

GSU 2018

EXECUTIVE BOARD
ELECTIONS

A GSU
that works
for you

Core **objectives**

Streamline communication between the
GSU and the graduate student body



Connect graduate students across campus,
strengthening our community



Listen and respond to the graduate
community's needs



Turn over this leaflet to read our manifesto.

Vote for us in the upcoming elections!

President

Matyas Abel Tsegaye



3rd year Ph.D. Biological sciences

Vice President

Caitlin Smith Oyekole



4th year Ph.D. English

Vice President

Oyekola Oyekole



3rd year Ph.D. ACMS (Applied Math)

Questions? Join us for a meet-and-greet on Thursday 12th April, 4-5pm
at the Graduate Student Lounge, Duncan student center.

2018-2019

GRADUATE STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD

FOR PRESIDENT: MATYAS ABEL TSEGAYE
FOR VICE PRESIDENT: CAITLIN SMITH OYEKOLE
FOR VICE PRESIDENT: OYEKOLA OYEKOLE

Our Manifesto

Our slogan, "*A GSU that works for you*," contains two promises.

First, we will ensure a GSU that *works*. We will significantly improve the organization, efficiency, and institutional memory of the Graduate Student Union, planning for the long term and establishing a tighter internal structure.

With the GSU officers rotating every year, we need a more thorough onboarding process. We plan to implement annual officer orientations, where the current GSU officers can pass the baton to the incoming officers. Looking to the future, we will centralize logistical information throughout this year, ensuring high efficiency not just for this year, but for subsequent GSU administrations.

Communication is one of our highest priorities. We will improve communication between GSU officers, and between the GSU and graduate student body. Instead of simply increasing the amount of communication between the GSU and graduate students, we will retool the social media channels and weekly newsletter, filtering content based on individual interest. Quality, not just quantity, is our goal. We also plan to significantly redesign the GSU website for ease of access. Communications will be more efficient, more focused, and more relevant to your personal needs.

Finally, we will ensure the GSU is responsive to the community it serves. We will prioritize input from the graduate student body, using polls, anonymous feedback, representative reports, and meet-and-greet events to keep our finger on the pulse of the graduate student community.

Second, the GSU will *work for you*. The GSU exists to serve graduate students, identifying and filling gaps in administrative support structures.

In addition to maintaining existing programming like the GSU Conference Presentation Grant, we intend to create a graduate student emergency relief fund for financially disadvantaged graduate students. Like the Shirt Charity Fund, the GSU Relief Fund will assist graduate students who display extraordinary needs that might interfere with their ability to participate in academic life—for example, a car wreck that leaves a student without transportation, or a basement flood that destroys equipment.

This is our first year with the Duncan Student Center Graduate Lounge. We plan to use this space for regular social events, encouraging a cross-department graduate community. Imagine coming to the lounge for poker tournaments, pizza and trivia nights, or bagels and coffee during finals week.

We will also establish a more proactive relationship with our international student body. With decreased on-campus housing options, international students need a more comprehensive orientation to the South Bend community. Working with data from ND's Office of Housing and the City of South Bend, we will create a community orientation program targeted to international students but open to all incoming graduate students. Which neighborhoods are affordable and safe? What are the pros and cons of renting vs. buying? What's the local history of South Bend, and what cultural norms might go unsaid? The orientation will address these questions and more.

As your GSU Executive Officers, we will streamline information, improve communication, and focus on meeting the needs of every graduate student. We emphasize organization, efficiency, connection, and responsiveness in our vision for the GSU. We are proud and excited to serve you in the coming year, and look forward to building a stronger and more connected graduate student community at Notre Dame.

Matyas Abel Tsegaye

Matyas Abel Tsegaye is a third-year graduate student in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences program, working towards understanding the underlying mechanisms that cancer cells utilize during the process of metastasis. Over the past year, he has been serving as a Professional Development chair in the GSU. During this time, he worked with Caitlin Smith Oyekole on revamping the Professional Expo. Furthermore, he was actively involved in the recruitment of graduate career consultants at the Center for Career Development. He has also been working with the alumni association to extend the considerable ND alumni network to graduate students. Besides his work in the GSU, he has been active within his PhD program serving both as a participating member as well as the chair for the IBMS recruitment committee. He has also worked with the Biology Graduate Student Organization to host career panels in order to inform graduate students within the department of the different career paths available to them. Matyas aims to address the specific needs of the graduate students through transparency and effective communication between the GSU and graduate student community. One such goal is to redesign the GSU website to make it easier to navigate and making resources readily available. He also aims to foster a better sense of community through various GSU hosted social events on campus such as movie nights, game and trivia nights. Finally, Matyas plans to work with every department, through their representatives, to address their specific needs.

Caitlin Smith Oyekole

Caitlin Smith Oyekole is a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department, where she studies literary representations of doubt in antebellum American literature. Over the past two years, she has served in GSU as a representative for English and then a Professional Development Chair. In that role, she worked with Matyas Tsegaye to redesign the Professional Development Expo, significantly increasing graduate student engagement. Caitlin served as Professionalization Chair of the English Graduate Student Association in 2017 and Managing Editor of the journal *Religion & Literature* in 2016, and over the past year, she held positions on multiple administrative councils, including the Carnegie Classification Committee and the Learning Management Goals Committee. Caitlin believes that communication, structure, and continuity are crucial for making the GSU work. She envisions a tighter, more effective organization that responds quickly to the graduate student community. Drawing on multiple past experiences overseeing key staff transitions within organizations, Caitlin plans to centralize information and create an institutional archive, ensuring the GSU will run smoothly in the upcoming year and the long-term future. Finally, Caitlin plans to improve the GSU's responsiveness to the graduate student community, through more outreach, polling, and representative reports on departmental needs.

Oyekola Oyekole

Oyekola Oyekole ("Kola") is a Ph.D. candidate in the Applied & Computational Mathematics & Statistics (ACMS) department. His work develops algorithms and mathematical tools for problems related to fluid dynamics, in particular blood flow. Kola has extensive leadership experience. Before coming to Notre Dame, he worked as a software developer for several years. This experience included managing and leading two startups in Lagos, Nigeria, in the role of Chief Technical Officer. Over the past 3 years at Notre Dame, Kola has served as the Vice-President of the ACMS Graduate Student Organization, Vice-President of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Secretary of the Latinx Graduate Association (LGAND), and President of the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA). He has also volunteered as a Graduate Orientation Ambassador for the past two academic years. Kola is committed to combating social isolation while supporting academic excellence. As GSU Vice President, he will encourage cross-departmental socialization and interdisciplinary collaboration. He will also focus on improving communication between the GSU and the graduate student community.