

**Lisa Kahl | Biological Sciences | 1-year term**



My name is Lisa Kahl and I am a sixth year PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences. I have previously been involved in student representation in the GSAS and Columbia community as GSAC president and vice president and would like to continue to serve this community by representing the Natural Sciences graduate student body to the University Senate.

If elected senator, I will take issues from the graduate students in the Natural Sciences to the University Senate. Most NS graduate students work directly under a supervisor/PI in a lab, unlike students in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and their academic success in graduate school is dependent on this relationship. Career opportunities, internships and other educational workshops are only accessible to students with available funding and supervisor approval. In addition, experimentation and the physical nature of our work require a high level of continuous commitment which is often not acknowledged by the university through appropriate resources and funding. As senator, I want to work with the Office of Research Initiatives and create more educational and funding opportunities, specifically for NS graduate students. Our research on fundamental scientific questions and work on

leading edge technologies are vital for the university's continuous standing as a top tier research university.

As a student in the Department of Biological Sciences, a department with students in labs on the Manhattanville, Medical, and Morningside campuses, I understand the challenges that come with being part of multiple campuses. During my previous work on the GSAC executive committee, I dealt with many issues arising from this split of campuses (GSAC was the representative graduate student body that served both uptown and downtown students prior to ASGC). As senator, I will continue to address problems for NS graduate students on all campuses and work out solutions that will benefit campus life at each location.

My involvement with the GSAS and Columbia community over the last 5 years includes GSAC President (2017-2018), GSAC Vice President (2016-2017) and department representative prior to that. During my time on the GSAC executive committee (2016-2018) I worked closely with the GSAS Office of the Dean, Carlos Alonso and together we were able to bring about lasting positive changes for the GSAS community, including a graduate grading room in the libraries, a resource guidebook, gym access for CUMC/GSAS students on the downtown campus and the overhaul of graduate representation within GSAS. I oversaw the transition from GSAC to ASGC and helped with establishing the PhD Council during my time as GSAC president. In my department, I served on the board of the Biological Sciences Career Initiative and facilitated the formation of the newly created Biological Sciences Graduate Student Council.

My experience on different committees within Columbia has given me insight into the inner workings of our university and, if elected senator, I want to contribute to the senate subcommittees in a way that will benefit the Natural Sciences graduate students, but also the university community at large.