

Statement of Objectives - Vice President of Equity and Inclusion

As a first-year Masters in Public Health - Global Health student and a candidate for the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion position within the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) at the University of Washington, I am deeply committed to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our institution and beyond. With my background and experiences, I bring a unique perspective and a strong dedication to promoting social justice and equity for all members of our diverse community.

My multicultural background, encompassing Kenyan, Korean, and British heritage, reflects the rich tapestry of diversity that characterizes our global community. Having lived in Kenya, the US, South Africa, and England, I have been privileged to immerse myself in various cultures and communities, which has broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of the complexities of identity and social dynamics.

I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Medical Anthropology and Global Health from the University of Washington, where I co-founded the Non-traditional Student Association. As a single mother and first-generation student, I encountered unique challenges navigating academia. Recognizing the need for support networks tailored to non-traditional and first-generation students, I initiated this organization to foster community and advocacy for students facing similar hurdles.

Throughout my academic journey, I have been driven by a passion for promoting equity and inclusion. My studies in Global Health have equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the systemic barriers that perpetuate health disparities and social inequalities. I am committed to leveraging my education and experiences to address these issues and create positive change within our community.

Currently, I serve as a Teaching Assistant for an undergraduate Nutrition course (NUTR303), where I facilitate learning experiences and provide support to students from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, I have had the privilege of mentoring undergraduate students through the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, offering guidance and encouragement to underrepresented students as they navigate their educational paths.

In addition to the objectives previously outlined, I am dedicated to the following:

- Utilizing my expertise in qualitative research methods to conduct comprehensive student feedback surveys and facilitate focus group conversations, ensuring that the voices of all students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, are heard and valued in decision-making processes at both the departmental and university levels.
- Collaborating with stakeholders across campus to develop and implement evidence-based diversity programming and events that celebrate our differences and promote cultural understanding.
- Enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of GPSS events and initiatives to ensure that they are representative of the diverse needs and experiences of our student body.
- Engaging in ongoing professional development to stay on top of best practices in DEI, and applying this knowledge to inform GPSS policies and initiatives.

If elected as Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, I am dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within GPSS and the wider university community. Together, let us work towards building a more inclusive and equitable future for all members of the UW.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Edith Dale

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