

University Senate
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: Natural Sciences Division
Election to the University Senate 2026
Candidates' Statements
(Candidates Listed in Alphabetical Order)

There are 2 candidates in this election to one open seat in the University Senate:

1. **Murong Ning** | M.A. Student, Statistics Department
2. **Animish Tenneti** | M.A. Student, Mathematics Department



Murong Ning
M.A. Student
Statistics Department

My name is Murong Ning. I am a first-year M.A. student in Statistics at Columbia, and I am running to represent GSAS Natural Sciences students in the University Senate.

Before coming to Columbia, I studied mathematics and quantitative economics at UC Irvine, where I served as Chair of the UCI Chapter of the Association for Women in Mathematics and as a Learning Assistant in the Mathematics Department. Through these roles, I worked closely with students, faculty, and administrators to organize academic and professional events, support student communities, and report students' needs to the department.

As a Senator, I would focus on issues that directly affect graduate students, such as making academic and career resources more accessible and increasing the level of transparency in University policies. I am especially interested in making sure that master's students, who often have a shorter time at Columbia, are able to navigate academics, recruiting, research, and University resources smoothly, as well as have their voices heard in decision-making.

I would be honored to represent Natural Sciences students and bring their concerns and ideas to the University Senate.



Animish Tenneti
M.A. Student
Mathematics Department

My name is Animish Tenneti, and I am keenly interested in running for University Senate. I am a first year graduate student studying Mathematics of Finance. The reason I chose this Program was to use the Quantitative Toolkit to address systemic issues and empower creative, progressive solutions with statistical backing. One of my long term ambitions is to serve the US People in the United States Government. I hope to talk to you soon!