

## Andrew Griswold: Weill Cornell Medicine Student Overseer Candidacy Statement



Hi! My name is Andrew Griswold and I am a third year MD-PhD student. During my time here, I've been fortunate to serve as a student leader, listening to my peers and advocating on their behalf. As MSEC president (2016) and co-chair of the medical school reaccreditation student steering committee with Raul Martinez, the current Student Overseer, I've worked to improve the student experience and broader institutional culture here at Weill Cornell Medicine. Navigating the institution through these roles, I have developed strong working relationships with numerous student leaders, faculty and administrators across the medical and graduate programs. Together, we have made significant strides. Some notable accomplishments include:

- **Housing:** Negotiating reasonable Lasdon construction rent rebates, expanding the student housing portfolio to include affordable single unit (Stahl) options
- **Health & Wellness:** Adding a psychologist to the counseling services, sponsoring free muffins
- **Diversity:** Forming the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, appointing an MSEC Diversity Representative
- **Student Space:** Designing new student spaces on the Lasdon 5<sup>th</sup> floor and in 1300 York Avenue

I would be honored to continue advocating for the student body as Student Overseer.

The Student Overseer represents the diverse viewpoints of all students at WCM. My experience with medical and graduate coursework, medicine and surgery clerkships, and my current thesis research in pharmacology, uniquely qualifies me for such a role. Given the complexity of our institution, however, nothing is more valuable than speaking directly with the community. I want to continue to hear stories of your successes and struggles so that we may constantly shape and improve WCM.

In the coming months, the Board of Overseers will vote on a Strategic Plan, which will dictate WCM development over the next decade. As this plan is formed, it is of paramount importance that the student voice is heard. My experience will enable me to successfully advocate for all of our students and our needs at this critical turning point.

I'd love to hear your ideas for the future; here are a few of mine moving forward:

- **Housing:** Grow the inventory to guarantee affordable housing for all WCM students, reassess the pet & family housing policies, protect student housing in case of future construction
- **Health & Wellness:** Promote a healthy training environment, continue to expand wellness services
- **Diversity:** Provide mentorship from the student to faculty level for people of all backgrounds, support funding opportunities to champion diversity, foster a stronger culture of inclusion at WCM
- **Career Counseling:** Improve mentorship for all career tracks, strengthen career support from the Alumni Association and the Board of Overseers
- **Communication:** Streamline institutional communication through a single centralized source, facilitate dialogue between MSEC and GSEC with joint president office hours
- **Community:** Increase cohesion between students across all WCM programs, both in Qatar and New York, through structured and informal interdisciplinary activities

As students at Weill Cornell, our voice is strong and we have the opportunity to share it at the highest level, the Board of Overseers. If elected Student Overseer, I promise to remain informed, diplomatic, and persistent in advocating for the entire student body. I would appreciate your vote – if you have any thoughts about the position, please reach out, [ang2055@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ang2055@med.cornell.edu). Thank you!