

I am running for GPSS Vice President of Finance because I believe in building structures that help students succeed, and that begins with ensuring our financial resources reflect the needs and priorities of graduate and professional students. Over the past academic year, I have been an active member of the Diversity Committee (including the Diversity Funds), the Travel Grants Committee, and the U-PASS Advisory Board. Throughout the participation within these committees, I understood that financial leadership is not just balancing numbers, but also creating systems that support students and sustain our communities.

Through the Diversity Committee, I have helped evaluate proposals for events that promote inclusion, community building, and equity while in the Travel Grants Committee, I have reviewed applications and discussed how to make the process fair and effective, especially for students who rely on these funds to present their work. In both spaces, I have seen how impactful even small amounts of funding can be when used purposefully.

Lastly, my work on the U-PASS Advisory Board has also influenced how I think about long-term planning. I have been working with the board on transforming a six million dollar reserve into an endowment that earns interest and becomes more sustainable. I would like to apply a similar strategy to GPSS finances, thinking not just about the year ahead but also the years to come.

We are also living in a moment where the broader U.S. economy is shrinking. That makes it even more important to ensure our budget is optimized to support students and that GPSS funding is not treated as expendable when the university considers cuts. As Vice President of Finance, I will focus both on protecting our existing resources and improving how we use them, especially for students who are often underserved.

**If elected, I will:**

- Use my experience in data analysis, from both astronomy research and data science coursework, to assess spending trends and identify areas where GPSS funds could be used more effectively.
- Develop a simple, user-friendly budget transparency dashboard to help students and senators visualize how GPSS funds are allocated, where money is being spent, and how much is left in each funding category.
- Host an annual Budget Feedback Day, paired with an open survey, where students can learn more about the GPSS budget and offer input on how funding should be prioritized.
- Continue advocating for the budget to prioritize support for underrepresented students, including international students and those from marginalized communities. I will ensure that our funding structures remain equitable and inclusive.

- Improve access to funding by simplifying the travel grants application process and ensuring that deadlines, eligibility requirements, and decisions are communicated clearly and on time.
- Advocate against cuts to GPSS funding and student-centered programs by being an active member and prepared participant in both internal and external committees. I will stay in contact with committee members outside of meetings to continue developing proposals and addressing concerns throughout the year.
- Represent student perspectives as a voting member on the Services and Activities Fee Committee (SAF), the Student Technology Fee Committee (STF), and other university-level committees where financial decisions are made.
- Chair the Finance & Budget Committee and the Travel Grants Committee in ways that are collaborative, welcoming, and focused on improving the experience for students engaging with GPSS funding.