

Richard P. Schure: Candidate for Re-Election as President

Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), University of Washington

I am honored to seek another term as President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS). Over the past year, I have been privileged to advocate for the 18,000+ graduate and professional students at UW's three campuses, championing their needs and collaborating with campus partners to advance our shared goals. We stand at a critical juncture in higher education: federal policies, attacks on international students, and funding cuts are creating uncertainty, and we need steady, knowledgeable leadership to ensure graduate students receive the support and resources they deserve. My primary objectives for the upcoming year center continuity of service, strategic planning, and robust advocacy at every level.

I. Strengthening and Expanding Coordinated Student Support i. **Coordinated Student Support Group:** This group unites major student support entities on campus - ranging from cultural and identity resource centers (Kelley ECC, Leadership Without Borders) to Student Legal Services, the Q Center, and numerous RSOs. In the coming year, I will: **1. Bolster Communication** by scheduling monthly roundtable sessions to share updates and resources across all support units. **2. Streamline Assistance** for students who feel scared, lost, and targeted by creating a centralized platform in partnership with campus IT resources. **3. Elevate Marginalized Voices** by leveraging our relationships and working with the VP Equity & Inclusion and undergraduate allies, ensuring targeted interventions for communities most impacted by current federal pressures. **4. Deliverable:** annual "State of Graduate Support" white paper for regents and legislators.

II. Deepening Data-Driven Advocacy i. **Survey Working Group:** Continuing the initiative that I spearheaded to develop comprehensive, IRB-approved surveys, I intend to: **1. Disseminate & Analyze Results** from the recent pulse survey conducted in February to identify the most urgent student concerns. **2. Form Actionable Solutions** by collaborating with lawmakers, campus leadership, and external advocacy groups, using real data and real stories to drive legislative proposals. **3. Preserve Confidentiality** by expanding robust data protection measures that respect the privacy of every participant. **4. Deliverable:** Data driven stories and priorities of the graduate and professional student body driving our advocacy efforts.

III. Strategic Plan 2.0: Establishing and Updating a Long-Term Strategic Plan i. **Revive Annual Strategic Plan—Mission, Vision, and Values:** Building on my work this year with the Graduate School Executive Staff (GSES) with Graduate School Dean Joy Williamson-Lott, I will: **1. Integrate Input** from senators, executive officers, staff, and campus partners over the summer, aiming to publish a realistic and forward-looking strategic plan by early fall. **2. Promote Continuity** by documenting year-over-year goals in an easily accessible format, ensuring the incoming leadership can seamlessly continue our initiatives. **3. Embed Accountability** measures, including mid-year progress reports and a final end-of-year review for all GPSS efforts. **4. Outcome:** baked-in continuity regardless of yearly turnover.

IV. Graduate Student Bill of Rights i. **Advancing Student Rights and Representation:** A long-standing project now ready for revival. I plan to: **1. Collaborate with ASUW and Faculty Senate** on joint legislation to protect graduate and undergraduate students' academic freedom, labor rights, and mental health services. **2. Build Broad Support** among faculty, administrators, and student groups so we can codify these rights into our constitutions and reaffirm UW's commitment to equitable graduate and undergraduate education. **3. Parallel Track:** negotiate MoU language with HR to recognize these rights in policy manuals. ii. **Union Outreach:** By strengthening ties with UAW 4121 and formalizing quarterly joint sessions, we can fortify our collective voice: **1. Amplify Union-Driven**

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Issues within the GPSS Senate. **2. Coordinate Advocacy** for contract improvements, cost-of-living adjustments, and equitable healthcare coverage.

V. Sustainable Funding Solutions: Mitigating Funding Cuts & Exploring New Revenue Streams

i. Identify Innovative Funding Opportunities: The looming threat of state and federal cuts requires proactive solutions: **1. Partnership with Graduate School Advancement:** Continue working with Maria Barrios and UW Alumni Association President Mark Ostersmith to launch an endowment campaign, generating donor interest and long-term funding for key GPSS initiatives. **2. Re-Submit STF Proposals:** We'll refine and resubmit the Student Technology Fee proposal for a dedicated GPSS graphic design position, to strengthen our outreach and branding (v2.0 will address feedback from the STF). **3. SAF Reform:** Advocate for changes to the state RCW, pushing for an optional annual increase of 6% instead of the current 4% allowing the SAF committee to have the option of increasing services to meet student services demands.

VI. Amplifying Our Voice Beyond Campus

i. Health Fee Initiative & Service Efficiency: Graduate students face unique health and counseling needs - by efficiently allocating fees, we can lower out-of-pocket costs and expand mental health service offerings.

ii. State & Federal Advocacy:

1. Washington Student Association (WSA): I will coordinate legislative agenda planning and champion a robust Huskies on the Hill event, emphasizing tuition affordability and research funding.

2. BIG10 Academic Alliance / USSA: Strengthening our relationships through the U.S. Student Association and across peer institutions will allow us to share successful strategies, defend graduate student interests, and speak with a unified voice on national issues.

VII. Ensuring Technological Advancement and Equity

i. Graduate AI Policy and Tools: Building on my involvement in the AI Taskforce, I will continue: **1. Implementing Guidelines** for ethical AI usage in graduate coursework and research. **2. Promoting Accessible Tools** that benefit all disciplines, with a focus on bridging the technological gap in humanities and social science programs.

Data first, people always. I believe in evidence-based negotiation grounded in empathy, transparency, and a bias toward coalition-building. I welcome dissent, mentor future leaders, and measure success by the doors we keep open for the scholars who come after us.

The next 12 months will test our resolve as federal budget cuts and culture-war politics encroach on graduate education. I bring a proven record of results, the trust of campus partners, and the humility to keep listening. Over this past year, I have gained critical insights, forged essential relationships, and delivered on multiple advocacy fronts. Yet there is still important work ahead. With renewed momentum, I will strengthen our campus-wide support systems, champion data-driven strategies, secure new funding sources, and push for policies that uplift and protect every UW graduate student.

I humbly ask for your support in re-electing me as GPSS President. Together, we will ensure the voices of graduate and professional students remain empowered, heard, and respected - in the classroom, the labs, Olympia, and beyond. Let us finish what we started: protecting access, amplifying graduate voices, and leaving GPSS stronger than when we found it.