Graduate & Professional Student Association
Executive Board – Declaration of Candidacy
2015-2016

Name: Meghan Pierce  Department/School: Psychology
Office Sought: Vice President

Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests).

Over the past five years, I have been involved in several leadership positions in different community and university organizations. My first academic leadership position was as President of the Student Organization of Addiction Professionals (SOAP) from 2010-2011. During my presidency, I worked closely with the State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (SNAAP), which led to my nomination as secretary for the 2010-2012 term.

I served as secretary for SNAAP for two terms. During my tenure with SNAAP I was involved in developing and initiating a scholarship program for students studying addiction therapy. I was also involved in planning our monthly luncheons and planning our national conference during the years it was held in Las Vegas.

In addition, I served as Secretary and President of the Psychology Department’s student government, the Experimental Student Committee (ESC). During my tenure as secretary I documented and distributed our meeting minutes, and helped to plan our department’s interview weekend. During my term as president, I planned and ran our monthly meetings, organized luncheons, and acting as a liaison between faculty, student organizations, national organizations and the community. I was also in charge of planning our interview day weekend by working with faculty to schedule interviews, meetings and parties. I was also in charge of organizing housing for applicants and was the point of contact for applicants during the months leading up to the interview.

I have served as Secretary and am currently Treasurer of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). This position has given me great insight into graduate student issues and university policies. Through this position I have served on several campus-wide committees and GPSA committees. I have worked closely with the President and Vice President and understand the responsibilities of
the position. I feel like my experience has provided me with the skills needed to fulfill the role of Vice President. I truly believe in the goals and mission of the GPSA and hope to continue serving the organization in the best way possible.

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

Serving as GPSA Secretary and Treasurer over the past 2 years has been a great learning experience. I am interested in becoming Vice President of the GPSA in order to serve the organization in a greater capacity. The GPSA serves an important role in the graduate community, both in increasing graduate student scholarship and providing a voice for graduate students. I am specifically interested in leading the sponsorship committee and organizing the Research Forum weekend. Sponsorship is an important part of our graduate student community. Not only is sponsorship important to helping graduate students disseminate their research and projects throughout the country, but also it allows graduate students to complete their research in a timely manner. Supporting graduate student research will be an important factor in propelling the university to Tier 1 status. I am also interested in contributing to the continuation of the Graduate Research Reception and planning the Research Forum. Both events are exciting ways to bring attention to graduate student work.

Please attach letter of support from your faculty advisor to the application.

Conditions and Terms of Agreement:
1) I understand that my application or declaration of candidacy is not complete without an official letter of support from a qualified advisor or faculty member stating my good academic standing and enrollment status, which must be submitted via email to gpsa@unlv.edu.
2) This position will close Friday, February 28, 2014. Applicants will be contacted for an interview by the GPSA E-Board, advisors and manager. An announcement of the appointment will follow once all applicants are interviewed.
3) I understand that my Declaration of Candidacy may be denied if any of the above information is found to be false or misleading.

Questions about the elections can be directed to / 702- 895-2261 or gpsa@unlv.edu

Please sign below to signify that you agree with the above conditions and terms.

[Signature]
Candidate's signature

4/1/15
To the GPSA elections committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Meghan Pierce's candidacy for GPSA vice president. She is in good standing as a doctoral student in the experimental area within the psychology department. I have talked at length with Meghan about her tenure as treasurer. It is clear how seriously she takes her obligations to the GPSA and to representing graduate student interests to the university and the state legislature. She is a tireless advocate who works to inform students of the panoply of opportunities available to them through GPSA. For example, several graduate students in my lab have applied for conference travel funding as a result of her outreach efforts.

Meghan has also balanced her GPSA duties with her graduate education admirably. Even with the demands her duties as treasurer entail, she has been an invaluable addition to my lab. She has helped bring a screening study to fruition, the results of which lay the foundation for her dissertation. She has also been instrumental in devising protocols for collecting cortisol, training new students on how to collect data in my psychophysiological studies, conducting interviews to diagnose and schedule depressed and control participants for a federally funded study, and providing a steady hand to guide my lab personnel. She even instituted a cleaning protocol to wipe away months of dirt before our graduate interview day and keep the lab clean ever after.

In short, Meghan has been an excellent citizen of my lab and officer of the GPSA. I have full faith and confidence in her abilities to handle the duties entailed in the vice presidency. She is an excellent, proven leader in my lab and in the university. She is also more than able to serve the GPSA while conducting her dissertation research. I am pleased to give her my highest recommendation to run for this position.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Benning
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Meghan Pierce

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Education

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**
Degree: Experimental Psychology, Ph.D.
Emphasis: Neuroscience
Estimated Graduation Date: Spring 2016

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**
Degree: Experimental Psychology, M.A.
Graduation Date: December, 2014

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**
Degree: Counselor Education, M.S.
Emphasis: Clinical Mental Health Counseling/Addictions
Graduation Date: August, 2011

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**
Degree: Psychology, B.A.
Graduation Date: May, 2009

Professional Experience

**08/2014-Present**  
**Doctoral Research Graduate Assistant**
- Supervisor: Stephen Benning, Ph.D.
- Duties: Conducting research on the hormonal and psychophysiological correlates of social support in psychopathy.

