

Graduate and Professional Student Senate 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda *Steps for Graduate Student Achievement*

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ACCESS

GPSS supports:

Increased Access for Underrepresented Communities

Equitable access to higher education by expanding outreach, pipeline programs, and other resources that support underrepresented communities at the UW and beyond.

Empowerment and Access for Students with Disabilities

Expanded support and protections for students with disabilities, including promotion of accessible infrastructure, and streamlining the application and transfer process for students with disabilities.

Open Educational Resources

The adoption of policies that increase affordability of educational resources, such as the promotion and use of open access textbooks.

Open Access and Open Data

Free access to all scholarly peer-reviewed articles and research data to increase public knowledge of scholarly work, better support reproducibility, and promote higher quality scholarship through access to negative results.

Student Representation

Student representation, consisting of one undergraduate and one graduate student, on all state task forces, committees, commissions, and other advisory boards or councils.

Voting Accessibility

Increased student voting accessibility, extended deadlines for online voter registration, free postage for all ballots, and same-day and automatic voter registration.

STATE SUPPORT

GPSS supports:

Keep the Pipeline Open by Funding the State Need Grant

Full funding of the State Need Grant to attract, retain, and develop diverse, globally-competitive students and faculty who contribute to the UW's state, federal, and worldwide impacts. Support for the State Need Grant gives students greater ability to achieve their full academic potential, many of whom attend graduate school at the UW.

Financial Aid Resources for Self-Supported Program Students

Financial aid resources be established to ease the debt burden of self-supported program students and provide longer-term financial stability. As of the 2016-2017 academic year, 32.5% of all graduate students at the UW were enrolled in self-supported programs, some with debt as high as \$100,000. Resources for these students are integral to the sustained success of graduate students at the UW.

Resources for Student Caregivers

Initiatives that contribute to more equitable support for student caregivers and their dependents. GPSS recognizes these resources at the UW are insufficient. Limited availability, long wait lists, and high costs prevent student parents from getting daycare for their children, and housing opportunities on campus are also limited.

Support for Expanded UW Health Science Programs to Serve Underserved Populations

Continued funding and expansion of cost-effective, top-ranked training programs that build regional healthcare networks. This contributes to high healthcare provider retention throughout Washington in rural and underserved areas through the health science graduate programs offered at the UW.



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