

Statement of Objectives for GPSS Vice President of Finance

Abhinav Bhargava

Dear Graduate and Professional Student Senators,

I am excited to submit my candidacy for the position of **Vice President of Finance** for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) for the 2025–2026 academic year. I bring with me a strong foundation in student governance, financial stewardship, and cross-campus collaboration—paired with a deep commitment to student advocacy and a vision for inclusive and transparent financial leadership.

Before joining the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington, I served as a Senator and later as the Treasurer for the **Graduate Student Senate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst**, representing over 8,000 graduate students. In this role, I managed a **\$1 million+ budget** supporting over **55 student organizations**, collaborated with university leadership including the **Chancellor, Provost, and Dean of the Graduate School**, and navigated key decisions on fee allocations, student events, and legal services. I regularly **held office hours**, worked with the student legal team when peers faced academic or legal challenges, and ensured that our fiscal decisions prioritized equity and impact.

As an MBA student at Foster, I have continued my commitment to student leadership as the **Vice President of Finance** for the Foster Consulting Society. I've worked closely with club leaders and faculty to enhance programming, budget responsibly, and ensure funding is aligned with student development goals. My academic background includes **advanced coursework in Finance and Accounting**, equipping me with the tools to conduct detailed budget planning, financial forecasting, and risk analysis that are essential for managing a complex GPSS budget nearing **half a million dollars**.

Looking ahead, my priorities as GPSS VP of Finance would be:

- **Equity and Transparency:** Ensure that GPSS funds are allocated with equity in mind, and that student organizations have clear visibility into budget processes and access to resources.
- **Advocacy Through Numbers:** Leverage data to support advocacy efforts whether highlighting the need for increased travel grants or demonstrating the financial burdens faced by students to university administrators.
- **Support and Collaboration:** Maintain regular office hours and work alongside fellow officers to respond to evolving student needs whether related to healthcare, funding, housing, or legal support.
- **Operational Rigor:** Build streamlined, accountable processes for budget proposals, spending audits, and reporting ensuring the integrity and sustainability of GPSS funds.

I believe financial leadership should not just be about spreadsheets- it's about **being the voice for students, standing by them in every meeting, every policy review, and every budget discussion.** I am committed to making our financial decisions reflect our shared values and ensuring that every dollar contributes to a better, more supportive graduate experience. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and lead alongside all of you.

Sincerely,

Abhinav Bhargava