Hello, Senators!

This year has been a simply wonderful journey for me serving as your Secretary. I’d like to thank you for all those who gave me this opportunity last spring. It gives me a bittersweet feeling to prepare for the next year already. I am simultaneously excited and nervous to share the news that I am running for the GPSS President of the 2016-2017 year. As an officer, I have had privilege to learn closely how the GPSS works in multiple levels both inside and outside the GPSS. With the help of rich experience I have earned this year, I’d like to continue and expand the great work of the GPSS as a diligently and humbly serving President next year. Having said that, let me address my goals:

**Diversity and Equity**

◊ Race and Equity Initiatives representative
◊ Furthering diversity efforts of GPSS through strong relationships

We are living through a very curious moment. The Race and Equity Initiatives that began a year ago demonstrate not only a pressing need for more diversity and equity on our campus but also the University’s earnest effort to bring them on. However, such a change takes much time and dedication of many people. Throughout this year, I have committed myself to the role of the GPSS chief diversity officer beyond what the job description says with the sincere interest in advancing diversity and equity at UW by serving on numerous committees, councils, and boards and being present in important events such as the REI talks and the Black Lives Matter rallies.

As the President, I will continue and expand my effort to make graduate student needs for diversity and equity better heard and reflected in this exciting movement of our University. It is not simply about recruiting more diverse graduate and professional students. There should be more support for not just students but also faculty and staff for mentoring, sense of belonging, and higher retention. It has to do with what kind of an intellectual community we’d like to be. I will raise my voice on behalf of graduate and professional students, actively learn where the graduate student needs arise, and communicate persistently both with the community and the administration. I do not just talk about it; when I talk about it I certainly do something about it.

**Strong and Efficient Functions of the GPSS**

◊ Highest senate attendance on record
◊ Bylaws reform and committee on reforming

This year, like any other year, the GPSS team has been going through many structural reconfigurations and functional adjustments. I’d like to share some
changes and advances among many that I have brought to the organization this year:

- Tight Senate membership management
- Superb GPSS publication including minutes and resolutions
- Thorough Bylaws amendments with the Judicial Committee
- Rethinking of the overall purpose of the GPSS committees and migration of many of them to memoranda for higher flexibility and functionality
- Development of the GPSS website (It is on the way!)
- Production of the GPSS promotion materials

Also, seeing timely and structured communications I have handled week after week, you Senators can tell that I am efficient and reliable. There is still a lot to clean up and adjust to make the GPSS more efficient and well-built so that we can use available resources for the best benefit we can make of them. I am very organized and detailed-oriented, but remain understanding of larger goals. I confidently believe my successful leadership proven throughout this year can easily extend to the role of a chief executive officer next year.

Reliability, Understanding, and Experience

◊ Reliable and trusted leader
◊ Established administration relationships and experience

Working as an officer has given me ample chances to work with various offices and units on the campus. Inside the GPSS, I have served on many committees including the Executive, Judicial, Diversity, Finance and Budget, and, though briefly, Travel Grants Committee. Having a first-hand experience on many committees, I understand what has been successful in each committee, which led me to propose restructuring many committees earlier this year. I manage nearly half of the GPSS staff members and as their supervisor, renovated many of their duties to be suitable to this year’s needs.

Outside the GPSS, I have built a good trust and connection with many people and groups. I sit on the ASUW Board of Directors and have committed many hours to their mission. I hold a cordial relationship with many representatives on the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity (OMAD) Student Advisory Board which includes many legacy groups. Through these connections, I already have amicable relationships with many ASUW election candidates, which will benefit the GPSS’s collaboration with the future ASUW leadership. Student Regent, Vanessa Kritzer, has been one of the best allies I have had since the last year in discussing many different issues, and I plan to further these issues with next year’s Student Regent. Through the Provost Advisory Committee for Student (PACS), I have met many College Council student leaders and learned each school’s issues and accomplishments.

I also have a good connection with many high-ranked administrators including the interim OMAD VP Dr. Gabe Gallardo, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement Chad Allen, Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite, and ECC Director Marisa Herrera. I have grown a close relationship with Provost Jerry
Baldasty serving on the PACS. I also have worked very successfully with Kelly Edwards, Jaye Sablan, and Ziyan Bai of the Core Programs, Graduate School with a series of programming.

All these activities and relationships built over the last few years allow me a profound institutional knowledge that will help my leadership for the GPSS. In the GPSS office, I am highly available and responsive, and develop useful relationships with many individuals I begin to work with. I am considered a trusted individual and always assist when issues arise.

I look forward to serving as the GPSS President for the 2016-2017 academic year. I am confident that the Senate can work together to move forward and improve the graduate student experience at UW.

Regards,

Elloise Kim

**Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim | Secretary**
*Graduate and Professional Student Senate*
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