**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

**Candidate: Mel Gürçay-Morris**  
**Position: VP of Finance, Graduate & Professional Student Senate (GPSS), University of Washington**

As a candidate for **Vice President of Finance**, I am committed to ensuring financial sustainability, transparency, and accessibility within GPSS. My objectives are as follows:

**1. Financial Stability & Budget Deficit Resolution**

* Develop strategic financial plans to **eliminate the GPSS budget deficit**, ensuring long-term financial security.
* Strengthen fiscal management practices to provide **consistent funding** for student events, initiatives, and professional development opportunities.

**2. Transparency & Accessibility in Financial Decision-Making**

* Establish **clear documentation** on budget processes, empowering students to understand how financial decisions are made.
* Improve communication channels to ensure **greater student engagement** in financial discussions and decision-making.

**3. Expansion of Funding Opportunities**

* Seek and secure **alternative funding sources**—grants, partnerships, and sponsorships—to **increase financial impact** and support more student initiatives.
* Collaborate with university leadership and external organizations to maximize financial resources available to graduate students.

**4. Budget Alignment with Student Needs**

* Ensure **budget priorities reflect** the needs and aspirations of the graduate student community by integrating student feedback into financial planning.
* Foster collaboration among **GPSS leadership, students, and stakeholders** to maintain alignment around financial goals and strategic initiatives.

With **extensive expertise** in strategic decision-making, financial efficiency, and user-centric leadership, I will apply my **data-driven approach** to optimize GPSS financial management while advocating for the best interests of graduate students. I look forward to contributing to a **transparent, sustainable, and student-centered financial future** for GPSS.