

## **GPSS VP of Finance, Ryan Wicklund, Statement of Objectives for 2025-2026 GPSS President**

As VP of Finance, I was able to lead the GPSS into a financially favorable position, all while establishing very important connections with other organizations, workshopping long-term projects for the GPSS' prosperity, and identifying where we can improve functionally for the next year.

As GPSS President next year, I shall continue and expand this work by:

- Being approachable, answerable, and accountable to the graduate and professional student body by being present on campus, posting office hours, and proactively seeking engagement from all those with complaints, comments, questions, or concerns of any kind.
- Expanding relationships with UW and The Graduate Schools' administrators by extensively attending their committees, Faculty Senates, Tri-Campus meetings, and the Board of Regents to push graduate student and union interests. Furthermore, launch surveys of the graduate student body to collect data on prevalent campus issues to empower our negotiations and resolutions such as:
  - Stronger protections and resources for international, genderqueer, and other marginalized students being directly or indirectly attacked or threatened by the Federal Government.
  - Greater funding and staffing for the DRS to create a faster, more effective service.
  - UW wide regulations ensuring equitable and accessible programs through hybridization options to move away from strictly graded in person attendance.
  - Night and Saturday hours for the Allen/Suzzallo Library and its research commons.
  - Greater health insurance coverage, especially relating to glasses and optometry.
- Expanding our engagement campaigns to reach more graduate students and recruit more senators and appointees earlier in the year, especially from departments with historically

fewer appointees and even one-year programs by doing outreach in Summer; and gather applicants for staff positions earlier to hire decisively and efficiently.

- Gather and appoint grad students to all appropriate committees early, especially for SAF and STF so that they will not have to wait.
  - Increase grad turnout to Huskies on the Hill and Virtual Grad Student Lobby Days.
  - Increase applicants for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium.
- Helping to lead and synchronize the WSA legislative lobbying agendas to mobilize against threats to grants and financial aid for graduate students. Including specific items to:
  - Increase and codify a strong amount of funds for the Graduate Student Loan.
  - Create a need based Financial Aid program for graduate students.
  - Create Washington State funding for research in higher education.
  - Give priority course and housing registration to students with dependents.
- Leveraging the revival of the USSA and my connection to it to drive a national student campaign against cuts to research and aid such as NSF, NIH, Pell Grants, WIC, and SNAP.
- Expanding interfacing with Identity based RSOs and collaboration with ASUW, its commissions, ASUWT, ASUWB, and the VP of Equity and Inclusion to host bigger and a greater number of workshops and panels on breaking down barriers and getting a greater number of marginalized and minority student populations into grad school.
- Pushing UW and our student governments to organize greater collaboration with colleges against direct threats to students and their programs from the Federal Government.
- Organizing a series of fundraising activities alongside the VP of Finance, VP of Internal, GPSS Alumni and various RSOs to generate further discretionary and extra funds.
- Leading Tri-Campus collaboration for UW graduate and student government affairs.