Grace Schlesinger

Grace Schlesinger is a first year MBA candidate at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business running for the position of Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees. Prior to Booth, she worked in education with Teach For America, consulting with Accenture, and product operations with Facebook. In undergrad, Grace spent two years as a voted member of Student Government, where she advocated for and advised the administration on student body issues. As Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees, her mission is to advocate on behalf of the graduate community and to ensure that students' voices are included in the Board's decisions. Advocate for and Represent Graduate Student Issues: I would continue to solicit student feedback through the Student Perspective Series and Trustee Luncheons, working to transform feedback into actionable next steps to improve the graduate student experience at the University of Chicago. Ensure Transparency with the Student Body: I will strive to represent student voices through surveys, formal check-ins with student organization leaders, and ongoing engagement with respective student governments. Additionally, I will disseminate information and updates proactively and consistently through known communication channels to ensure that students remain informed on trustee perspectives. This is particularly pertinent as the University prepares for a transition to a post-COVID experience. Work in Partnership with University Administration: I will work to build goodwill, credibility, and trust with the University Administration and Board of Trustees through consistent communication and progress reports. This will be critical to developing a partnership in which we can advocate for issues that are significant for the student experience. With my penchant for producing tangible results and tackling tough issues with an attention to detail and tact, I am confident that I can make a positive contribution to the University of Chicago as a Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees. I hope that you find my background and experience a strong fit for this role, and I appreciate your support!

Grace Schlesinger has been endorsed by the outgoing Graduate Council Co-Presidents and Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Alex Levi – Campaign to Disband the Board of Trustees

Every day, today’s youth are fighting their own battles in a corrupt world. For the kids in CPS, that means getting cops out of schools. For the Amazon warehouse workers in Bessemer, it means a unionization attempt. At UChicago, it means knocking down towers of unfettered greed masked by a prestigious facade. UChicago shamelessly and regularly prioritizes the U.S. News ranking of its brand above the wellness of its community members. We see this in the undemocratic move to a nine-week academic calendar so students could start finance internships on time. We see this in admin's failure to offer fair tuition during a global pandemic, and in how they continuously raised already astronomical tuition in years prior. We see this in how they exploit graduate student workers. Many interlocking systems of injustice constitute this modus operandi, but an obvious one is the explicit governance-by-corporation found within UChicago's Board of Trustees. Serving on the Student Government Executive Slate showed me how the hidden but unchecked power of the Board of Trustees has festered into a toxic administrative ideology that intentionally thwarts systemic change by defaulting to the amoral preservation of immutable wealth. I’m running in this race for Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees to speak candidly about my experiences. I’m running because I want UChicago's systemic violence to end. If I win this
election, I will not liaise with the Board of Trustees unless they agree to undergo a year-long review of UChicago’s leadership structure and guiding principles as an entity of knowledge-making. This process would ultimately lead to the disbandment of the Board of Trustees as we know it. In its wake, we as a community must come together and decide what knowledge we want to produce, who is best equipped for healthy academic governance, and how we can reparate systemic injustice at its root epistemological cause. Along the way, former trustees must critically engage with the material harms that their operational model has inflicted on the Southside. They must reckon with the violent hyper-capitalism instilled within their student population, which directs the joyous intellect of 18-year-olds towards inhumane hegemony. They must make space for community organizations on the Southside, such as Brave Space Alliance, to steer the future of the University. They must recognize GSU. They must commit to transparent disclosure of the endowment and immediate, full divestment from fossil fuels. Bottom line, the underlying system must change. My intention is not to call the Board of Trustees out, but to call them inward. Their inaction is upholding global cycles of violence, poverty, and suffering. Enough is enough—we must do the radical work of imagining a better world. It won’t always be easy, but we must stand strong and together against corrupt complacency. If you want to get involved in this fight, email me at 42alexlevi@gmail.com or message me on Facebook. More campaign details are forthcoming. Be safe and well. Best, Alex