

GPSS 2025-2026 VOTERS' GUIDE

Prepared by the 2024-2025 GPSS Elections Committee for the 2025-2026 GPSS Officer Elections

Welcome to the University of Washington (UW) 2025-2026 Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) elections! We look forward to a fair, transparent, and competitive election process. The GPSS Elections Committee here presents a voters' guide for our senate, detailing the available positions and our candidates.

The GPSS elections are representative in process; our senate is the voting body to elect the next members of the GPSS officer team. Our senators cast their votes on behalf of their constituencies, making senators -- in good standing -- the only eligible voters in the GPSS officer elections.

Please reach out to your departmental senator(s) for input on the election process. You can find the senate roster online at <https://www.gpss.uw.edu/senate/senators/>.

All GPSS officer positions are up for election during this time. GPSS officers serve a one-year term from summer quarter to the following spring quarter. This year, the following officer positions have elections:

- President
- Vice President of Internal Affairs
- Vice President of External Affairs
- Vice President of Finance
- Vice President of Equity and Inclusion
- Vice President of Administration

For more information about our elections processes, see the [GPSS Bylaws](#) and the [2025-2026 Elections Guide](#).

For complaints and challenges regarding the GPSS elections, please see our [complaint procedure document](#) and the [GPSS Bylaws](#).

If you have any questions or comments about our elections process, please reach out to the GPSS Elections Committee at gpsselect@uw.edu.

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PRESIDENT

There are two (2) candidates for this position. For all positions that do not have candidates, nominations are allowed from the floor. See the Bylaws.

Candidates:

Richard Schure

Ryan Wicklund

Materials:

Richard Schure

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Ryan Wicklund

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Position Description:

The GPSS President acts as the key spokesperson for the GPSS and the graduate and professional student body, representing the GPSS in both internal and external affairs, at the highest level of administration in individual meetings, committees, and boards at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Responsibilities:

- Serves as the key spokesperson of the organization and representative of the graduate and professional student body, representing GPSS at the highest level of administration in individual meetings, committees, and boards at the University of Washington, Seattle.
- Both internally and externally, the President maintains final authority on issues until they can be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee or the GPSS. When immediate action is necessary, the President solicits assistance from the other officers, particularly those whose purview pertains most closely to the issue at hand.
- As a guiding principle, the President shall maintain constructive relationships with members of the UW administration, leadership of the local union under which Academic Student Employees (ASEs) are contracted with the university (UAW 4121), and other internal and external entities with the express purpose of representing all graduate and professional students at the University of Washington, and so long as those external ties do not conflict with the President's ability to carry out directives by the GPSS in the form of senate resolutions.
- Chairs the Executive Committee and senate meetings.
- Coordinates and conducts regular meetings with other officers individually and all together.
- Assists in developing the vision for and participates in internal GPSS events and programming where appropriate.
- Appoints graduate and professional students to GPSS liaison positions on university committees, councils, boards, commissions, and task forces unless the authority is defined differently. Several of the university committees have a natural fit with certain GPSS officers; these positions are listed specifically under each officer's position description. The President works with GPSS officers to ensure that these positions are filled by either the officers themselves or a staff designee.

- The President speaks at UW Commencement ceremony.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

There is one (1) candidate for this position. For all positions that have at least one candidate, no nominations will be allowed from the floor. See GPSS Bylaws.

Candidates:

Juan Andres Contreras Mora

Materials:

Juan Andres Contreras Mora

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Position Description:

The primary roles of the Vice President of Internal Affairs are: 1) to serve as the deputy to the President on internal affairs; 2) to manage the internal operations of the GPSS; 3) to work directly with the Graduate School to support and develop campus partnerships; and 4) to manage all GPSS events.

Responsibilities:

- Assumes the internal duties of the President in the event when the President vacates office.
- Supports the President by responding to the President's requests for filling in as a GPSS representative on campus.
- Maintains oversight of planning and implementation of all GPSS events, socials, and summits (Including but not limited to Husky Sunrise, Husky Sunset, and quarterly socials).
- Coordinates and oversees staff hiring, training, promotion, and schedules, and conducts regular staff meetings, and maintains authority on matters pertaining to personnel and programs within the GPSS office.
- Shall manage professional and career development programming, facilitated or co-sponsored by GPSS.
- Represents the GPSS on the Graduate School Council.
- Represents the GPSS on the ASUW Board of Directors and coordinates with the GPSS Executive Liaisons to the ASUW Senate to ensure that GPSS is well informed of issues taken up in the ASUW.
- Coordinates transition meetings between all incumbent and newly elected officers.

VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

There are two (2) candidates for this position. For all positions that have at least one candidate, no nominations will be allowed from the floor. See GPSS Bylaws.

Candidates:

Miles Parker
Annika Peterson

Materials:

Miles Parker

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Annika Peterson

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Position Description:

The Vice President of External Affairs serves as 1) the deputy to the President on external affairs; and 2) the primary representative of GPSS to the state and federal governments.

