SGA Special Election

VOTE
November 29, 2023
7am - 7pm

Fall 2023 Second SGA Special Election

Fall 2023 Graduate School Senate Candidates

Select one checkbox

☐ **Sam Badger** click for bio

I'm Sam Badger, a second year MA student here at the Capstone. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant and proud member of United Campus Workers Local 3965, I am intimately familiar with trials and tribulations of graduate employment at UA. Many graduate workers struggle to balance the demands of their academic, workplace, and personal responsibilities. Further, many graduate workers have a tough time making ends meet. My platform is designed to address their concerns in order to make UA a better place to live, learn, and work. I promise to lead the fight to abolish international student fees, improve employee healthcare, put GTAs on a biweekly pay schedule, and to end the Summer II pay gap. As the Speaker of the Graduate Student Association House of Delegates, Vice President of the Graduate History Association, and a UCW member, I am uniquely positioned to create the legislative and grassroots pressure to make this happen. But first, I need YOUR help. Join me, and let's make our campus a better place. #WeBackBadger

Close statement for Sam Badger

☐ **David Evans-Martinez** click for bio

I'm David Evans-Martinez a Master's in Finance student running for the vacant SGA Senate seat. I'm from Birmingham, Alabama and I grew up coming to Tuscaloosa for Saturdays in the fall. I am the Co-President of Bama Catholic, and I'm involved in many other academic-related organizations.

I believe that I people were created to love and serve each other the way that God loved and served us when He was here on earth. I'm running for Senate because even though it may be a hassle to go to meetings, provide office hours, and read through potentially boring resolutions to vote on, someone needs to care.

If you elect me SGA Senator, I'm not going to change the world. Most of you will probably never talk to me, but I promise that I'll put forward effort, consider input sincerely, and actually care. Read Galatians 2:20

Close statement for David-Evans Martinez

☐ **Saketh Reddy Kontham** click for bio

Hello! I'm Saketh Reddy, a first-year M.S. student in Mechanical Engineering. My academic journey has been a dedicated pursuit of knowledge and proficiency, built on a strong educational foundation from my undergraduate years. In addition to my coursework, my role as a Graduate Research Assistant has allowed me to contribute to Advance research in mechanical engineering. Serving as the Associate Public Relations Officer for the Indian Student Association of Tuscaloosa has honed my leadership abilities and reaffirmed my commitment to fostering our diverse academic community here at UA.

As I vie for a seat as a legislative senator, my focus is on advocating for the interests of all graduate students, emphasizing the enhancement of financial support and fostering a balance between our academic duties and personal development. When it comes to the needs of our international students, I am dedicated to leading and supporting initiatives that foster inclusivity and elevate the diverse voices within our university community, ensuring that all perspectives are valued and integrated into our collective decision-making processes. By doing so, we can ensure that the all perspectives they bring are fully integrated and recognized, contributing to a campus culture that truly appreciates the wealth of experiences and insights from across the world. Furthermore, I will advocate for policies that encourage a healthy work-life balance, with an emphasis on the necessity for advisors and departments to acknowledge and respect the time we need for our mental and physical well-being.

I pledge to amplify our collective voice with unwavering commitment and perfect attendance in SGA meetings. Drawing from my experiences as an international and graduate student, I am uniquely attuned to our shared challenges and will advocate tirelessly on our behalf.

Close statement for Saketh Reddy Kontham

☐ **Vamsi Krishna Undavalli** click for bio

I Vamsi Krishna Undavalli, a doctoral student in Mechanical engineering reaching out to SGA, to show my interest in running for Senate position openings for the graduate school. I believe the position provide me a unique opportunity to represent the graduate student community to the senate, thus helping my fellow graduate students along with me. I have been actively advocating the graduate community needs as part of Graduate Student Association. I am playing a vital role in GSA to streamline the advocacy process along with this, I am also being house of delegate chairing the graduate student advocacy committee, which is advocating on broad issues that improves the graduate student experience on campus. In past I also served as the Chief advisor to the office of GSA President during 2022-2023. In particular the current opening in SGA Senate, allows me directly to engage with SGA and bring the graduate issues to senate's notice. Also, I see this as rare opportunity to be a bridge between the SGA and GSA, where I can bring the voice of larger community to senate. I believe my past experiences will aid me in fulling the responsibilities of that involved with the position to the fullest.

Close statement for Vamsi Krishna Undavalli