GPSA ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017
GPSA Annual Report
2016 – 2017

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GPSA Chief of Staff: Mark Narvaez
GPSA Council Chair: Zoila Alvarez
GPSA Grants Chair: Suresh Kumar Appana
GPSA Chief Justice: Taylor Smith
GPSA Deputy Chief of Staff (Fall): Edria Mitchem
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Contents

Presidential Report 2016 - 2017........................................................................................................4
  Lewis Administration Accomplishments:......................................................................................5
Executive Standing Committees 2016 – 2017................................................................................7
GPSA Finance Committee Annual Report 2016-17: .................................................................7
  Overview.....................................................................................................................................7
  Committee Members..................................................................................................................7
  Committee Goals.......................................................................................................................7
  Committee Accomplishments.....................................................................................................8
  Challenges and Opportunities:....................................................................................................8
Grants Committee Annual Report 2016-2017...............................................................................10
  Committee Chair......................................................................................................................10
  Committee Members................................................................................................................10
  Mission......................................................................................................................................10
  Duties: .......................................................................................................................................10
  Committee Goals.......................................................................................................................10
  Grants Offered This Year ..........................................................................................................10
  Graph1: Total Number of Applications for the year – 793......................................................12
  Graph2: Total Applications by Department ............................................................................13
  Graph3: Total Applications Awarded – 207 ($177,000+)......................................................14
  Graph4: Total Readers – 119 (Fall & Spring): .................................................................15
  Issues/Concerns:......................................................................................................................16
Lobby Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017............................................................................17
  Committee Members................................................................................................................17
  Committee Goals.......................................................................................................................17
  Committee Accomplishments.....................................................................................................17
  Future Challenges and Opportunities........................................................................................18
Elections Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017......................................................................19
  Committee Members................................................................................................................19
  Projected Election TimeLine: ..................................................................................................19
  Actual Election Timeline: ........................................................................................................19
  Budget: .....................................................................................................................................20
Annual Report

Special Election: ................................................................. 20
Public Forums: ................................................................. 20
Election Demographics: ...................................................... 21
Future Challenges and Opportunities: ................................... 21
Student Support & Advocacy Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017 ................................................ 23
  Committee goals: ............................................................. 23
  Listing of committee members: ........................................... 23
  Dates of committee meetings: ............................................ 23
  Activities engaged in: ....................................................... 24
  Plans for spring 2017 ........................................................ 24
  Future Challenges and Opportunities .................................. 24
  Committee Members ......................................................... 26
  Overview ........................................................................ 26
  Goals for Coming Semester: ............................................. 26
Appendices ......................................................................... 28
  Appendix A ...................................................................... 29
  Appendix B ...................................................................... 30
  Appendix C ...................................................................... 31
  Appendix D ...................................................................... 32
  Appendix E ...................................................................... 33
  Appendix F ...................................................................... 34
  Appendix G ...................................................................... 35
  Appendix H ...................................................................... 36
  Appendix I ...................................................................... 37
  Appendix J ...................................................................... 38
  Appendix K ...................................................................... 39
  Appendix L ...................................................................... 40
Presidential Report 2016 - 2017
Glenda Lewis
GPSA President
Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies, PhD Candidate

Presidential Update

It has been a great privilege and an honor to serve as the first Black, woman, president of the University of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Student Association. I have taken tremendous pride in advocating on behalf of all graduate and professional student’s academic and personal wellness. I want to thank each of you for your service. I also wish to thank the University of New Mexico staff, faculty, and administration for all of your support during this amazing year.

This report represents my term of service 2016-2017. This information is reflective of the efforts made to support the graduate and professional students at UNM as well as, the importance of engagement and collaboration. GPSA being the graduate student government at UNM requires not only supporting graduate student concerns and issues, but also identifying and recommending solutions; which has been at our core. At the onset, our mission became to humanize the graduate student experience at the University of New Mexico.

The Lewis administration provided networking and social opportunities that facilitated academic, professional, and personal success. We were always guided by the intention of continuing to diversify the GPSA by encouraging more students to become engaged and empowered with leadership and professional development skills.