Responsibilities:

- Advocates for graduate and professional students at the local, state, and federal government level, and makes efforts to obtain official positions from the GPSS and/or the Executive Committee on issues being considered by other groups. If no official opinion can be reached, the Vice President consults with the President and either uses discretion in putting forth an opinion, or abstains from commenting until a position can be obtained.
- Outlines the issues taken up by the GPSS in an annual legislative agenda with advisement from the Legislative Advisory Board and approved by the GPSS each fall quarter;
- As the primary legislative advocate for graduate and professional students, the Vice President of External Affairs registers with the state of Washington as a lobbyist for higher education during the legislative session. Additionally, the Vice President of External Affairs works with both internal and external partners on issues in their purview, including representing GPSS on relevant university commissions, committees, and councils.
- Supports and collaborates with the President on external issues and advocacy efforts and maintains a notable presence in Olympia during the legislative session. The Vice President of External Affairs conducts and attends hearings, meets with legislators, provides testimony when appropriate, and reports to and seeks input from the GPSS on legislative issues.
- Assumes the external duties of the President in the event when the President vacates office.

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

There is one (1) candidate for this position. For all positions that have no candidates, nominations can be taken from the floor. See the GPSS Bylaws.

Candidates:

Anushka Bhagchandani

Materials:

Anushka Bhagchandani

- [Resume](#)
- Statement of Objectives

Position Description:

The primary role of the Vice President of Finance is 1) to serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the organization; and 2) to administer all aspects of the GPSS budget.

Responsibilities:

- Oversees all GPSS expenditures and keeps accurate financial records of spending for all officers and committees in collaboration with the Student Activities Office (SAO) to ensure that the GPSS records match what is reported in the administrative budget.
- Administers all funding and transfer requests as described in the GPSS Bylaws. As a general guiding principle, all monetary transactions of the GPSS should be handled, tracked, and monitored through the Vice President of Finance.
- Shall be prepared to respond to any internal or external inquiries regarding the organization's financial status by maintaining accurate records at all times.
- By the second meeting of each academic year, the Vice President of Finance shall present the current budget of the GPSS; quarterly, they shall report on the GPSS' financial status to the senate and Executive Committee.
- Assists senators and other graduate students in their application for special, departmental, and travel funds.
- Drafts all officers' proposed budgets for each pending fiscal year and facilitates their approval.
- Provides a fiscal perspective when needed on legislative/policy issues for the Vice President of External Affairs.
- Provides a student voice when fiscal issues arise on campus.
- Manages the endowment of the GPSS by ensuring that the organization receives dividends from the initial endowment investment.

VICE PRESIDENT OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

There is one (1) candidate for this position. For all positions that have at least one candidate, no nominations will be allowed from the floor. See GPSS Bylaws.

Candidates:

Pavandeep Singh Josan

Materials:

Pavandeep Singh Josan

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Position Description:

The primary roles of the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion are: 1) to serve as Chief Officer of Diversity on behalf of the GPSS; and 2) champion diversity, equity, and inclusion within GPSS and the larger university, regularly practicing internal and external accountability.

Responsibilities:

- Integrates diversity, equity, and inclusion into GPSS goals and activities in collaboration with the other officers and Executive Committee.
- Conducts internal reviews of GPSS on any issues relevant to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Collaborates broadly with graduate and professional students, administration, faculty, staff, and others on diversity programming and events.
- Maintains a publicly-available equity toolkit that graduate and professional students can apply in university settings
- Promotes and ensures the delivery of GPSS Diversity Funds.
- Coordinates student feedback surveys and focus group conversations for all Graduate School program reviews (with the Graduate School), and produces the GPSS report on student feedback as an addition to the review committee's site visit report to the Graduate School Council.

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

There is one (1) candidate for this position. For all positions that have at least one candidate, no nominations will be allowed from the floor. See GPSS Bylaws.

Candidates:

Noah Nguyen Hough

Materials:

Noah Nguyen Hough

- [Resume](#)
- [Statement of Objectives](#)

Position Description:

The primary roles of the Vice President of Administration are: 1) to produce and oversee the GPSS records and publications; 2) to facilitate communication among the GPSS, senators, and their constituents; and 3) to regulate the GPSS Senate membership.

Responsibilities:

- Oversees the application for senate representation as described in the Bylaws.
- Maintains the GPSS mailing list through a senator registration process.
- As the parliamentarian of the senate, the Vice President of Administration ensures that GPSS meetings are run in accordance with the procedures set forth in the most recent edition of Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis.
- Administers official records and documents associated with the GPSS operations accurately with a uniform filing and archiving system.
- Assists senators and other graduate students in submitting resolutions, presenting resolutions for readings at Senate meetings, and forwarding passed resolutions to UW and external parties.
- Manages internal and external communications from the GPSS office. These forms of communication include but are not limited to: distributing minutes, agendas, and resolutions timely to senators; sending updates and announcements from GPSS on events and activities; and developing publications for internal and external audiences from the GPSS.

THANK YOU AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thank you for participating in the GPSS officer elections! On behalf of all graduate and professional students, we extend our gratitude for creating an inclusive community and leadership environment. GPSS is integral to representing graduate and professional students to the university community and leadership, along with advocating for graduate and professional students to our local and state governments.

Your voice matters. Please consider becoming a GPSS senator or reaching out to your departmental/program senator for input. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.gpss.uw.edu/>.

The GPSS Elections Committee has created or combined resources for help during the election. Please see additional resources below:

- [GPSS Elections FAQ](#)
- [GPSS Bylaws](#)
- [GPSS Elections Guide for the 2025-2026 Officer Elections](#)
- [Elections Complaint Procedures](#)

Thank you again for your participation! Please reach out to the GPSS Elections Committee if you have any questions or comments at gpsselect@uw.edu.