I am running for the position of Vice President of Internal Affairs. The University of Washington has played an instrumental role in my education, and I would like to become more involved in the process through which students interact with the administration and each other. I attended the University of Washington for my undergraduate degree and was actively involved in student organizations. I served as a student senator in ASUW. As a member of the Washington Student Association, I lobbied the state legislature for access to higher education and affordable tuition. I also served as president of the Young Democrats at the University of Washington, where I organized debates, asked elected officials and candidates to speak, and encouraged students to connect with their peers outside the classroom.

After graduating, I managed two local campaigns, one in the 43rd legislative district and one for our Seattle City Attorney. During that time, I knocked on over 10,000 people’s doors in Seattle and asked them what issues mattered to them most. I was also in charge of event planning, community outreach, and hiring. Additionally, I served as a volunteer on the board of the Capitol Hill Renter Initiative (CHRI), a group of renters committed to addressing affordability and mobility challenges and advancing the voice of renters in City Hall. As part of the CHRI, I facilitated community discussions related to housing instability and the rising cost of rent in the city of Seattle.

I enjoyed hearing what the Seattle community had to say, and now I would like to hear what is important to you. I would like to hear your ideas, feedback, and concerns and bring them to the administration. The Vice President of Internal Affairs is responsible for sitting on many committees on campus. I will use my experience advocating for students as part of the Washington Student Association, as well as my experience soliciting feedback from voters, to ensure that student voices are not shut out from important decision-making processes.

This past year I served as a GPSS Executive Senator. During that time, I have had the opportunity to attend GPSS Executive Committee meetings. Through those meetings, I learned the structure of GPSS and have become familiar with our university’s administrative processes. In February, I started the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee. This committee functioned as a place to share student thoughts and feedback surrounding a lack of mental health resources on campus. I believe that I will be a strong voice for students, and that I will effectively communicate students’ concerns to administrators and to different governing bodies on campus.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding my candidacy or policy positions, please contact me at noells@uw.edu or (702) 539-7302.