As I end my term of service, I would like to thank each of you for your unwavering service, dedication and commitment to GPSA and the Lewis Administration.
Lewis Administration Accomplishments:

- Ensured continued funding for graduate and professional students to attend conferences to further develop their professionalism and leadership skills
- Fundraised money to revise the GPSA Graduate Student Survival Guide
- Revised the GPSA Graduate Student Survival Guide (from 2014-2016 to include African American Student Services Center, American Indian Student Services Center, El Centro de la Raza, LGBTQ, Project for New Mexico Graduates of Color (PNMGC) and (LoboRESPECT) (see Appendix A)
- Engaged in 30+ departmental new graduate student orientations.
- In conjunction with ongoing campus-wide engagement, supported and participated in all cultural events and activities.
- All Executive Cabinet members became LGBTQ Safe Zone trained.
- All Executive Cabinet members participated in Active Shooter Training with UNM Industrial Security Officer, Deborah Kuidis.
- Held 1st Annual GPSA Swap & Sell (see Appendix B).
- Sponsored a Night of Volleyball on Johnson Field (see Appendix C).
- Collaborated with UNM Alumni Association on the 1st Annual Café GPSA, a night of career networking with alumni (see Appendix D).
- Co-Chaired SFRB (Student Fee Review Board).
- Met twice with New Mexico State Board of Finance on behalf of GPSA and university capital outlay projects.
- Accompanied GPSA Lobby Chair and representatives to the New Mexico State Legislature to lobby on behalf of graduate and professional student issues and interests at the UNM Day at the New Mexico State Legislature.
- Attended Graduate Studies Day at the New Mexico State Legislature with UNM Office of Graduate Studies representatives.
- Networked with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) and abstract submission accepted for the NAGPS conference at SUNY Stoney Brook, November 2016.
- Co-Sponsored 2017 Shared Knowledge Conference in association with the Office of Graduate Studies.
• Coordinated and facilitated Graduate Research Showcase (see Appendix E).
• Presented a screening of the 1970s Sam Greenle classic “The Spook Who Sat by the Door,” followed by a critical dialogue session (see Appendix F).
• Hosted Black History Month Read-In celebrating Black life and thought (see Appendix G).
• Presented Hip Hop artist Zero Bey and his Black Art Gambit presentation (see Appendix H).
• Professor Sonia Gipson-Rankin presented a “Micro aggressions” workshop (see Appendix I).
• Coordinated and facilitated “Graduate Roundtable” at GPSA Graduate Commons (see Appendix J).
• Held Parking and Transportation Summit on North Campus (see Appendix K).
• Held GPSA Graduate Student Appreciation Day and gave away movie tickets to Star Wars Rogue (see Appendix L).
• Developed comprehensive volunteer recruitment, training, management, and recognition program, including volunteer orientation manual.
• Held Volunteer End-of-the Year Recognition Luncheon.
• Chief of Staff participated on Assistant Dean of Students Search Committee.
• As GPSA President I sat on the Women’s Resource Center Director Search Committee, UNM Honorary Degree Committee, and the UNM Presidential Search Committee.
• Initiated and coordinated Student Regent Search Committee and related promotional activities.
• Provided ongoing oversight and maintenance of GPSA Computer Lab.
Executive Standing Committees 2016 – 2017

GPSA Finance Committee Annual Report 2016-17:

Overview

GPSA's Finance Committee is charged with the oversight of GPSA monies, and allocations thereof to student groups and the Association itself. As part of its duties, the Committee hears appropriations requests on a monthly basis, as well as compiles the annual budget.

Committee Members

For Fall 2016:
Isaac Olaoye (Chair),
Travis Scholten (Vice-Chair),
Joe Raborn, Brian Mackie- Mason,
Hahn Nguyen,
Nina Cooper.

For Spring 2017:
Hanh Nguyen (Chair),
Travis Scholten (Vice-Chair),
Eliberto Calderon,
Joe Raborn,
Brian Mackie-Mason,
Chia-Ling Chen.

Committee Goals

The Committee set the following goals:

- Redesign the Appropriations Request form, as the current version was outdated and a bit unwieldy for student groups to use.