**08/2014-Present**  
**Part-Time Instructor, Nevada State College**
- Duties: Preparing course content, assignments, and delivering lectures.
- Courses Taught: Physiological Psychology (PSY 403).

**05/2013-Present**  
**Graduate and Professional Student Association**
- Supervisor: Peter Gray, Ph.D., Kate Korgan, Ph.D.
- Role: Treasurer (2014- Present), Secretary (2013-2014).
- Duties (Treasurer): Preparing and analyzing monthly budgets, chairing the government relations committee.
• Duties (Secretary): Preparing and posting meeting agenda and minutes, sitting as chair of the Publication Committee and holding a seats on Graduate College committees.

11/2012-Present  **Research Intern, Cleveland Clinic, Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health**
• Supervisor: Sarah Banks, Ph.D.
• Role: Visiting researcher
• Duties: Conducting research using MRI to examine structural and functional differences between wine experts and novices.

08/2013- 12/2014  **Part-Time Instructor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas**
• Duties: Preparing course content, assignments, and delivering lectures.
• Courses Taught: Psychopharmacology (PSY 422), Introductory Psychology (PSY 101).

06/2014- 08/2014  **Research Assistant, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy**
• Supervisor: Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Ph.D.
• Duties: Writing reports, collecting and organizing data, and assisting in publishing original research.

06/2011-05/2013  **Graduate Research Assistant**
• Supervisor: Laurel Pritchard, Ph.D.
• Role: Research and Teacher Assistant
• Duties: Conducting research, teacher assistant duties, and other related projects.

05/2010-08/2011  **Harrah’s Graduate Assistant in Problem Gambling Counseling**
• Supervisor: Larry Ashley Ed.S, LCADC, CPGC
• Role: Lead Counselor
• Duties: Conducting individual counseling, research and other related projects.

01/2010-08/2011  **Counseling Intern, U.S Veteran’s Initiative**
• Supervisor: Shalimar T. Cabrera, MSW
• Role: Counseling Intern
• Duties: Conducting individual and group counseling.

6/2008-12/2008  **Research Assistant, Baby and Child Rebel Lab**
• Supervisor: Jennifer L. Rennels, Ph.D.
• Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant
• Duties: Recruiting infant participants, transforming video into usable data, and conducting studies. Project manager for scheduling, which entailed assigning weekly calls, ensuring protocol was followed, and answering other
lab member's questions. I was also responsible for running reliability using Excel and SPSS.

**Publications**


**Presentations**


Awards and Honors

Grants:
INBRE Small Grant, 2013: $4130.00
GPSA Research Grant, 2014: $1114.20
GPSA Travel Grant, 2011: $150.00

Awards:
Summer Session Scholarship, 2013
Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship, 2011, 2013, 2014
Chi Sigma Iota, Alpha Omega, Outstanding Research Contribution, 2010

Honors:
2007-2009 Dean’s List

Nominations:
Nevada Regents Scholar, 2010
Chi Sigma Iota, Outstanding Masters Level Student, 2010

Service

2013-Present Campus Representative: Association for Psychological Sciences Student Caucus
2014-Present Chair: GPSA Government Relations Committee
2014-Present Chair: GPSA Awards Committee
2014-Present Graduate College: New Program Evaluation Committee
2013-Present Graduate College: Program Review Committee
2013-2014 Graduate College: Curriculum Committee
2013-2014 Chair: GPSA Publications Committee
2013-2014 Chair: GPSA Social Media
2013-2014 President: Experimental Students Committee
2012-2014 Peer Reviewer: RISE award, Association for Psychological Sciences
2012-2013: Secretary: Experimental Students Committee
2011-2012: First Year Cohort Representative: Experimental Students Committee
2010-2013 Secretary: State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals
2010-2011 President: Student Organization of Addiction Professionals

Volunteer Experience

2010-2012 U.S. Vets Stand down
  • Two-day event in which many organizations come together to provide services to Veterans.
  • Services include: medical, housing, legal, dental, food, clothing, toiletries, mental health, etc.
  • My main role in this event was doing intakes assessments.

Professional Affiliations

2008-Present Association for Psychological Sciences
2011-Present Society for Neuroscience
2014-Present Western Psychological Association
2010-2013 The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)
2010-2013 State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC affiliate)
2009-2012 American Counseling Association
Student Affiliations

2010-Present  Student Organization of Addiction Professionals
2011-Present  Experimental Students Committee
2010-Present  Chi Sigma Iota-Omega Alpha Chapter
2008-Present  Psi Chi
2010-2011     Neuroscience Journal Club
2011-2013     Graduate Neuroscience Association

Certifications

2010-2012     Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, Intern

References

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