

I have been honored to serve GPSS as Policy Director for the 2022-2023 school year, and would like to submit myself to the Senate for consideration as your next Vice President of External Affairs. I bring to the role of VP of External Affairs nearly four years of direct legislative and political experience, having spent time in a Senate leadership office, multiple campaign roles, and as Legislative Affairs Manager to former Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib. From these experiences, I have gained first-hand experience on the inner workings of the legislature and have developed relationships with legislators that work directly on policies affecting graduate students and higher education broadly. As your next VP of External Affairs, I will use this experience to deliver results to graduate and professional students at the University of Washington.

Priorities for the 2023-24 School Year and Legislative Session

Building Momentum from 2023 Successes

As the current Policy Director for GPSS, I have the unique perspective of knowing what our External Affairs team has been advocating for and exactly how we got there. This background knowledge will allow me to maintain momentum on the legislative successes of this year and learn from strategic shortcomings. Going forward, I will help to forge an even stronger path for GPSS and graduate and professional student priorities in the 2024 legislative session.

This year's successes that I would like to capitalize on in the 2024 session include childcare, expanded Washington College Grants and the Washington Student Loan Program, and support for Native American students.

State-Supported Child Care Access for Graduate Students

This year, the External Affairs team began conversations with legislative leaders and stakeholder groups to provide state subsidized child care facilities for students at 4-year institutions, including graduate and professional students. I would like to see new legislation expand on the existing child care framework of Working Connections Washington, adding language to make graduate students eligible for this program. Graduate students often re-enter education after having been in the workforce and starting families of

their own, inclusion on this state program would help graduate and professional students in pursuing their educational goals while also supporting their families.

Financial Aid for Higher Education

In the 2023 legislative session, the legislature expanded the Washington College Grant through the budget, changing the threshold so that families at 65% of Median Family Income will have their tuition costs completely covered by the state. This is an incredible success, but is set to expire at the end of 2025. Making this change permanent will allow thousands of Washington students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue higher education. The new Washington Student Loan Program will also give graduate students access to very low interest loans (no more than 2.5%) to pursue their higher education goals. However, as it stands this program has limited eligibility. I would like to see further legislation put forward next year that expands upon this to give more graduate students options in paying for their education.

Supporting Indigenous Students

While the legislature did not advance a bill that provides tuition waivers for Native American students, we did have some success in establishing a tuition waiver pilot program at the WSU. I am thrilled to see that this passed in some capacity, but would like to see new provisions for a similar program in the Puget Sound region. Even if the legislature is not prepared to make this a statewide program, providing this resource to Native American students on this side of the Cascades will benefit all of our Puget Sound community and Washington State overall.

Re-Engaging Higher Education Stakeholders

During the pandemic, collaboration with partner organizations like the UW Alumni Association and the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Coalition, and other graduate student governments cooled. Re-establishing strong connections with these organizations will allow GPSS to mount a united effort at both the state and federal level to advance graduate and professional student priorities and have our voices heard by those in power.

Nicholas Juno

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Education

University of Washington, M.P.A. Candidate / Expected June 2024

University of Washington, B.A. Political Science & Psychology / August 2018

Experience

Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington

Policy Director / September 2022 – Present

- Researched policy proposals and existing legislation pertaining to a graduate school education, graduate students, and student wellbeing
- Advised the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs on legislative process and held strategy sessions for how to best proceed on bill language and budget priorities at the legislature
- Held weekly Legislative Advisory Board meetings to collaborate with students on GPSS's legislative priorities and inform students of next steps on legislation
- Supported the GPSS/ASUW organizing staff in both the Legislative Reception and Huskies on the Hill events

Microsoft

Executive Assistant, Global Talent Acquisition / November 2021 – August 2022

- Provided administrative and scheduling support for three company Directors simultaneously
- Coordinated department wide morale activities and new-hire onboarding

