Dear Voters, I hope you are enjoying the onset of Spring as much as I am! I am a Dual Master’s student at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School who has been in Chicago for over two years now. My prior work has been to invest in private companies in the South Asian countries of India and Bangladesh where I have mostly been involved in private equity deal-making and managing portfolio companies as diverse as low-cost eye-care operations franchise to specialized steels. In addition to my professional work, I have also been a Co-Founder of Self-Defense camps for 250+ underprivileged girls in Mumbai’s slums. My professional and personal background has mostly let me understand the demands and needs of various stakeholders in a deal, and how to fashion my thinking and bring a solution-positive mindset to the table, to come at a win-win outcome for all the parties. The same solution-positive mindset, proactiveness, and communication are what I would like to promise in my slate to you like your ‘Community and Government Liaison’. Speaking from a fellow graduate student’s point of view, the past one-year has brought a lot of pain to us from various crises. I believe, we as the University of Chicago, have shown a lot of resilience by communicating our views on a variety of platforms and in a variety of settings. As we envision, a complete return to the in-person event after a year, I promise to keep the same energy and efficiency as we had in a virtual world. I would like to take this statement and commend on the excellent work done by Graduate Council Leadership including initiatives: ‘Student Perspective Series’, ‘Graduate Student Leadership Recognition Award’, ‘Graduate Education Committee, and ‘Student Legal Advice Services’. They have worked very hard and curated excellent programming over the last several years and I ensure that as part of the Grad Council, I would only amp up the momentum, and keep pushing the envelopes by seeking improved turnarounds, and better communication on our distribution lists, and relevant Slack Channels, GroupMe chats, etc. The two initiatives which I found missing would be on the elements of: a) Student Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (SDEI) to promote a robust exchange of ideas and deep respect for the value of difference. UChicago strives to cultivate an environment where every member of our community can thrive with a sense of belonging Active promotion of Equity & Diversity in our grad schools. And I promise to bring this to fruition while rallying with my colleagues in Grad Council b) Know your Student Grad Initiative – I often tell prospective UChicago grad candidates, that you are not getting an admit at your grad school, but you are getting an admit at the University of Chicago! With that in mind, we need to bring healthy programming for grad student mixers to fruition, driven by an envisioned on-campus/ virtual participation. All UChicago graduate students have an immensely specialized skill set and the potential to be various policy, scientific, legal, and business leaders of tomorrow. Leaders who would shape the world on more axes than imagined. That potential is harnessed by the diversity of student networks across all grad schools and I promise to curate these mixers and networking in my stead as a Graduate Liaison. Looking forward to listening to your views, and taking your feedback. Please feel free to reach out to me at pbhatia0@uchicago.edu Thank you! Graciously, Pranjal pbhatia0@uchicago.edu 312.918.0777