

Rhianna E. Lightle

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To whom it may concern,

When I reflected on where I was this time last year the thought of applying for an executive position was as remote as the North Pole. Flash forward to now and I am incredibly grateful I am in a position where I feel comfortable and confident in my ability to serve as a leader for GPSG. I have grown professionally and personally and have made long-lasting friendships. Even amongst the chaos that is 2L year, I found solace in GPSG and I'm proud of what we accomplished. That is a testament to our current team. My desire to apply for President and Vice President stems from my passion for GPSG, and from my commitment to effectively usher in a new era of fantastic executives and delegates positively and efficiently. GPSG is on an incredible trajectory forward and I want to continue our growth. But above all else I hope to help cultivate a collegial team that works and communicates well together. I know that I possess the communication skills, work ethic, and passion to be an impactful and effective leader as a board member.

While you all know me through our monthly meetings, there are elements of my personal and professional life that you may not be aware of but I know will help me fulfill this role. For the past two years I have served as the 1L and 2L Graduate and Professional Student Government Representative on behalf of ISBA. In addition to attending and organizing events on behalf of the law school I am involved in events and meetings, University wide. I have shown my Moxie in my "war" with parking and transportation to try and alleviate the parking and busing problems on campus and have had a few (respectfully) forceful exchanges with P&T to even get a meeting with them. I hope to continue pressing this issue next year because I know it is an important one. Perhaps what I am most proud of though is that within this position I serve on the international student committee. I am the only American on the committee and I am often working as a liaison for international student needs. A lot of the time I am checking over the emails of my colleague Ya'u and making sure his message comes across effectively in English. It has helped me refine my communication skills and learn how to reach a shared conclusion, even if it takes a bit of back and forth to get there. Most recently I led the conversation with my committee members about how GPSG could better address tragedies that occur in the world, such as the recent Earthquakes. This prompted an amazing discussion and one of the members told me that I am an "a-typical American", and that he meant it in a "good way", because not many American students think of the needs of international students, especially when we may feel so far removed from them. I was very touched by his compliment and am glad that my interest and work is making others feel welcomed and heard. I plan on taking those same skills on communication and inclusion and applying them to GPSG as a whole. Whether it is communicating with students of various backgrounds, going back and forth with the university until we reach a common goal, or even "fighting" for GPSG and our mission within the administration or with USG, I will continue to use my confident and understanding demeanor to achieve the best for GPSG.

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