I, Sean Koloski, intend to run for the position of Student Government Association President. I have many reasons why I want to be SGA president. This school means a great deal to me and I want to do my part in making it a better place for my fellow students. I care a great deal about Potsdam and the people who go to school here. College is a very important place to many people and it is also a formative time for growth and change. I want Potsdam to be a place where people come to school and not only receive a great education but also have a positive social experience.

Unfortunately in the past few semester with the tragic events that have taken place on our campus it has come to light that for numerous reasons many students both in the past and currently are not having a positive experience at Potsdam. I hope to be elected as president of SGA because I believe that being president is the best way for me to go about making a difference in the student experience at Potsdam.

One problem area that I would address on campus is the counseling center. Since I came to Potsdam in the fall of 2013, I have heard close friends, peers within classes, and multiple individuals in passing talking about their dissatisfaction with the counseling services currently available. Many have said that the counseling center is understaffed, it takes too long to get an appointment there, and that once you do get an appointment there is too long of gap between that session and the next available appointment. I have also heard students taking issue with the fact that there is no diversity within the counseling center staff. This is definitely a serious problem. With more students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds coming to SUNY Potsdam every year, the college must improve upon all their services, not only the counseling center, so that non-white students feel safe, comfortable, and that their basic needs are being met. Sadly on our campus at this time I would argue that this is not the case. If SUNY Potsdam is going to recruit minority students they absolutely need to be able to provide what those students need to have a positive college experience, they cannot cater to the majority.

Since the hate crimes that occurred on our campus in the last two semester, there has been some division between students on campus. This is a problem that upsets me, but as a student who cares about this campus and its future it is a problem that cannot afford to go unsolved. Many students have taken it upon themselves to create groups and hold meetings to combat division and tackle racism on our campus. I applaud those students, and if I was elected president I would make it a priority to work with those groups, and with other student clubs and groups on campus, to bring a sense of unity back to Potsdam.

I believe that as president I could make a difference here at Potsdam. If I could not solve these deep seeded issues on campus, I without a doubt could start the conversations necessary to get the ball rolling for future presidents and other school leaders. I am a leader, I am a person...
that identifies problems and then sets out to solve those problems to the best of my ability. I am also someone who knows that you cannot please everyone, but that compromise is possible and that as a leader you should strive for it. I can make tough decisions and I can be decisive. I understand the power of discourse and how often times people can and will understand one another better if they have the opportunity to sit down and listen to one another’s view points in a civilized manner. I hope to become president of SGA at SUNY Potsdam and bring equity to the student experience, unity to the college campus, and positive change for a brighter future at Potsdam.