



## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

### CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

**Candidate Name:** **Drue Sahuc**

**College/School:** **College of Liberal Arts**

**Department:** **Sociology**

**Elected Position of Interest:** **Treasurer**

*The GPSA supports graduate and professional students' academic endeavors. Providing an environment conducive to student scholarship, research, and overall success is our primary goal. The GPSA strives to engender a sense of community among the graduate and professional students by offering financial support and fellowship.*

*The GPSA Council meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January and holidays. All GPSA Council meetings are open to the public.*

*The Graduate & Professional Student Association is the student government for all currently enrolled graduate and professional students at UNLV. The GPSA is managed by the GPSA Council consisting of four elected officers and department-appointed representatives, and the GPSA Manager (administrative faculty). The four elected officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary which constitute the Executive Board. The GPSA represents UNLV graduate and professional students at meetings of the Board of Regents, Nevada Student Alliance, and on campus-wide committees.*



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**Voting will begin on April 5, 2021 at 3:30pm and close April 9, 2021 at 11:59pm.**

Each candidate is expected to make a speech to the GPSA Council at the meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 2:00pm. The meeting will take place virtually in the GPSA's WebEx Personal Meeting Room: <https://unlv.webex.com/meet/gpsa>. The voting results will be announced and posted by Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Contact the GPSA at [gpsa@unlv.edu](mailto:gpsa@unlv.edu) or 702-895-2261 with questions.

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

In serving as treasurer on the GPSA executive board, I feel that I can bring my organizational skills that I have to aid the Executive Board in the upcoming year. As the entire student body adapts to campus life returning to the on-campus experience, there will be Graduate students that will be transitioning to this experience for the first time that will need the assistance of GPSA in ways that may present new challenges for the board. As a student in this specific position, my experience may help in figuring out situation that may arise. Also, being a transgender individual, I hope that my presence on the executive board of GPSA shows other transgender students that they are represented and seen on this campus and not invisible.



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

During my academic career, I have been a part of several organizations that have afforded me the privilege to aid in enacting change. During my Undergraduate career, I participated in the V-Day campaign presented by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I was a student at South Louisiana Community College, which is affiliated with UL Lafayette. This campaign raised funds for local battered women's shelters in the Lafayette area and raised awareness on the issue of violence against women through fundraisers and performances of Eve Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues". I was a part of this project for two years, the first year as a cast member, and the second year as Stage manager for the play and as a member of the executive board.

Another project I was honored to participate in during my undergraduate career was the founding of the Delgado Community College student pantry. I networked with the Trio student services organization to establish, organize, and physically set up the pantry, and aid in the weekly disbursement of food to students in need. This was an experience that touched me in many ways. Seeing how I could aid my fellow students in New Orleans humbled me.

During my master's program, I was given the opportunity to teach an undergraduate course as the campus transitioned from in-person classes to remote learning. This opportunity tested my ability to manage almost 100 undergraduate students academically as they transitioned to complete online studies while managing my own studies (which included the writing of my master's thesis.) I learned the imperative skills of time management, work/life balance, and self-care that are necessary to handle multiple responsibilities.

Finally, I have over five years of mental health work experience that afforded me insight and understanding of all different populations of individuals. I cannot describe in words how this experience has shaped me. It allowed me to learn how to work within a team environment in high stress situations that could change at any moment. I worked at this job while completing my undergraduate degree and master's program as a full-time employee, full time student, and at one point commuting two hours daily to fulfill all of these commitments.



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### **POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **President**

President is the chairperson of the GPSA Council and Executive Board. This position is responsible for guiding the organization on general issues such as goals of the Council. The President also represents the GPSA at the Board of Regents meetings and travels to other locations when the meetings are held outside Las Vegas (travel expenses paid by GPSA).

The President serves on the Graduate Council, the Executive Council, as well as on several campus-wide committees. The President speaks at various student orientations and campus engagements. Due to impromptu requests (speaking, serving on committees, etc.) from different entities on campus throughout the year, it is highly recommended that candidates for this position have a flexible schedule.

This position offers a graduate student tuition waiver of up to 9 credits a semester, a monthly stipend equal to that of a graduate assistant, a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$5,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

Candidates must be in good academic standing, admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV, and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council as a representative or as a previous executive board member



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### **Vice President**

The VP chairs the Sponsorship Committee which evaluates applications and distributes GPSA funding allocations for students' research and conference travel and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Vice President establishes priorities for the sponsorship funding in conjunction with the Committee and Executive Board. This position also conducts Sponsorship Funding Workshops in order to assist students on how to successfully apply for GPSA Sponsorship funding.

The Vice President also chairs the GPSA Annual Student Research Forum held in the spring semester. The Vice President attends the Board of Regents meeting in the President's absence and acts as President if the office becomes vacant. The Vice President also sits on a Graduate College Committee and other campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall chair the Council.

Candidates must be in good academic standing, be admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council.



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### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer presents a financial report at every monthly GPSA Council meeting. This position chairs the Government Relations Committee, Awards Committee, and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Treasurer also sits on a Graduate College Committee. During a legislative year, it is expected that the Treasurer travel to Carson City one or two times to meet with the governor, state legislators, etc.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Treasurer will fill the Vice President's office in the event of its vacancy.

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### **Secretary**

The Secretary is responsible for preparing and posting the agenda/minutes for each Council meeting, which is set by the Executive Board. The Secretary records the minutes of Council meetings and sends them to the Council Representatives. The Secretary is responsible for keeping roll call at the GPSA Council meetings, which determines the representative's eligibility for their semester stipend. This position also chairs the Publication Committee, sits on a Graduate College Committee and several campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Secretary will fill the Treasurer's office in the event of its vacancy.

Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV.

Drue Belliveau Sahuc  
4248 S. Claymont St Apt A  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
drue.sahuc@unlv.edu  
(504) 390-9760

## **Education**

2006    *Technical Certification*, Surgical Instrument Sterilization, Louisiana Technical College  
2016    *Associate of Arts*, Louisiana Transfer Degree, Delgado Community College  
2018    *Bachelor of Arts*, Sociology, University of New Orleans  
2020    *Master of Arts*, Sociology, University of New Orleans  
2020- Current *Doctor of Philosophy*, Sociology, University of Nevada Las Vegas

## **Areas of Interest**

Sociology of Gender

Transgender Health

LGBT Issues and Inequality

## **Works in Progress for Publication**

*COVID-19 and the Impact on Transgender Body Image: A Qualitative Perspective*

*Body Image, Stigma, and Gender Performance as a Survival Tool*

## **Conference Presentations and Papers**

2021    Drue Sahuc “*Body Image, Stigma, and Gender Performance as a Survival Tool*”  
Presentation at Annual Meeting of Southwest Social Science Association

2019    Master’s Thesis: *COVID-19 and the Impact on Transgender Body Image: A Qualitative Perspective*

Committee: D’Lane Compton, Jeffery Parker, David Beriss

2018    Drue Sahuc. “Fear and Loathing in Transgender America”. Poster Presented at the Annual Meeting of Southwest Social Science Association.

## **Assistantships and Funding**

2020- Current    University of Nevada Las Vegas Graduate Assistantship, Sociology Department

2019    Research Assistant on Compton’s Counting Southern Trans Folks Project



2018-2020 University of New Orleans Teaching Assistantship, Sociology Department

Fall 2018 Student Government Association Academic Advancement Award

### **Service to Community**

2020- Current Member-at-Large, Graduate & Professional Student Association, Las Vegas, NV

2020-Current Member-at-Large, Events Committee UNLV Sociology Department, Las Vegas, NV

Spring 2016 Volunteer, Delgado Student Food Pantry, New Orleans, LA

2011-2012 Executive Board Member- V-Day Lafayette, Lafayette, LA

### **Professional Affiliation**

2018 Southwest Social Science Association

2020 American Sociological Association

### **Teaching Experience**

Spring 2020 Introduction to Sociology

### **Employment Experience**

2016-2019 *Psychiatric Counselor*, River Oaks Hospital, New Orleans, LA

2018 *Quantitative Data Entry*, University of New Orleans Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology, New Orleans, LA

2019 *Case Manager*, Oceans Healthcare, New Orleans, LA



Sara Herndon  
University of New Orleans  
2000 Lakeshore Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70148

Dear Elections Committee:

It is my honor to recommend Drue Sahuc for the position of Treasurer of the executive board of the Graduate and Professional Student Organization.

As a professor at the University of New Orleans, I care about all the students who come in and out of my classes and life; however, it is rare that a student makes such an impression on me with their people skills, flexibility, and strength in student leadership. Drue is one of these students. I've had the pleasure of teaching Drue in four of my undergraduate classes, then later being a colleague in the sociology department, and it's been inspiring to see his passion unfold over the six years that I've known him. In one of the classes that I've had Drue as a student, Contemporary Social Theory, his class performance stands out, particularly his insightful perspective (and quick wit!). Other students always looked to his leadership in classroom discussions to lead them to deeper comprehension. But he's also open to asking for help, and he has come to me with thoughtful questions to gain a better understanding of concepts from class. When Drue went on to graduate school and started teaching classes at UNO, I had the pleasure of working with him again, this time as a colleague that I was happy to be able to mentor about teaching. His first semester as an instructor was during the Covid-19 pandemic, but he faced the challenges that posed not just with ingenuity and problem-solving skills, but also a sense of care and humanity toward his students.

I've known Drue as a student in my class as well as an active member of the community in New Orleans, and I've been impressed by his constant "go-getter" attitude he has as well as balancing other parts of his life. He's done well in his classes, and I've been especially impressed with his flexibility and ability to effectively communicate with and lead students, even in online classes. He is a strong student as well as a fantastic leader, and his dedication to justice for women, the LGBT community, and people of color has strongly come through. Drue has proven his ability to succeed in managing his academic studies while balancing his other responsibilities time and time again. I am confident that Drue will bring much to the table at GPSA with all of his experience and skills, which is why I am pleased to strongly recommend him.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sara Herndon  
Adjunct Professor, Sociology Department  
[sbherndo@uno.edu](mailto:sbherndo@uno.edu)  
(504)248-9106