- Improve the Committee's web content, by updating outdated information, and consolidating as necessary.

- Work to ensure information and documentation about the Committee's activities (agendas, minutes, supporting documentation, etc.) was sent to the GPSA Office for posting on the Committee's webpages, or to the GPSA Council Chair for dissemination to Council.
Build a system to manage the annual budget process. As the FY 2018 budget process began, it became clear that some process for sharing information with the Committee and SGAO was necessary, not to mention provide a centralized location where information could be archived for future cycles.

Committee Accomplishments:

The Committee had the following accomplishments:

- Launched a new appropriations request form.
- Sent, in a timely fashion, all documentation and information about the Committee's activities to the GPSA Office or GPSA Council Chair.
- Migrated the annual budget process to the OneDrive account association with the Chair's UNM email address, thereby providing a single location where documentation, application files, and other information could be made available to Committee members and SGAO.
- Crafted a budget for FY 2018 which was both balanced and also provided close to the maximum support for UNM student groups. Based on anticipated revenues for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 in the amount of $295,000, after mandatory spending was accounted for, a total of $119,800 was available for other spending. Thirty-five student groups participated in the budget process, requesting a total of $71,061. The Committee recommended spending in the amount of $23,919. The Association itself requested a total of $129,156; the Committee recommended spending in the amount of $95,267.
- Heard 28 appropriations requests in fall 2016, totaling $55917.52, for which the Committee recommended $23722.0 in spending. In spring 2017, 24 requests were heard, totaling $29109.31, and spending in the amount of $20227.0 was recommended. For student groups, the average request in fall 2016 was approximately $500, while in spring 2017, it was $421.
- Provided more financial accountability and transparency by reigning in spending on a nebulously-worded "Other" line item in an appropriations request. The Committee did so by reconsidering its Standing Rules regarding this line item, and explicitly capped the amount the Committee would recommend for that line item. As a result, spending on this line was held to approximately 25% of the total amount recommended by the Committee, while it constituted almost 31% of the total amount requested.

Challenges and Opportunities:

In the course of its operations during the year, the Committee identified the following issues which could be addressed:

- Further integrate North Campus student groups into the budget process. Currently, the Committee hosts one budget workshop on North Campus. However, one of the budget hearings could also be scheduled to take place there. (Numerous North Campus student groups brought this point up during their hearing, citing the fact that the round-trip to/from
North Campus can take up to 45 minutes.) Future Committees could consider holding one or several hearings on North Campus, probably over the noon lunch hour.

- Improve oversight of the finances of the Grants Committee. Assuming changes to the Associations' Bylaws are approved by UNM's Legal Department, the Committee with have greater authority over the finances of the Grants Committee. Historically, financing of the grants offered by the Grants Committee has come from both the GPSA Student Fee (with mandatory spending on grants as outlined by the Bylaws), and monies which come from the Graduate Allocation Fund (GAF), as part of the Student Fee Review Board process. The latter have historically been controlled by the GPSA Executive. Once the new Bylaws are approved, the Committee should work to re-engineer the budget process to account for revenue from the GAF, and work more closely with the Grants Committee to determine the level of awards for the various grants offered.

- Improve coordination with, and oversight of, the Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO). According to the GPSA's Constitution, "SGAO acts as the agent of all GPSA financial transactions" (V.2.B). As such, the Finance Committee could take a more active role in working with SGAO to ensure the transactions it makes are (a) consistent with the intent of the Committee/Council, (b) accurate, and (c) not usurping the Committee's role as the overseer of the finances of the Association. In particular, the Committee learned that SGAO has been reverting funds from student groups without any notice or consultation with the Committee, which has resulted in at least one student group having its funds reverted in error. To avoid such problems, the Committee and SGAO need to work more closely together, and communicate more with one another. (Bi-weekly meetings between the Chair and SGAO would be one way to do so.) In addition, the Committee could encourage SGAO to more clearly explain its processes and procedures -- especially including how the balance of the GPSA's General Fund is calculated.