Marko Liias for Washington Lieutenant Governor

Campaign Manager / April 2020 – December 2020

- Managed a statewide campaign, quickly adapting to a virtual model to meet the communication and policy needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately making direct contact with over 300,000 voters and earning over 1,000,000 votes
- Built a statewide coalition of labor, political, and cultural groups through endorsements and shared policy goals on behalf of my candidate
- Researched and collaborated with my candidate on policy ideas to highlight throughout the campaign, including environmental justice, racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and higher education expansion
- Organized weekly forums with my candidate and community leaders to discuss specific and regional policy issues, including transportation, the future of agriculture, climate justice, and housing
- Strategized with political consultants and my candidate to create a strong campaign message and plan, including research on other candidates, earning media visibility, and debate preparation

Office of Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib

Legislative Affairs Manager / July 2019 – March 2020

- Developed a legislative agenda for agency request legislation on issues of higher education expansion and accessibility, working with nonpartisan staff and legislators to draft legislation and identify stakeholder groups to consult
- Liaised with Senate members and staff on legislative issues, statutory committee assignments, and other messages pertaining to the functioning of the Senate on behalf of the Lt. Governor
- Led community outreach efforts across the state, organizing economic, cultural, and educational meetings and tours for the Lt. Governor to hear concerns and needs directly from constituents
- Planned, executed, and staffed joint legislative committee efforts focused on economic development plans and opportunities for investment in Washington

Washington State Senate

Executive Legislative Assistant to Senator Marko Liias / March – June 2019

- Collaborated with stakeholders, policy staff, and member offices to improve legislation and advance bills through the Senate
- Aided in Senate leadership responsibilities, including communicating messages to members in a bipartisan way

Session Staff to Senator Marko Liias / 2018 and 2019 Session

- Interacted extensively with constituents and lobbyists on behalf of the office including overseeing all constituent correspondence

OFFICER CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM 2023-2024

This form is to be completed by the candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee (gpsselect@uw.edu), by Wednesday, **April 26, 2023, 5:30 PM** in order for candidate information to be posted on the GPSS website and by **Thursday, April 27, 2023** to be distributed via email to Senators. Senators wishing to nominate themselves from the floor must also provide this information at time of nomination.

1. Full Name:

Nicholas Juno

2. Graduate or professional program of study:

M.P.A. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance

3. Are you currently a registered student? **Yes** **No** ()

4. Do you expect to be a graduate or professional student during the 2023-2024 academic year (Fall, Winter & Spring Quarters)? **Yes** **No** ()

5. The position you are running for is:

Vice President of External Affairs

6. Indicate at least three GPSS Senate or committee meetings, including at least one meeting conducted under rules of parliamentary procedure, that you have attended during the 2023-2024 academic year prior to the election meeting.

- See Section 2.1 of the Elections Guide for a list of qualifying committee meetings.

I have attended every LAB meeting and nearly every Senate General meeting

7. Do you understand and acknowledge that you should be able to work for GPSS for 19.5 hours per week during the 2023-2024 academic year, including 8 hours per week in the office (4 for President) between the standard business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday? **Yes** **No** ()

8. If 'No' to question 7, please explain:

Affirmative Statements

I, Nicholas Juno, do not have any responsibilities (be them academic, employment, or personal) that might prevent me from fulfilling the responsibilities as a GPSS Officer. I affirmatively declare that I meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the GPSS Election Guide.

The requirements as stipulated are:

- I am enrolled as a graduate or professional student at the time of the election or will be enrolled during the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters of 2023-2024.

Yes No ()

- I am not a member of the Elections Committee.

Yes No ()

- I have attended at least 3 GPSS Senate or qualifying committee meetings, including one conducted under rules of parliamentary procedure, prior to the Elections meeting during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Yes No ()

- I will intend to maintain full time student status during the term, if elected and be on campus through the 2023-2024 academic year (Fall, Winter and Spring). *Vice President of External Affairs is permitted to take a reduced course load during Winter Quarter.*

Yes No ()

- I will be able to work 19.5 hours per week during the 2023-2024 academic year, including 8 hours per week in the office (4 hours per week for the President) between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Yes No ()