Dear Graduate Student Body:

I began my academic career at the University of North Texas (UNT) in 2013 while pursuing a Master’s degree in Merchandising which I attained in 2014. Currently, I am doctoral student in Sociology with research interests in globalization, immigration, race and ethnicity, and the socio-cultural analysis of dress. I served as the Graduate Student Council (GSC) Vice President of Programming and Outreach (VPPO) from 2016 to 2017, and I was the GSC Senator for my department from 2015 to 2016.

I would like to be considered for the position of President because I believe that I have experience and qualities—good communication and research skills, diligence, and confidence—to lead the organization and to continue the legacy of GSC with the aim of advocating, connecting, and empowering graduate students. My mission as your GSC President would be to: 1) secure additional resources for teaching and research, 2) ensure that there is adequate travel funding, and 3) increase graduate student participation and awareness of GSC on campus. My vision is to work closely with UNT administration as well as other university entities so that we can make a stronger impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

As a GSC Senator and VPPO, I supported graduate students at the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) National Conference, and Advocacy Summit/Legislative Action Days where I met with Legislative Assistants to Senators and Representatives to discuss some of the major issues that graduate students are facing at our institution. At these meetings, I advocated for graduate students as well as international graduate students by urging members of Congress to increase funding to federal research agencies, support open access, sponsor legislation that would allow stateside processing of F1 renewal visas, and to reinstate in-school interest subsidy for student loans. In the new academic year, I hope that we can continue to push for positive change.

I have been involved in several student organizations on this campus other than GSC such as Sociology Club, Black Graduate Student Association, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and UNICEF Campus Initiative Club to name a few. I have also served on a number of committees at UNT. Some include the Graduate Student Library Advisory Board, Faculty Senate University Library Committee, Student Conduct, Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Graduate Advisors. Having these connections with various student organizations, faculty, and staff is vital when advocating on behalf of graduate students. I can assure you that administration will get to hear the voice of graduate students.

I have a proven track record in almost all of the competencies you are seeking. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Giselle Greenidge