- Create a “financial dashboard” to provide at-a-glance information about the state of the Association's finances. Such a dashboard should include year-to-date revenue and spending, as well as the projected balance of the General Fund. Doing so would require integrating data from SGAO, which could either be provided by programmatic access to their accounting software, or by weekly updates from SGAO.

- Implement a web-based approach for collecting appropriations requests and budget information. The current approach involves having groups download and fill out Excel files, and then email them to the Committee Chair. Moving to a web-based form would make it easier for groups (the form would work on any operating system), as well as the Chair (for example, by providing automated confirmation emails). Further, the responses would be stored in a format which makes them amenable to programmatic analysis. In turn, this would make it easier for the Committee to create the financial dashboard referenced above.
Grants Committee Annual Report 2016-2017

Committee Chair
Suresh Kumar Appana

Committee Members
Mohammad Tayarani, Member
Amir Poorfakhraei, Member
Jaimie Stephens, Member
Marina Minina, Member
Abigail Robertson, Member

Mission
To empower graduate students by providing learning experiences and funding resources for research, education, and professional development. The Grants Committee organizes the annual GPSA Grants Cycles (fall, spring, & summer). Grants supported through GPSA are the Student Research Grant (SRG, $500, all cycles), Professional Development Grant (PDG, $500, all cycles), and the New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG, $3,000-$5,000, fall).

Duties:
- Receive and organize Grant applications (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Receive and train grant readers
- Score and notify grant recipients
- Work with SGAO for grant allocations

Committee Goals
- Support the academic and professional development endeavors of graduate students.
- Educate more students about the GPSA grants and encourage them make use of them.
- Identify risks and opportunities and work to improve the process for providing a high-quality grants program for graduate students.
- Amend the Grants Code, as needed, to include clear language to support these goals.
- Promote the grant program as an educational experience, not just a financial resource.

Grants Offered This Year

Student Research Grant (SRG): A $500 grant that funds travel and lodging to conduct research in the field (includes artistic projects like photography or dance), the cost of research materials, and/or travel/lodging and conference fees for conferences at which the applicant is making a presentation. The SRG is offered every fall, spring and summer semester and is eligible for up to $500.
Professional Development Grant (PDG): A $500 grant that funds travel/lodging and fees for job interviews, auditions, clinicals, mock trials, unpaid internships, conferences at which the applicant is not making a presentation, and other professional development travel or related expenses. The PDG may not fund expenses eligible for the SRG and it is offered every fall, spring and summer semester.

New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG): A $3,000–$5,000 grant that funds travel, lodging, supplies, and other costs related to field research. Projects with a New Mexico state agency, nonprofit or community organization require a letter of recommendation from a representative of the organization, and are eligible for up to $5000.

Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF): Each fall and spring semester, we offer the Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF) a $1,000 need-based scholarship for students within three semesters of graduation.

Graduate Summer Scholarship (GSS): A $1,000 merit and need-based scholarship designed to help support students who are nearing the end of their academic programs and taking summer classes in order to expedite completion of their program. Graduate and professional students in good standing (3.0 GPA or higher) and within 15 credit hours of graduating are eligible for the scholarship.

Grants Statistics 2016 – 17:

The following information is provided as a demographic reflection of GPSA Grant outcomes and activities for the 2016-17 academic year. The information provided is intended not only to provide a snapshot of grant activities during this term, but also as a reflection of the evolution and present status of the grant program. We also include here a listing of opportunities and challenges for the grants program that we see lying ahead. It is our hope that the information provided here also serves the incoming GPSA 2017-18 administration as they continue to administer and support the program on behalf of the graduate student population.
Graph1: Total Number of Applications for the year – 793

Graph1 Comment: Over time, the GPSA Grants program has become a signature part of the value which GPSA returns to the graduate student population. The program continues to grow in interest and patronage across the graduate student community. It is our observation that this reflects both an increased awareness of the program, as well as a representation of student financial need in support of their research and professional development interests and aspirations. This being said, and as seen in Graph1 above, we would recommend that increased attention and efforts be made to increase promotion and utilization of the New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG) both General and High priority. During 2016-2017, a total of 6 congregate applicant trainings were conducted. During summer 2016, individual student applicant training and technical assistance was provided as requested.
**Graph2: Total Applications by Department**

