developed new departments and programmes and worked as a communication and management consultant. Furthermore, being a full-time student at CGU these past 2 years has given me the opportunity to build a network of relationships with various administrative and academic departments, from the President's office, faculty and CUC staff who run various programmes to facilities and Hagelbargers' staff. These relationships are invaluable as institutional capital we can draw on when we seek dialogue and progress on projects and issues. Having served on the GSC and worked to re-structure and develop our internal management systems, I have the background knowledge and facility to take this streamlining further so that the GSC can develop its professionalism as an organization. And finally, though not least of my abilities, is my passion for and dedication to community building at CGU.