

Dear Graduate and Professional Student Government delegates,

I found my home in GPSG through the mental health committee. I saw a need on campus and wanted to volunteer my time to address that need. That volunteering led to me becoming even more involved, first as the interim mental health director and later as the communications director. Through it all, I have remained committed to serving the needs of my peers in the various graduate and professional schools on campus.

I have a history in collaborative leadership on campus and feel comfortable as a representative of students. I currently sit on three committees and have connected with a large network of campus leaders in administration, our community of graduate and professional students, and among our sister government. Graduate and professional students are extremely diverse: many of us have families, come from different parts of the world, and study completely different subjects in nearly every building on campus. No one representative can truly bring forward all the concerns of our constituents, and it is only through collaboration and communication that we can voice those concerns. My first action in GPSG was introducing legislature recommending embedded counseling in MISSE, to bring an intersectional focus into the mental health services offered at the University. When I need more input, I have been able to get it from the delegates and executives, such as when I held a focus group on the development of a mobile app for student use. I hope to continue to represent and amplify your voices to administration and beyond.

I've done a lot of good work with GPSG in the past, and I'm ready to do even more. I've managed to keep the website up to date as new delegates have joined us and GPAC updated their guidelines, and grants added extensions. I was able to speed up our meetings by using electronic voting, and we were able to pass twenty eight bills and resolutions, hold workshops, host guest speakers, and still get out of session without unfinished business if not early. In the executive core, I will continue to work hard and efficiently so we can accomplish even more for our students while taking care of our very busy lives.

If there is one focus I would like for GPSG to center on next year, it would be student belonging on campus. Graduate and professional school can be an alienating experience. Many of the services and messaging on campus are marketed more heavily toward, if not tailored to, undergraduate students, and our voices too often go unheard. If elected for any position I have applied for, I will ensure that we have a seat at the table and our needs are considered. I will make sure that graduate and professional students know that this is their campus and that the resources the university offers are also for them. I will continue to make the University of Iowa feel like a home for our constituents, just as GPSG has become a home for me.

Sincerely,

Mason Koelm