![Graph2: Total Applications by Department](image)

**Graph2 Comment:** The data which Graph2 contains not only provides a picture of those academic departments from which applications were submitted during the 2016-17 GPSA Grant year, but also may be most useful in identifying departments to which increased grants program promotion and outreach can be conducted in prospectively increasing awareness and utilization of the program.
Graph3 Comment: The graph represents the distribution of grant awards across all departments for the academic year. A closer look at the information provided indicates that the majority of awardees were from Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and Humanities (HUM) disciplines, with Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), and Fine Arts and Design (FAD) following. This may point to the need to develop a more focused promotion and outreach strategy in reaching a more balanced distribution of both grant applications submitted and awarded across these major academic perspectives. That is, besides more general outreach and promotion regarding grant opportunities, specific perspective and departmental strategies might be considered and employed, in addition to a closer study of other factors and influences which may be involved.

During the 2016-17 grant year, a total of 47 appeals were submitted, heard, and dispositioned. The number of appeals across each grant cycle and the percentage that they represented of the total grants submitted for that cycle are: summer 2016 – 15 (7%); fall 2016 – 17 (5%); spring 2017 – 15 (6%). Of the appeals submitted, more than half were ultimately awarded after consideration and deliberation, while many others were referred back to readers for re-reads. It is our understanding that the percentage of appeals for this term was substantially lower than had been prevalent in the past. In retrospect, we feel that the lower number of appeals submitted each grant cycle reflects the thoroughness of the applicant training conducted, individual technical assistance provided to students before submission, and the quality and quantity of customer service provided to students regarding their questions and concerns, ongoing. Additionally, the grants committee and Chief of Staff, from the outset, endeavored to make the grants appeal process an affirmative experience by listening closely to students identified reasons for appeal, and conducting the appeals process as a “teachable moment” in
instructing students on aspects of the grant writing process in facilitating their future grant procurement success, both within the GPSA Grants program and externally.

**Graph4: Total Readers – 119 (Fall & Spring):**

**Graph4 Comment:** Represented are the number of graduate students across specific academic perspectives who participated as grant readers during the 2016-17 term. As can be seen from the graph there exists a great disparity across the four perspectives. Not reflected in the graph above are 40 grant readers who participated during summer 2016, but which reinforced the same trend contained above. During the 2016-17 grant year, a total of 24 grant reader trainings were conducted, more than had ever been conducted in past years. Operational issues involving the recruitment, training, and activity of grant readers constitutes a major challenge and area of study in the administration and management of the grants program moving forward. More details concerning this are discussed later in this section.
Issues/Concerns:

Grant Applications:

- There continues to be a lack of grant submissions from Fine Arts and Design. This may constitute an area of focus and increased promotion and outreach.
- Similarly, there continues to be a small number of applications for New Mexico Research Grants – both categories – despite funds available. As such, this may also merit additional focused outreach and promotion.
- Grant Verification Forms are utilized in the applicant process to confirm student academic status as required by Bylaw. However, at present, there is no mechanism to verify such status.
- Questions have been raised concerning the current definition of allowable travel within the grant application criteria and instructions. At present, grants cover only those expenses related to conferences located outside of Albuquerque. This may be an area and issue for further review and discussion.
- In general, it may be useful to review and update the current grant application in use.

Readers:

- Stipend: An emerging issue which we began to hear during the course of the grant year concerned the adequacy of the current reader stipend ($50 for review of 13 to 16 applications).
- Recruitment: The recruitment of a sufficient number of readers each semester continues to be a challenge, in general, and specifically from the Fine Arts and Design (FAD) perspective.
- Commitment: On occasion, readers’ consistency and quality is impacted by their lack of recognition and understanding of the commitment involved, while balancing their academic responsibilities and other commitments.

