

*Kelsey Hood*  
for  
*Vice President of External Affairs*

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

My name is Kelsey Hood and I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the 2018-19 GPSS Vice President of External Affairs. For the past academic year, I have served as the Policy Director for GPSS working on state and federal advocacy effort and co-leading the State Legislative Advisory Board (SLAB). I am a Master's of Public Administration student at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, with a specialization in Policy Analysis & Evaluation.

During my time as Policy Director I have had many opportunities to further develop the advocacy skills required for the Vice President of External Affairs. Throughout the past year I collaborated with ASUW to organize Huskies on the Hill and worked with the current VP of External Affairs to

plan our participation at the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Coalition Day on the Hill in Washington, DC. In each of these capacities I was able to effectively communicate with government offices and other universities to schedule meetings, assist in drafting policy one-pagers, and help train other students for advocacy meetings. I have also been heavily involved in the operations of the SLAB committee including preparing the GPSS legislative agenda during the fall, leading committee meetings during the winter, and setting new priorities and plans in the spring.

Outside of GPSS I have taken on a variety of roles in our umbrella organizations, the Washington Student Association (WSA) and SAGE. I have attended both fall and spring General Assembly's for the Washington Student Association and volunteered to collaborate on creating a graduate student symposium at the legislature for all of our member institutions. Within SAGE, I have been elected as their next Policy Director for which I will be managing the organization's policy advocacy working groups, as well as planning the legislative strategy for next year's SAGE Day on the Hill.

***As GPSS Vice President of External Affairs, I plan to promote three priorities:***

**Proactivity**

- Scheduling summer meetings with legislators and other key stakeholders to discuss GPSS priorities and potential legislation. This will allow us to have a strong support base for session, with sponsors in place for any bills we bring forward.
- Advocate adding another staff member for the External Affairs team to focus on advocacy communication and organizing efforts for students. Creating this new position will offer additional support to the Vice President of External Affairs and the Policy Director, while also dedicating attention to the formation of legislation specific ad hoc committees and student rallies or demonstrations.
- Sending out a survey for graduate students to provide feedback on pertinent issues that should be included in our legislative priorities. I plan to use these results to match interested students with relevant legislative topics covered by SLAB and the various SAGE working groups.

**Clarity of Communication**

- Mandating accurate and collaborative transition documents be provided to new officers for both ASUW and GPSS to ensure equal voice and opportunity for graduate students throughout planning and implementation of Huskies on the Hill.
- Creating a separate webpage linked to the GPSS site where students can view External Affairs information at a glance. Features would include a list of issues with tabs displaying relevant legislation, frequent updates on activity from Olympia, and current local opportunities and events for students to get involved. I also plan to provide information on the current political climate in Washington, DC, with updates on bills of interest and SAGE Coalition priorities.

**Advancement**

- Collaborating with WSA to design a fall research symposium where students can present their work to policy analysts, elected officials, and other staffers. This forum provides opportunity for all departments to network with potential employers while also offering the legislature an example of how we use their funding.
- Drafting new legislation based on student, senator, and legislative staff feedback with a focus on policy-specific proposals rather than fiscal requests to increase the chance of passage.

*Thank you for your consideration!*