

SYDNEY PEARCE

Candidate for Vice President of Internal Affairs

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE



My name is Sydney Pearce and I am excited to announce my candidacy for Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. I am completing my first year at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance and have served as the GPSS Director of Events for the past year. I have been fortunate to work directly under the current Vice President of Internal Affairs and learn the responsibilities of the position and develop a strong passion for GPSS. We play a critical role in supporting students and advocating for their needs and I would be honored to represent the voices of the senate body and our constituents.

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAMPUS RESOURCES

As part of the Graduate Student Experience Committee, I assisted in the creation and implementation of a survey designed specifically to gather feedback from graduate and professional students on campus resources. In addition to continuing to administer the survey, I plan to support and implement many of the suggestions offered by respondents.

Many students feel disconnected from the university, often a result of a lack of awareness of resources, events, and avenues to express their voice. I will reestablish a *Graduate Student Orientation* to occur prior to the beginning of fall quarter including a packet (available electronically) that has campus maps, comprehensive resources, and an introduction to GPSS as well as how to get involved.

In response to requests for a comprehensive and easily accessible list of all resources available to students, a new *"Resources" tab* is in progress for the GPSS website. I will continue to develop this with fellow officers and staff and once complete, share with all departments through their Graduate Assistants for additional visibility.

Additional support in areas such as *mental health, professional development, and clarity on campus policies* has been requested by many graduate and professional students. With my connections and insights from the Mental Wellness and Education Access Task Force, the U-PASS Advisory Board, and other campus groups, I will work directly with administrators to support students' needs.

STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL FOUNDATION OF GPSS

As the Vice President of Internal Affairs, I will continue to develop training for officers and staff, hold monthly office meetings, and encourage transparency in communications and decision-making. With my extensive event experience, particularly of GPSS events, I will manage and improve these with student feedback. The connections I have made and knowledge I have gained in the past year allow me to begin strengthening the foundation of our organization with minimal transition time. I welcome all ideas to better represent the needs of our diverse and knowledgeable senate and student body.

Thank you for your support!

Sydney Pearce