Current operational model: Considerations/Recommendations

- Review currently operating model
- More fully engaging GPSA Council members as readers, in promotion of GPSA opportunities within their departments, and in other supporting activities.
- Enhanced proactive outreach to NM State Departments/Organizations re: NMRG.
Lobby Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Committee Members

David Medrano – School of Public Administration, Chair
Austin Megli – School of Law
Glenda Lewis – College of Education
Mark Narvaez – College of Education

Committee Goals

The State of New Mexico has been experiencing financial shortcomings that have translated into budget cuts across all areas, including Higher Education Institutions. The most pressing goal was to represent the value Graduate and Professional students at the University of New Mexico bring to our state and how continued budget cuts would hinder their education. Working closely with UNM Government Relations Team as well as The UNM Alumni Lobos for Legislation committee, our overarching goal was to mitigate any budget cuts proposed to the University. As in the past, GPSA wanted to use its capacity to advocate to seek moneys of a student project through Capital Outlay funding. The project would be geared to supporting student success at UNM with the intention of funding a project that may otherwise be difficult to complete in the current fiscal climate.

Committee Accomplishments

The GPSA Lobby committee placed a call-out for student projects from which it selected a College of Fine Arts practice room proposal. The proposal outlined the necessity the private practice rooms are to student success by allowing them a place to hone their skills. The rooms have largely been neglected with holes in the law and other general disrepair. The money would have been dedicated to these repairs as well as securing new doors for each of the rooms. With the budget shortfall in Santa Fe, Capital Outlay projects were not receiving the funding they have in the previous Sessions. UNM decided to limit their Capital Outlay request and only ask for a few projects for building repairs and completion. Fine Arts was not deemed a priority as the rooms are still usable while not in the desired condition.

We organized UNM GPSA Members to attend UNM Day at the Roundhouse. In attendance were students from the School of Medicine, Department of Economics, Communication and Journalism, College of Education, and the Department of Public Administration. Students were able to meet their respective Legislator and share with them the accomplishments of UNM and how their educational path has been successful by choosing to be a Lobo.
Future Challenges and Opportunities

At the filing of this report, Governor Martinez had called a Special Session set for May 24th. The items for the Special Session include funding of many State Agencies as well potentially addressing tax reform. The Special Session will be crucial for UNM to secure funding and know what the 2017-2018 budget will be.

Other future challenges include continued advocacy for the support of UNM. The fiscal climate will unlikely improve over the next few years, it is incumbent upon GPSA to showcase the graduate student success to all decision makers in Santa Fe. While doing so, this presents a great opportunity to network GPSA Members with individuals in Santa Fe. Specifically, I believe the Lobby Chair should expand the scope of the position to include all Government Relations. The hope would be for the Chair of the Government Relations Committee to facilitate networking for graduate students with appropriate State Agencies where the skills and knowledge of graduate students may be of use.

Furthermore, partnership with the Grants Committee could take place to help secure funding to support these graduate students.
Elections Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Committee Members
Jaimie Stephens, Chair
Catherine Jaramillo, Member
Joshua Serna, Member
Connor Lite, Member
Celina Franco, Member

Projected Election Timeline:

2/20 (M) Call for Candidates and Ballot Items
2/25 (Sat) Nomination forms for Ballot Items presented to Council (due by 10am Feb. Council Meeting)
3/1 (W) Presidential and Council Chair Candidate Forms due
3/2 (R) GPSA Announces Candidates and Ballot Items
3/23 (R) Public Forum for all Candidates in SUB Atrium 12:30-1:30PM
3/24 (F) Public Forum for all Candidates in SUB Atrium 12:30-1:30PM
3/25 (Sat) Presidential Debate and platform speeches in GPSA Council
4/3 (M) GPSA Election online polls open at 8AM
4/6 (R) GPSA Election online polls close at 5PM
4/7 (F) Presidential Election results announced
4/29 (Sat) Council Chair debate and election in Council meeting
5/1 (M) Council Chair election results announced

Actual Election Timeline:

