

Juan Andres Contreras Mora  
MHA Student 20206  
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Candidate

As the current Community Outreach and Events Director for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), I have had the privilege of working directly under the Vice President of Internal Affairs this past year. Through this role, I have provided hands-on support in organizing many of the impactful events hosted by GPSS. My experience has given me a deep understanding of the university's event policies, from room bookings and required permits, to the various platforms we use for event planning. I am confident navigating these logistics and know what is needed to ensure events run smoothly and in compliance with university guidelines.

In addition to my role, I have actively collaborated with the Vice President of Administration and the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, supporting their projects and helping to ensure that all GPSS initiatives are well-executed and inclusive. I've regularly attended Senate meetings, contributed to the Diversity Committee, and been present at nearly every GPSS event—tabling, helping behind the scenes, and stepping in wherever needed. Even while managing a full academic schedule of six classes per quarter during the first two quarters of the year, I remained deeply involved with GPSS. Next year, with a lighter course load, I look forward to dedicating even more time and energy to this organization.

What excites me most about the role of Vice President of Internal Affairs is its strong administrative focus—an area I'm especially passionate about. My master's program in Healthcare Administration has taught me how to manage systems, improve processes, and work effectively across teams. These are the same skills that I believe will help me succeed in this position, especially when it comes to ensuring smooth internal operations and strong collaboration among GPSS officers and staff.

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If elected, I want to build on the incredible momentum created the current Vice President of Internal Affairs. I hope to continue growing the scale and impact of GPSS events while also creating new opportunities for graduate and professional students to explore Seattle and connect with one another in meaningful ways. I want to plan more cultural and off-campus experiences—like museum visits, trips to the Fremont Market and other flea or art markets, and outings to sporting events. I also want to work with more student organizations and campus departments to create joint programming that encourages cross-campus community building. I want graduate and professional students, especially those who are new to Seattle or feeling disconnected from campus life, to feel a stronger sense of belonging.

Beyond event planning, I will also be committed to the internal structure and communication of GPSS. I want to help strengthen the collaborative environment within the organization, making sure our officers and staff are aligned, involved, and supported in their goals. One way I plan on doing this is hiring earlier into the year and ensuring that by the middle of the first quarter all of the staff is adequately trained and prepared to execute their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. I plan to be more active in committees, more intentional in officer and staff scheduling and participation, and more proactive in facilitating internal meetings and communications. I believe GPSS works best when we work together—and I am excited to help lead that effort.