BRIAN TRACEY for GPSS VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Who I Am: Service and leadership are among my top guiding principles. Over the years, community service, collaborative efforts, and information dissemination have been the primary tools I have used to build connections, networks, and facilitate growth and progress. When I began my graduate school career, I used these tenets to guide me onto a career path in which I combine my passion for knowledge and equity with an equal devotion to giving back. As a graduate student from out of state, it was easier for me to notice institutional inconsistencies at various levels of the University. From my limited time at UW, one of the issues I became aware of is that graduate students are often absent from conversations about changes at the University.

Joining GPSS, and serving as an Executive Liaison to several different committees has been instrumental to my graduate career. With improved access to the many academic, administrative, and social strata of UW, I have been able to serve more students and groups than in my time prior. Becoming Vice President will broaden my sphere of influence, and allow me to better advocate and promote graduate student concerns and wishes.

What Will I Do: The most exciting aspect of this position is its infancy. This also presents an enticing challenge as a pioneer in uncharted territory. I am aware that over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year, unexpected situations will arise. However, my three basic goals are:

1) Continued Advocacy on Graduate Student Affairs.
   Our needs span the spectrum of concerns. From childcare to wages, housing to social equity. As an elected officer, it my duty to listen first, then go forth and push our agenda at the highest levels of administration. As individuals we already have our own voice. As a group however, we have a song. I believe it is the job of GPSS officers to promote that song across campus, and beyond if necessary.

2) Increased Graduate Student Participation.
   In the many meeting I’ve attended and participated in, the most common theme across a majority of disciplines is the issue of visibility. Graduate students of all identities have expressed sentiments of invisibility at UW, in the context of feeling excluded or oblivious to general university affairs and matters. My goal is to increase the sense of belonging in the graduate and university communities.

3) Streamlined Communication.
   GPSS is its own governing entity, which exists within a larger functioning system. This equates to many moving parts that require constant communication for efficient production. My goal here is to increase the dialogue among these committees in order to facilitate smoother programmatic functioning and successful events.

How Will I Do it: Tangible outcomes through practical planning and precise implementation.

1) Posted office hours on the GPSS website and other mediums for the purposes of increase access. Attend and host regular meetings that facilitate open and honest conversations about concerns and general graduate student affairs.

2) Disseminate weekly campus events to the graduate student body using existing networks and contacts. Forge new relationships with groups and committees on campus to increase the amount of graduate students that can be served. Cultural and social
events designated for graduate students (these would be separate from the quarterly GPSS socials).

3) Serve as a bridge between the various committees and councils. Stimulate collaboration between groups of similar interests and goals, and consolidate where appropriate. Additionally, the continued success of graduate programs is dependent on the undergraduate pool of applicants. Therefore, considerable amount of outreach will be done to undergraduate programs in order to: 1) encourage academic excellence, and 2) promote UW’s graduate program and Senate opportunities.