2/20 (M) Call for Candidates and Ballot Items
2/25 (Sat) Nomination forms for Ballot Items presented to Council (due by 10am Feb. Council Meeting)
3/1 (W) Presidential and Council Chair Candidate Forms due
3/2 (R) GPSA Announces Candidates and Ballot Items
3/23 (R) Public Forum for all Candidates in SUB Atrium 12:30-1:30PM
3/24 (F) Public Forum for all Candidates in SUB Atrium 12:30-1:30PM
3/25 (Sat) Presidential Debate and platform speeches in GPSA Council
4/3 (M) GPSA Election online polls open at 8AM
4/6 (R) GPSA Election online polls close at 5PM - Election Committee votes to not validate the election due to a technical difficulty that prevented students from being able to vote.
4/10 (M) GPSA Special Council Meeting to schedule Special Election
4/10 (M) Advertise Special Election in three different ways according to bylaws
4/17 (M) GPSA Special Election polls open at 8AM
4/18 (T) GPSA Special Election polls close at 5PM
4/18 (T) GPSA Presidential Election Results Announced asap after polls close
4/29 (Sat) Council Chair debate and election in Council meeting
5/1 (M) Council Chair election results announced

Budget:
The election committee spent $507 on advertising through the Daily Lobo, and $400 will go towards the Elections Chair’s stipend. Next year, I strongly recommend spending the money used for the Daily Lobo on other more effective means of advertisements. The Elections Committee suggests buying snacks or coffee for the public forums. This could also be a more effective way to spend money rather than the Daily Lobo.

Special Election:
The GPSA Elections Committee voted to not credit the election due to many students not being able to vote. There were two reasons for this. The first was that the link in the invite email to vote did not work. Since each email is personalized, the email can only be sent from the ballot site (UNM surveys website), not forwarded from myself or anyone else. IT could fix the link for students that voiced their link not working. However, the elections committee believes that there were students who had a bad link and did not say anything. The other issue students were having was not receiving the email invite at all. This was due to a local firewall prohibiting students from receiving an email from the ballot website.

The solution to this was to make a new non-personalized link for students to use. This link would be accessible through MyUNM as well as sent out to students in an email. This solved the problem of needing to receive an email to vote. This also prevented students from receiving a bad link since now there was only one link rather than each student receiving their own personalized link.

IT could keep the votes that had already been placed. Because of this, the GPSA Council decided that the fairest thing to do for all the candidates was to keep the votes that had already been placed and hold a special election for the students that had not been able to vote previously. The Elections Committee then combined the votes from the original election and the special election to get the final results.

To prevent problems in the future, I highly recommend GPSA switching to the non-personalized link method or widget permanently. I have more information about this under Other Recommendations: Widget.

Public Forums:
We made a major change to the Public Forums this year by videotaping them. This increase the amount of people that we reached from about 80 students to 100 students. However, 95 of those students watched the video and only about 5 actually attended the event. In the future, we believe it would be better to have more students at the actual event.

One way to get more people to show up would be to build more hype. The bylaws state that the event should be advertised a week in advance. We believe that more students would show up if advertisements started much earlier, even as soon as the dates for the public forum are set. We have discussed the possibility of holding a casual meet and greet with the candidates before the public forum to get people excited about the public forum.
When we advertised the event, we used GPSA’s Facebook, an email, encouraged council members to advertise to their departments, and the LED displays in the SUB. In the future, we would recommend using these means in addition to flyers in bathroom stalls around campus, do a drawing for people that share the event on Facebook, the GPSA website, and possibly other social media such as twitter or snap chat. The Elections committee could even ask to advertise on the personal sites of the GPSA president, the Student Regent, or others associated with GPSA.

We think that another way to get people to show up rather than just watch the video at home is to incentivize them to come. We could get coffee and snack food for anyone who comes. We believe this is a better use of money than spending it on advertisements through the Daily Lobo.

As far as the actual video goes, we think it would be better if it were a live stream possibly through Facebook. We would still like to post the video after the event, but it will be more interactive, and allow more students to actively participate in the public forum. Students who cannot make the public forum will be able to ask live questions through commenting. After the event, we recommend posting the stream on YouTube, Facebook, and emailing it to all students.

Some other suggestions for the public forms are to have them on Monday and Tuesday. This was not possible this year due to the SUB already being booked. I believe that this hurt our attendance. I would also recommend having one of the public forums on North Campus rather than in the SUB. This will make it easier for students on North Campus to attend.

