

## **Statement of Objectives**

*Gaurav Joshi – Candidate for GPSS Vice President of Finance (2025–2026)*

As a graduate student in Aeronautics and Astronautics at the University of Washington, my academic and professional journey has consistently revolved around high-impact leadership, financial and technical decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving. I am excited to submit my candidacy for the position of GPSS Vice President of Finance for the 2025–2026 academic year. This role aligns perfectly with my organizational experience, engineering training, and deep interest in student advocacy.

## **Background and Motivation**

Over the past year, I have served as an Executive Senator in the GPSS and worked closely with campus groups to understand the challenges graduate students face, from research funding and travel support to fee transparency. This exposure helped me realize the pivotal role GPSS plays in representing student voices especially through the judicious allocation and management of financial resources. My goal in seeking the Vice President of Finance position is to ensure that GPSS continues to support graduate and professional students in a transparent, responsive, and fiscally responsible manner.

In my role as a New Product Development Engineer at Mahindra & Mahindra, I led cross-functional teams to manage multimillion-dollar engineering projects. I was responsible not only for the technical optimization of vehicle components but also for aligning design and manufacturing with strict cost targets, regulatory standards, and stakeholder timelines. These experiences have trained me to view budgets as more than just spreadsheets they are strategic tools that enable organizations to meet their goals.

## **Objectives if Elected**

If elected as Vice President of Finance, my priorities would be:

### **1. Budget Transparency and Communication**

I will implement clear, accessible budget presentations for Senators and the broader student body.

This includes quarterly updates and open Q&A sessions to demystify the GPSS budgeting process and gather real-time feedback.

## **2. Strategic Allocation of Funds**

I aim to optimize the use of GPSS funds to better support student-led initiatives, department events, and travel grants. I will leverage my technical background in data analytics and operations to build a responsive framework that can prioritize funding based on impact and equity.

## **3. Strengthen Committee Processes**

As Chair of the Finance & Budget Committee and Travel Grants Committee, I will ensure meetings are structured, inclusive, and action-driven. I also intend to encourage wider participation by streamlining application and review workflows.

## **4. Enhance GPSS's Fiscal Role in Policy Advocacy**

By collaborating with the Vice President of External Affairs, I will bring a fiscal perspective to broader advocacy efforts ensuring that the GPSS budget reflects and supports our values around accessibility, equity, and innovation.

## **5. Expand Financial Literacy**

I propose organizing financial planning workshops or webinars for student leaders and RSO treasurers to strengthen our community's financial competency and engagement with GPSS processes.

Serving as the GPSS Vice President of Finance is not just a leadership opportunity for me it's a way to give back to the institution and peers who've made my graduate experience enriching. I bring a blend of technical fluency, strategic budgeting, and collaborative energy that I believe will serve the student community well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gaurav Joshi  
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