My name is Hannah Sieben, and I’m excited to announce my candidacy for the 2020-2021 GPSS Vice President of External Affairs. I am a Master of Public Administration student in the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance with a specialization in Policy Analysis.

In my time at the Evans School I have gained experience in the political process, policy analysis, and management and leadership. Prior to starting at the University of Washington, I managed a civic engagement program in four states. In this role, I registered more than 5,300 new young voters and collaborated with legislators and elected officials to increase voter turnout and civic participation. I am practiced in advocating for issues that impact myself and my peers, and I look forward to bringing my experience to GPSS.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

01 **New and Continued Advocacy**

GPSS has made great progress in advocating for increased mental health resources, sexual harassment protections, health insurance, and funding for graduate students, among other issues. I will continue to lobby for these issues and expand on the successes that GPSS has made so far.

Graduate students will face unprecedented levels of unemployment upon graduation in the next year due to the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. As VP External, I will ensure that Washington legislators understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on graduate students and advocate for increased graduate student funding, subsidized loans, and more on-campus opportunities for meaningful graduate employment.

02 **Increased Participation**

I plan to increase graduate student voter registration, voter turnout, and engagement around the 2020 Election. GPSS will target graduate students at fall orientations, Nightmare at the Museum, and graduate student lounges to ensure that students have access to the resources they need to participate in the democratic process.

I would like to increase attendance for Graduate Student Day on the Hill so that legislators see the variety of research conducted by and interests of UW students. This could include remote attendance options, increased outreach across graduate programs, and hosting the research symposium again.

03 **Enhanced Networking and Collaboration**

I will collaborate with Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) and Washington Student Association to build relationships across Washington that promote opportunities for graduate students. Furthermore, I will promote the UW SAGE Delegation to involve a diverse set of students to lobby in DC in the spring of 2021.

I plan to proactively discuss GPSS goals and graduate student feedback with legislators over the summer. This will lay a strong foundation for the legislative agenda and build relationships that will allow for successful communication and lobbying during the next legislative session.