



## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

### CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

**Candidate Name:** **Monica Elenes**

**College/School:** **Education**

**Department:** **Teaching & Learning**

**Elected Position of Interest:** **Secretary**

*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:**

I moved to Las Vegas in Sept 2020 to join the Teach for American 2020 Cohort. I teach ELA 11 + 12 at Chaparral HS and I'm studying for my Master of Education at UNLV. I am from Seattle, WA and back home I am very involved in my city, so being in Vegas and not being as involved has felt very odd. I love to coordinate + organize + manage. The role of a secretary interests me because I can use all my skills to be able to shine in that position while also still being involved in my university community. This is a position I know I can shine in because often times in online meetings, I am always the participant that puts the links of the day in the chat. I know how to work well online and still remain incredibly collaborative.



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

### Bookings Request Coordinator – Youth Speaks Seattle

- Negotiated agreements between organizations and youth poets
- Communicated with various community orgs to find out how Youth Speaks Seattle artists could support their events
- Created and updated artists bios that would feature in the Bookings Request Form

### Creative Change Leaders – The Vida Agency

- Group of 6 youth
- Worked with The Vida Agency on a Sugar Tax Counter Marketing Campaign
- Created a water challenge that would inspire people to drink more water and less sugar
- Wrote the song used for the ad campaign
- Sent meeting notes to group

### Stage managed and coordinated logistics for various events in Seattle

- The Residency
  - Venue: Chop Suey
    - 500 Tickets
    - Sold out Show
    - Youth stage
  - Venue: Washington Hall
    - Venue Max: 735
    - 500 Tickets sold
    - Youth stage
- Upstream Music Fest.
  - Venue: House of Sparkling Ice @ Buttnick Building
    - Sold out show
    - Youth stage
- Artists of Color Expo and Symposium (ACES)
  - Venue: Seattle Center
    - Youth stage
    - Open floor style event



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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.

Steven T. Bickmore  
Associate Professor of Literacy Education  
Department of Teaching and Learning  
College of Education, UNLV

March 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Monica Elenes for the position of Secretary as part of the GPSA Leadership group. I met Monica in the fall semester of 2020 when she was enrolled in my CIL 642 class. She had just arrived at UNLV as part of the current Teach for America cohort. This is a difficult course design to help teachers learn to teach as they are already hired and teaching their own student. Yes, it is absolutely on the job training. She was an exceptional student during her course work. It was clear that she was a dedicated and perceptive student. She works hard and has a quick intellect.

Monica is a strong thinker and an excellent writer. She quickly demonstrated that she was capable of doing excellent work at the next level of graduate work. After a few weeks, I was a big fan. Monica never failed to show up to class with an energetic smile on her face and a willingness to take on a new challenge. Remember, she is learning to teach virtually and during a pandemic. She is dedicated, collegial, hardworking, and has great collaborative skills. I think her enthusiasm is a perfect match for this position.

Perhaps Monica's greatest strength is her sensitivity to the situation of others. Even in the midst of a learning a difficult job and taking course work, it was clear that she was willing to put her own challenges to the side while she did her best to engage with others in group work that the course required. Her cheerfulness and willingness to make things work was an asset as I engaged in my own learning curve as an online university instructor. It was easy to notice that Monica is a self starter who can "read the room" and take on the tasks presented with a perfect mixture of inclusion and/or the ability to complete the task on her own. I suggest that with Monica Elenes you have found the right person for the job.

Sincerely,

*Steven T. Bickmore*

Steven T. Bickmore  
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