

Nan Gu  
**Statement of Candidacy for Graduate Student Council Treasurer**

I am very excited to accept the nomination for the position of GSC Treasurer. I have been involved in student leadership for three years now, and have witnessed how much really depends on these volunteers. Specifically, having spent a year with the GSC, I have seen how much it really can do to benefit graduate students. Hence, I wish to continue my service to the GSC and the graduate community as the GSC Treasurer.

I see three major roles for the Treasurer, and I will delineate the remainder of my statement as such:

- As an *Officer*, keeping in constant contact with and assisting the other Officers, serving as one of the point of contacts of the GSC
- As the *Chair of the Funding Board*, running meetings to allocate funds to graduate student groups
- As the *financial steward of the GSC*, building the budget and maintaining financial records

*Experience:*

My most relevant experience is having served as a GSC Officer this year. As a result of this role, I have met most of the people and organizations that interact with the GSC. I know how most initiatives and events have been executed traditionally and will use this institutional knowledge as a point of reference.

As a member of the Association of Student Activities, I also serve on the GSC Funding Board as well as the Large Event Fund/Assisting Reoccurring Diversity and Cultural Events (LEF/ARCADE). I have also served as a Graduate Community Fellow for the Graduate Student Life Grants. From these roles, I have learned how the funding sources make decisions and what general criterion may lead to a successful event. During IAP, as part of a leadership training workshop (organized by Kevin McComber, Vivek Sakhrani, me, and staff), I put together a workshop on funding sources and writing applications (<http://gsc.mit.edu/legs>).

I have a fairly extensive background with Treasurer tasks from my time as President of Sidney-Pacific and as Treasurer of the Physics GSC. I have built and maintained budgets before, both event-based and annual. I am very familiar with the MIT financial system (SAP). I am aware of most of its capabilities and sadly, its many flaws. From my time in both positions, I know that to maintain fiscal awareness of your own accounts, a more detailed transaction record is necessary.

*Vision:*

In the Officers group, I have been and will still be a proponent for using technology to simplify our roles. For example, shared Google calendars amongst the Officers (or the Executive Committee) will allow for meetings to be scheduled more easily. Meeting minutes (those not required by the GSC constitution, so as to not interfere with procedure) can be recorded into a wiki, ensuring that they are automatically archived. Also, as an Officer, I will also stay committed to the two points that formed my platform from last year, leadership development and housing issues.

I believe that the Funding Board currently executes its mission with good results. However, I will use any experience from this year to try to prevent even the few missteps. In terms of new ideas, the Institute is currently very concerned with Diversity issues. I believe this is a worthy cause and so I would like to encourage additional interactions between cultural/ethnic/religious groups by giving the proper incentive to collaborate.

As the financial steward, I will uphold the same high standards for tracking and recording that this year's Treasurer has established. In terms of building the budget, I am amply aware that even with our new stabilization fund, we will most likely experience a revenue reduction next year. As a result, I will go through each line item and compare actual expenditures with allocations to look for places to save.

To give some concrete ideas, here are areas that I believe are vital to the GSC core mission:

- Student group support – Funding Board, Representative Funding
- Community building – Orientation, much of Activities
- Personal development – Diversity, professional development

The following are areas that I believe should be studied in more detail:

- printing copies of the *Graduate Student News*
- venue/format of the GradGala

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to run for this position, and to continue my service in the graduate community. If elected, I will aim to bring continuity to the GSC, focusing on balance and stabilization, but also with an eye towards the future and an appreciation for the gravity of the tasks ahead. I thank you for your time and consideration, and if you so choose, I thank you for placing your trust in me, once again.

Sincerely,  
Nan Gu