

My name is Mitchell Martin and I attended Cornell University, worked at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, and am now a Graduate Student here at Weill.

In college I worked in the Office of Undergraduate Biology as a student assistant. My duties ranged from counseling students in making curricular choices to helping organize department events. In doing so I really enjoyed working with individual students of different backgrounds and interests, and helping find the right curricular path for them to achieve their goals.

My number one priority is to mitigate the ongoing decline in the enrollment of international students as a result of the national political climate. The importance of maintaining our community's diversity cannot be understated. This is especially important in science and medicine where varied viewpoints and novel approaches are invaluable. The three-year term of the next Student Overseer coincides with three years in which the federal leadership of the United States is unlikely change its attitude toward noncitizens. For that reason, it is imperative that the next Student Overseer be willing to work to combat this.

Additionally, I want to build on the successes in mental health seen under the current Student Overseer. I have personally struggled with mental health difficulties and I know that it is not always easy to talk about. The challenges of medical school and graduate school are difficult enough without having to be overly concerned about one's own health and well-being. I would like to build on the initiatives that support our mental health, such as Well at Weill and PAWS, to destigmatize asking for help.

Finally, the most important and challenging part of the of Student Overseer position is to understand the interests and concerns of such a large and multifaceted body. The only way to achieve this is to engage in, and facilitate as much communication as possible between all groups. It is a priority of mine to increase communication and transparency between administrators and students. Everyone needs representation in each of the issues that are important to them. I have reached out to leaders of MSEC, GSEC, and MSEC in Qatar, and I will fight no less ardently in regards to financial aid and clerkships than I will for housing and curricular issues on behalf of all students. The nature of this position is to be willing to learn about the problems of all students and to work to fix them, regardless of personal experience with those problems. I am absolutely willing to do this.

As Student Overseer I would aim to safeguard the principles of diversity that help define our community, protect and aid the mental health of all students, and facilitate as much communication as possible between students and administrators, students in New York City and Doha, and medical and graduate students. Those are my goals and I would be honored to receive your vote.

