



Graduate and professional students at the University of Washington are critical to ensure our state's success in the knowledge and research based global economy. A diversity of graduate and professional programs at the University ensures that Washington produces the entrepreneurs, innovators, and scientists necessary to remain globally competitive. Despite the known benefits of graduate and professional education to our State, we are lagging behind our competitors in the production of graduate and professional degrees. We believe it is critical for the Legislature to fund graduate and professional education at a level that ensures affordable and accessible education and supports opportunities for academic and professional excellence.

## **FUNDING**

### **GPSS supports the following:**

- New full-time enrollment slots for graduate and professional students
- Stable and predictable tuition rates for graduate and professional students
- Restoration of the non-resident graduate student subsidy
- An increase in state appropriations for graduate and professional student education bringing the University to a competitive funding level with comparable institutions in the Global Challenge States<sup>1</sup>
- Increased funding of graduate and professional student services, including the creation of and funding for support services for students in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, consortium and concurrent degree programs
- State funding for child care programs
- State commitment to funding capital projects and renovations
- Increased state funding for research opportunities
- Student control of student fees
- Pay increases for University student employees, to match the cost of living, and to attract and retain world-class students
- Removal of higher education from the I-601 spending limit

## **ACCESS**

### **GPSS supports the following:**

- Increases in financial aid, employment, tuition waivers, fellowships, and grants for domestic and international graduate and professional students
- Tuition and fee increases that are predictable, transparent, and communicated to students in a timely manner
- Residency policies and out-of-state tuition waivers that empower the University of Washington to recruit both out-of-state and international graduate and professional students

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<sup>1</sup> According to Governor Gregoire's recent commission, Washington is tied for last place in the production of graduate and professional degrees in comparison to our Global Challenge States. The Global Challenge States were established as a result of the Governor's comprehensive study Washington Learns and are the top eight performers on the New Economy Index. The Global Challenge States are as follows: New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Colorado, Washington and California.

- Improved comprehensive efforts to recruit, retain, and support underrepresented and first generation students, and the removal of policies that hinder that effort
- Improved comprehensive efforts to recruit, retain and support underrepresented faculty and staff in graduate and professional programs, and the removal of policies that hinder that effort
- Policies that reduce the financial burden of textbooks and other costs of education including, but not limited to, sales tax relief on textbooks and other course related materials
- Parity for financial aid for all students, including the eligibility of federal financial applicants regardless of drug convictions
- Policies that ease the transportation and housing burdens of students, and oppose those that negatively affect the UW campus and surrounding community

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

### **GPSS supports the following:**

- Policies that encourage the recruitment and retention of diverse world-class faculty
- Policies that encourage the recruitment and retention of diverse qualified and competitive students
- Expansion of capacity and state support for degrees that allow Washington to be competitive in the knowledge-based economy
- Private/public partnerships focusing on engaging the public and improving graduate and professional education
- Personalized graduate and professional education, including increased opportunities for mentorship and improved professor/student ratio

## **STUDENT WELLNESS & SAFETY**

### **GPSS supports the following:**

- Affordable, accessible, and sufficient healthcare and health insurance for all University of Washington students
- State funding that increases accessible and affordable mental health services
- Funding for policies that promote student safety at the University
- Comprehensive health care and benefits for domestic partnerships
- Domestic partnership rights
- A maternal and paternal leave policy allowing students to receive compensation for parental leave for the adoption or birth of a child and preservation of health insurance for the term of the leave

## **GOVERNANCE & ADVOCACY**

### **GPSS supports the following:**

- Explicit shared governance policy
- An effective, consistent and transparent appointment process for student regents and the Higher Education Coordinating Board student member
- Collective bargaining and political organizing for graduate and professional students
- Incorporation of graduate and professional student interests into the Higher Education Strategic Master Plan
- The P-20 Council to track progress towards long-term goals and improve student transition through the educational pipeline

*Approved on November 14, 2007*