

January 31, 2021

To GW,

Throughout my tenure in undergrad, I have struggled with alcohol abuse. I drank to mask emotions that I wished to avoid. More recently, I have discovered that my drinking covered up a mental illness that has led me to be hospitalized this past week. I think this is important to say. To others who may struggle with drinking to mask something, you are not alone and that it's okay to seek help.

Seeking help is a sign of strength as it is the hardest thing to do on the path to recovery. To all my fellow students, or to anyone who may have friends who noticed that their loved ones might drink too much, please encourage them to seek help. Be that beacon of light in their life that keeps them on the path to recovery.

I first got involved with the George Washington University Student Association to make a difference alongside my fellow students. Government relations does not always translate into everyone seeing eye-to-eye, and that's what makes good government work.

Many of my relationships have changed, and some have come to bitter ends. There have been rumors, people perpetuating lies, and the GW Hatchet has run stories about me with unsubstantiated allegations, and I refuse to comment on speculation. I also unequivocally and steadfastly deny the allegations my former female friend made on social media.

I have put my all into the SA and tried my best to provide a voice to the student body during these unprecedented times. I hoped to provide comfort and joy to those who needed it the most. I hope the SA will continue to strive for these goals, but I think it is important to move on without me. For my health and so many other reasons, I tender my resignation from the SA effective immediately. I believe this is the best course for the SA to regain its focus on student affairs and not petty stories.

I first joined the SA to help others, I now hope my story will help others in the future. I want to thank those who have served with me, and for those who have supported me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the students at GW.

May the GW Student Association grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Howard Brookins III