**Statement of Objectives**

I am excited to submit my candidacy for the position of VP of Finance for GPSS. As a former student government President, I understand the impact student voice and coalitions have on high level decision making. With a strong background in student government leadership, budget management, and fundraising, I am excited to contribute to a sustainable financial future for GPSS—one that reflects the needs and priorities of our graduate student body.

**My Experience in Student Government Executive Leadership**

At the University of Wyoming, I served as ASUW President, managing a $1.2 million budget funded primarily by student fees—similar to GPSS funding through SAF. As President, I managed our budget through the annual budget process, allocation of our endowment spending, and most notably, worked with our Budget & Planning Committee to get our student government out of a $230k budget deficit. This process included making gradual cuts and ensuring our decisions were strategically aligned with ASUW priorities. During this time, we had to find creative means of funding, as making cuts would simply not do or be sustainable for the future. I worked closely with the university’s foundation to create a Giving Day Campaign focused on our priorities, which included creating an endowed scholarship for DACA & international students and a funding base for the first Food Share Pantry at our institution. The fundraising efforts took time and lots of communication. We reached out to Alumni, state-based non-profits, and worked with the Board of Trustees and Dean of Students to get stakeholders tuned in and ready to donate. As I have been in tune with the innerworkings of GPSS by speaking with executive student leadership and doing research online, I believe my experience in budgeting, fundraising, alumni engagement, and public speaking will be incredibly helpful for the growth of our student government.

Furthermore, while I have not had the privilege of sitting on GPSS committees, I am no stranger to the responsibilities of chairing two committees, the required sitting on three, and awarding scholarships and grants. I am confident in my ability to understand this process quickly, as it is similar to the work I’ve done as Chair of my student government’s Budget & Planning Committee.

Lastly, my work in the field of law has sharpened my attention to detail, thinking on the fly, and working within complex rules and systems. I believe this is a necessary skill for this role as I will be working with complex spreadsheets, providing reports to the Senate, and giving presentations to the SAF and other university committees, all within timely deadlines.

**My Goals for the VP of Finance: Fundraising, Engagement, Outreach**

First, I want to get GPSS out of a budget deficit with **strategic budget cuts** **and** **fundraising efforts**. I hope to achieve this by working closely with GPSS leadership to understand our budgetary priorities and evaluate the effectiveness of the services we fund. Additionally, during my tenure, *I want to establish relationships with the UW foundation for fundraising efforts and capitalize on our alumni network* wanting to help students during a politically tumultuous time. The UW Foundation and Alumni Network is an *underutilized* resource GPSS has yet to explore, and I am a candidate with extensive student government fundraising experience.

Secondly, I want to maintain **accessibility** **and** **approachability** with this position. Finances can be intimidating, especially with the restrictions SAF funding poses. I want to be a resource for students by helping them navigate the complexities of the applications, the budget process, and our SAF rules that govern the use our funds.

Lastly, I want to focus on **outreach related to the SAF fees increase** **and** **with our external partners** at the other UW institutions and the WSA. While there are valid concerns about raising fees, *transparency* and *communication* about how the funds will be used to fill in gaps is critical to keeping our positive relationships with our constituents.