

GPSS

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

2007-8GPSS Annual Report

- **GPSS successfully hosted the Fall Summit.** The theme focused on high-demand field graduate and professional degrees, inviting legislators and business leaders to meet with graduate students and the school administrators to speak on the importance of higher education in Washington state. The fact that the state of Washington was importing master's and doctorate degree employees, rather than producing its own to meet the workforce demand, was highlighted.
- **GPSS supported graduate departments with \$10,000 of funding to purchase needed materials and support graduate student retreats.**
- **GPSS funded \$11,000 in support of Registered Student Organizations and a variety of events that were held on campus.** Groups that received funding included Neurobiology Behavior and Community Outreach and the Native American Students in Advanced Academics, both organizations that specifically support graduate student interests.
- **GPSS funded over \$7,000 in travel grants to support conference travel expenses for graduate and professional students.** This fund was so popular with students that each round received numerous requests.
- **The fall social attracted over 1000 students.** Both the East and West Ballrooms were used.
- **All Senate meetings this year have met quorum.**
- **Weekly news e-mail was maintained to keep Senators informed of events on campus, many of which were funded with the approval of the Finance and Budget Committee.**

- **Officially created Senate seats to better represent underrepresented minority groups.** This year has seen the creation of the Asian Student Senator Seat and an Interdisciplinary Program of Molecular and Cellular Biology seat.
- **Coordinated the MLK Jr Day of Service event with the United Way of King County and the Carlson Center.** A team of GPSS members helped clean the Elizabeth Gregory Home, a homeless shelter, in the U-district.
- **The Diversity Fund was used to fund diversity promoting events/programs.** Working together with various RSOs and ASUW diversity commissions, numerous events were funded, celebrating the diverse and rich traditions and heritages.
- **Lobbied for better mental health care, childcare, and improved campus safety, as well as predictable and affordable tuition.** Lobbying in Olympia yielded a bill in support of mental health care and child care, which was unfortunately vetoed by the Governor. We were also actively participating in Washington Student Lobby (WSL).
- **Passed resolutions to voice graduate and professional student opinions.** Resolutions passed this year are:
 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAPPROVING A SENATE SEAT FOR ASIAN STUDENTS
 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S FOCUS THE NATION EVENT
 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN LOBBY DAY
 - MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY
 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FIVE YEAR GOAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
 - MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY

The resolutions passed this year made GPSS more relevant to the students and the larger community surrounding the University of Washington.