

Mani Sai Chilakala
Director of Graduate Studies

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Mani Sai Chilakala
Director of Graduate Studies

Subject: September 2025 Board Report

General Information:

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 am to 10:00 am
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A Special Note to Our Hornets

Dear Hornets,

*My name is **Mani Sai Chilakala**, and I am honored to serve as the **ASI Director of Graduate Studies** for the 2025–2026 academic year. I am currently in my fourth semester of the Master’s program in **Electrical and Electronics Engineering**. Alongside my studies, I work with **Aramark**, serve as a **Teaching Assistant** in the **EEE** department, and am engaged in a research project in the field of **Biomedical Engineering**.*

*In this role, my goal is to increase graduate student involvement in ASI events, while promoting the many benefits that ASI provides. These initiatives are designed not only for career awareness but also for fostering a sense of community, balance, and well-being. Guided by the **2025–2026 ASI priorities**, I am dedicated to representing and advocating for the needs of graduate students.*

I encourage all graduate students to reach out with questions, suggestions, or opportunities for collaboration. Your voice matters, and I am here to ensure it is heard.

I look forward to working together to build a stronger, more connected, and thriving graduate community.

Mani Sai Chilakala
Director of Graduate Studies

Sincerely,
Mani Sai Chilakala
ASI Director of Graduate Studies

College Updates

- Introduced myself and met with the Office of Student Engagement team.
- Introduced myself and met with Director of Graduate studies and Dean Of Graduate Studies.

Meetings & Presentations

August 2025

- 6 ASI Board Orientation
- 22 Meeting with Dr. Mae Chaplin to discuss what is GSAC and how will it improves the involvement of GRAD Community on-campus.

September 2025

- 12 Meeting with GSAC members and Dean of Graduate Studies and Director Of Graduate Studies.

Events Calendar

August 2025

- 17-20 ASI Board Retreat
- 20 Attended President Wood's Fall Address
- 20 Attended New Student and family convocation
- 21 Hornets Nest Fest
- 28 Attended Swarm day
- 30 ASI Football Watch Party

September 2025

- 11 Union Well Event at Serna Plaza
- 17 SEO Filming Session with BOD

Committee Updates

ASI Memorial Scholarship Committee - Emailed EVP and VP of University Affairs to join the committee.

City Ambassadors Committee- Emailed EVP and VP of University Affairs to join the committee.

GSAC Council – Joined GSAC Council

Graduate Studies and Policies Committee- Shown interest in joining the committee by replying to email received from VP of academic affairs.

Graduate Council Committee - Shown interest in joining the committee by replying to email received from VP of academic affairs.

GSAC Updates:

- ☐ Attended a **GSAC Zoom Meeting on September 12, 2025** with all GSAC members.

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- ☐ Received updates on past GSAC meetings, discussed current concerns, and shared insights on how meetings were conducted in the previous year.
- ☐ Introduced myself to the members and outlined my **roles and responsibilities** as the ASI Director of Graduate Studies.
- ☐

City Ambassador Committee Updates:

- ☐ Attended the **City Ambassadors Committee meeting on September 18, 2025.**
- ☐ Introduced myself to the committee members, and members also shared their introductions.
- ☐ Participated in a **presentation by a guest speaker** on the committee's structure, responsibilities, and achievements from previous terms.

Strategic Priority Updates

Our Strategic Priorities were approved during the **ASI Formal Board Meeting held on September 10, 2025.** I am excited to begin working on these priorities throughout the academic year, as they reflect my dedication to enhancing student success, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening the graduate student experience. The following are the priorities in which I have decided to participate:

- 1. Campus Safety** – Conducting **self-defense classes** to help students feel more confident, safe, and prepared on and off campus.
- 2. Innovation and Career Readiness** – Collaborating with the **Carlsen Center** and the **Career Center** to host programs such as **resume-building workshops** and other professional development opportunities.
- 3. Scholarships and Financial Support** – Increasing **scholarship application opportunities** for the 2025–2026 academic year to support students in achieving their educational goals.
- 4. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)** – Promoting **cultural events** that celebrate diversity and foster a welcoming and inclusive campus environment for all students.

I am committed to turning these priorities into meaningful initiatives that will benefit our Hornet community and create lasting impact for graduate students at Sacramento State.