Alex Bolton for GPSS President

Statement of Objectives

I am running for GPSS President because I am passionate about the University Washington and think it is one of the most important institutions in this state. I care a great deal about GPSS and the role that it plays on campus in building community and advocating for graduate and professional students. UW is not at its best unless graduate and professional students have a strong voice. As President my three main objectives will be: 1) work to unify our voice; 2) build a stronger GPSS; and 3) lead the GPSS team.

Unifying Our Voice

I want to unify the voice of graduate and professional students by working to strengthen our relationships with each department’s student government. We can help each other out more than we realize by sharing information about what is happening campus wide and within our own college, school or department. An example of this is the work that I have done this year with the Medical Student Association (MSA). The MSA has been vital in our efforts in Olympia this year working to protect the medical program in Spokane as well as pushing the legislature to take a bigger picture look at ways to address the medical needs of Washington. Along the lines of what President Popejoy did with the GPSS Executive Liaisons, I would like to work on creating a summit for leadership from all of the school and college student governments.

Additionally, I would like to work on strengthening the ties and communications between the Provost’s Advisory Committee for Students, which advises the Provost on the University’s budget, and the College Councils, which are supposed to advise the Deans on the budgets within the school or college. I have a very strong relationship with the incoming chair of PACS, and look forward to working with Mr. McManaway on how we can best approach accomplishing this needed reform.

A Stronger GPSS

This is an exciting time for GPSS. The restructure that we just approved has the potential to add a great deal to our capacity, if we do it right. The first year of a new structure brings with it a lot of opportunity in addition to great responsibility as we will be setting precedent at every turn. We must be thoughtful about the decisions we make because it will have a great deal of influence on the future of our organization. I have been very involved in this process and will work to make the shared vision of the restructure committee a reality.

There is also an opportunity to strengthen GPSS by institutionalizing new programs. As many of you are likely aware, Husky Sunrise was a hugely successful event. My fellow officers have done a great deal of work to make sure it is set up for success next year as well. I look forward to working with the incoming officers to make sure this becomes an anticipated annual tradition for incoming graduate and professional students.

Lead the GPSS team

A great deal of work was done this year to ensure that GPSS functioned more as a team and that staff and officers worked together more. I look forward to building upon the work done this year. In some
ways, the team aspect is even more important next year because of the new Vice President of Internal Affairs position that we have now created. For GPSS to be successful, it will be vital that the President and Internal Vice President are working together and on the same page.

Here at GPSS, I hope to emulate the experience that I had while working in the Faculty Senate office. While each faculty officer had a staffer that reported to them, we also worked closely together as a team. When we had Faculty Senate meetings, or other large events, we were all hands on deck, regardless of whose responsibility it was to organize the meeting. I hope to build a similar culture within GPSS.

**Experience**

My experience here at UW not only shows that I am committed to the ideals of public graduate and professional education, but gives me a great deal of institutional knowledge that will allow me to hit the ground running, advise the rest of the GPSS team, and take advantage of the relationships that I have built. My experience as GPSS Vice President, Senator, Executive Senator, and member of the State Legislative Steering Committee both shows my commitment to GPSS and has also allowed me to understand how it works, as well as the ways in which we can continue to work to strengthen it. Being the Student Regent while attending the Evans School taught me a great deal about the University, how it is structured, and how things work. Working in the Faculty Senate allowed me to build a number of strong relationships on campus with faculty and administrators. It also opened up my eyes to the faculty-administrative side of shared governance, the role it plays, and how students can be influential within it. My experience in ASUW allows me to understand the dynamics of an organization that is often a great ally of GPSS.

It would be an honor to represent the Graduate and Professional Students of the University of Washington as the 2015-2016 GPSS President. I want to put my experience and passion to use for GPSS to make the 2015-2016 school year a great one for GPSS and UW.

Sincerely,
Alex Bolton, MPA
University of Washington School of Law
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2016