**Election Demographics:**

It has always been a challenge to get graduate and professional students involved in the GPSA Elections. This year we had a total of 882 votes of the 5685 students. This calculates to 15.5% of the graduate and professional student body. In spring 2016, there were a total of 425 votes of the 5716 students or 7.4% of students, and spring 2015 yielded a total of 475 votes of the 5861 students or 8.1% of students. This year’s GPSA Elections Committee almost doubled the percent of students voting in the GPSA Presidential Election. We believe this is due to videoing the Public Forum and advertising in the SUB since neither of these were done in the past. We would like to challenge next year’s committee to increase by 8%, i.e. get 23.5% of the student body to vote in the presidential election.

This election was very close. The winning candidate won by only 65 votes. There were 660 votes in the original election, and 222 additional votes in the special election.

**Future Challenges and Opportunities:**

**Widget:**

I strongly recommend using a widget next year. This will prevent the problems we saw this last election with students not being able to vote. We would like to still send out an email in addition to having a widget on MyUNM. In the email, we had a quote from each candidate and a link to the candidate’s bios. I believe it is possible to have a link to the candidate bios next to the widget or built into the widget. It is important when advertising the election to make sure that students know how to reset their MyUNM NetID password since many students in the med school and law school do not use
MyUNM and do not know their passwords. It is also important to let students know that they will need their NetID, and they will need to login using only lowercase letters.

**Advertising:**

Here are some tips for advertising next year. First, make sure there is a clear distinction from the presidential candidates and the council chair candidates. When advertising the traditional debate at the March council meeting, use the wording Q&A instead of debate. This has traditionally been a time where candidates give a brief speech to the GPSA Council followed by a Q&A session.

At the beginning of the year, we recommend sending out a weekly email to get people excited about the election. These emails could contain fun facts about the candidates or other less serious advertising.

**Building Your Committee:**

I had some trouble finding committee members at the beginning of the year. I would recommend starting to look for your committee in November. I would finish recruiting members in the first week of school, when students are looking for ways to get involved. As the election gets closer, I recommend meeting with your committee more than the monthly requirement. This will ensure that your committee knows what’s going on and can be better help.
Student Support & Advocacy Committee Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Committee goals:
The standing goal of the Student Support and Advocacy Committee is to identify points of interest and concerns that students within the various colleges of the University of New Mexico may have, as well as to provide access to information regarding available resources and support.

Listing of committee members:
Edria Mitchem – chair from Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences
Cliff Chen – committee member from Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences
Kaitlyn Bates – committee member from Anderson School of Management
Clint Brayfield – committee member from the Medical School
Margaret Wilkins – committee member from Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences
Celina Franco – committee member from the college of Arts & Sciences

Dates of committee meetings:
1st meeting was held on October 3rd and conducted at the GPSA office. The purpose of the meeting was to become acquainted with each other, share ideas and concerns, and learn more about the committee structure and intent.

At the request of the GPSA Council, the Student Support & Advocacy Committee was asked to investigate the issue of students receiving assistantship funding in a timely manner. Several council members indicated from interactions with other students, and from their own experiences, that the processing of assistantship funding was often untimely, inconsistent, and often had a negative impact on students’ ability to plan their budgets and meet academic expenses.

This information was shared and discussed with the SS&A committee members. None of the committee members expressed knowledge of problems regarding the issue. We agreed to reach out to students in their colleges to determine the prevalence and facts surrounding this problem, and to gather further quantitative and qualitative information.

On December 5th, the committee met in the Graduate Student Commons in Zimmerman library to discuss information gathered and progress made on the student funding assistantship issue. Again, no member said that they were made aware of issues regarding this subject.
Activities engaged in:
As committee chair, I am engaged in the councils of LoboRespect, the Diversity Council, the Johnson Center Expansion Renovation, and the Sexual Harassment Policy Committee. Because of my association with these committees, I am able to relay information to the committee members in order to get information distributed to students’ colleagues in their colleges.

Plans for spring 2017
2017 plans for the Student Support and Advocacy Committee are to continue to gather information regarding the student assistantship stipend processing issue. