Graduate & Professional Student Association
Executive Board – Declaration of Candidacy
May 2018 – May 2019

Name: Tyler D. Smith
Department/School: English/COLA (creative writing)

Select one: [ ] President [ ] Vice President [ ] Treasurer [ ] Secretary

Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests)
Chair, Student Media Committee (managed $50,000/annually to allocate to student-run media
organizations: campus radio, newspaper, creative writing journal, and campus television).
I also helped form this committee over the period of two years. (UWRF)

Editor-In-Chief, Prologue Literary Journal. (UWRF)

Vice-President & Scribe, Literary Society. (UWRF)

Member, Emerging Writing Series. (UNLV)

Member, Neon Lit. (UNLV)

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:
Having come from a small town in western Wisconsin, I realize the true value in an education precisely because my school system was
lacking in one. Attending university, participating in student-run organizations, and travelling abroad were revolutionary to me and the person that I
am today. No doubt had I not moved beyond my hometown, I’d still be that same small town kid holding onto his biases, unawares of the larger
world about him. My aim in joining the GPSA, then, is to continue to be a proponent of higher education. As a writer myself (in UNLV’s MFA
program), I’m uniquely poised for the position of Secretary and the rigors of its post—I realize the importance of words in not only
communicating complex ideas but in maintaining a written record of the merging of those ideas. It’s been said that the longevity and success
of any organization is dependent upon the people who comprise it. No doubt the passion, professionalism, and dedication that I
would bring to the GPSA would further the goal of advancing educational pursuits and maintaining the integrity of the organization.

Please attach letter of support from your faculty member/advisor to the application.
Thursday, March 29, 2018

Dear GPSA:

I’m writing to offer my enthusiastic support of Tyler Smith’s application for the position of Secretary in the Graduate & Professional Student Association. Tyler has emerged as a stellar member of our MFA cohort over the past year, distinguishing himself among his peers by his profound respect for others and the steady diligence of his work ethic.

As I work closely with all of the poetry students accepted into the MFA program, I have a good sense of all of their capabilities and it’s my sense that Tyler Smith would be excellent in the position of secretary, as one of his clear strengths are his organizational skills. Too, a professor always notices who takes notes in seminars, and Tyler devotedly does so, often referring to something I mentioned in a later class. I also had the pleasure also of working with Tyler at the Associated Writing Programs annual conference in Tampa earlier this month. As part of their duties for receiving monies to attend the conference, each graduate student was required to spend time chairing the tables of The Believer, Interim or Witness magazines, the three journals of the English deparment and Black Mountain Institute, at the Book fair. The book fair is a venue where over a thousand literary journals in the country gather to give information to subscribers and submitters about their individual magazine. This involved learning the history of the magazine, knowing the content of the volume represented at this year’s fair, and otherwise managing talking points to pique interest in subscribing to the magazine. Tyler spent many hours in the book fair, engaging enthusiastically with those who came to the Believer and Interim tables with anecdotal evidence of the magazine’s mission. As one of the secretary’s position involves the chairing of the Publication committee, his experience with the varied publications in our department has given him the experience needed to produce such a news letter.
Personally, Tyler's manner is warm and engaged, and he manages to appear both cheerful and professional. Seeing him work both in an academic and professional setting gives me absolute confidence that he would be an excellent person for the position of Secretary in the GPSA Council. He is certainly in excellent academic standing as the spring semester 2018 comes to a close.

Please don’t hesitate to call or write if you should need further information about Tyler Smith.

All the best,

Claudia Keelan

Claudia Keelan
Distinguished Barrick Scholar
Professor
UNLV
Tyler D. Smith

Education

MFA  English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  2017-present
B.S.  English w/honors, University of Wisconsin, River Falls Jan 2015

Employment

Instructor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  2017-present
Writing Consultant, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  2017-Present
Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin, River Falls  2014
Writing Consultant, University of Wisconsin, River Falls  2012-2015

Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
Graduate Teaching Assistant  2017-present

Courses taught:

- ENGLISH 102.1067: Introduction to Composition II  S 2018
- ENGLISH 102.1053: Introduction to Composition II  S 2018
- ENGLISH 101.1067: Introduction to Composition I  F 2017

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, RIVER FALLS
Teaching Assistant  2014

Courses co-taught:

- ENGLISH 232.01: Introduction to Creative Writing  F 2014

Volunteerism & Memberships

Member, Emerging Writing Series, UNLV  2018-present
Vice-President, Neon Lit Reading Series, UNLV  2018-present
Chairman, Student Media Committee, UWRF  2013-2015
Editor-In-Chief, Prologue Literary Journal  2014-2015
Editor, Prologue Literary Journal  2012-2014