Hello, my name is Miriam and I am currently a second year MD-PhD student. I have enjoyed working with many of you on class projects, student government and course refinement initiatives. I am continuously impressed with the determination and energy of Weill medical and graduate students for community outreach, administrative improvement and curriculum renewal as well as the ingenuity with which they bring these ideals into reality. I would be honored to work towards furthering these goals and making sure that the student voice on campus is well represented and respected.

As course representative for both the Brain and Mind and Basis of Disease courses I experienced first hand the special blend of fulfillment and frustration inherent in all student/faculty mediator positions. I also realized that it is imperative to have a student perspective presented to the administration in a respectful yet firm manner. Often misperceptions could be corrected by facilitating the flow of information from student to faculty. I feel strongly that students need to be involved in all levels of administration, from housing and financial aid to curriculum review. One of my main goals is to work with current student representatives on these committees to strengthen their positions and support their initiatives.

My status as an MD-PhD student has meant that I have had the unique privilege of interacting with both graduate and medical students. On numerous occasions I have marveled at the similarity of mindset between these student bodies. Global awareness and advocacy, scientific curiosity, pride in our institution and yes the ability to throw a good party are universal themes in the Weill student consciousness. Yet due to our separate courses of study, interaction between students has remained limited. I would like to facilitate a bridging of this unfortunate chasm so that we can work together on our common interests, sharing ideas and insights. A similar argument can be made for expanding relations with our peers in Qatar. I regret that I have not yet had a chance to interact with the Qatari class and would like to make sure that such opportunities are both frequent and productive.

I started medical school as a traditional single student and am now married to a fellow medical student. This transition has helped me to appreciate the need to represent the unique needs of non-traditional and married medical and graduate students. As the average age of medical students rises medical administration needs to change accordingly. Housing, financial aid, health insurance, and course planning need to take into account that increasing numbers of students have responsibilities to their families. Adequate warning about move-in dates, financial aid changes, extra night sessions and the scheduling of clinical rotations is essential to allow students to maintain some level of normalcy in their lives.

Those of you who know me have seen that I will work tirelessly to advocate for students. Whether it is arranging a group USMLE discount, getting videos posted online, or gathering props for the class show no concern is too small. I am also not afraid to voice your concerns over larger issues such as Cornell’s descent on medical school rankings, grading disparities, financial aid delays, curriculum overhauls, security concerns, the need to improve our online resources and the current housing crunch. I also anticipate a rise in quality of life issues as construction projects move forward. Your comments and criticism will always be welcome, addressed, and kept confidential.

Most of all, I want to hear from you, my fellow students, about your concerns and hopes for the future of the medical college. It would be my honor to represent such a diverse, intelligent student body.