Hello, my name is Raul Martinez-McFaline and I would like to be your next Student Overseer. During the past three years, we have seen a myriad of changes on the WCMC campus. We have added the new Belfer Research Building and recruited a new dean of the medical college as well as a new dean of the graduate school, Deans Laurie Glimcher, and Dean Gary Koretzky respectively. During this time, our current Student Overseer, Sophie McKenney, has carried student initiatives to the new administration and has taken the opinion of the student body as a whole in an effective way. My plan is to continue to implement new initiatives and maintain the current initiatives that will cater to the entire student body in our continually changing environment. My new initiatives center on the idea of professional identity development, which include career planning and diversity mentorship.

As we venture into a new curriculum for the medical students and a curriculum review for the graduate students, we must think about the next career step for our students. Part of career planning is finding mentors that work in our potential fields. As it stands, we do not have an up-to-date database that students can use to find WCMC alumni in a field of their interest. My plan is to work with the Graduate School, WCMC Alumni Association, and other offices to assist in setting up the infrastructure for a mentor database. In addition, an aspect of good mentorship is finding those whose experiences match your future career goals.

The WCMC Office of Faculty Diversity mission includes the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty. This is of upmost importance when an MD student is looking to define their medical specialty of interest, a PhD student is applying for a post-doctoral position, a WCMC-Qatar student is choosing their fourth year rotations, or a PA student is looking to find a place of employment. As students, we should be able to find someone in our field that has similar backgrounds. Cornell University’s Strategic Plan 2010-2015 includes “building a university-wide capacity to address the needs of an increasingly diverse population of... graduate and professional students...” As this Strategic Plan comes to an end, we must look forward to the next five years and ensure that WCMC continues to make an effort to seek diverse faculty to be mentors and career advisors for all students.

In addition to these initiatives, I am aware that there are countless other initiatives that have been started by MSEC, MSEC-Q, GSEC, and the previous Student Overseers – scrub machine access, 4th year WCMC-Q students participating in away rotations, PhD career counseling, pan-student social hour, etc. I will make every effort to see that these initiatives continue their trajectory in an effective and meaningful manner.

I believe that I am qualified for this position having served in a variety of roles on campus. First I have held several positions in the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA). My experience includes acting as president of the WCMC chapter, treasurer of the LMSA-Northeast regional board, and conference co-chair of the LMSA-Northeast regional conference at WCMC. I also helped lead the planning for the 2014 MD/PhD 4-day retreat. Additionally, I assisted in modifying the Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine (SEOM) constitution and was involved in remodeling the medical school curriculum as a member of the curriculum reform committee. As an MD/PhD student, I have completed two years of the medical curriculum and am now currently a BCMB* student in the graduate school. Accordingly, I am intimately involved with both the medical and graduate school perspectives necessary to improve Weill Cornell. It is with these initiatives and qualifications that I ask that you consider me as your next WCMC Student Overseer and I look forward to spending the next tenure continuing to ensure that “amazing things are happening here.”

*BCMB: Biochemistry & Structural Biology, Cell & Developmental Biology and Molecular Biology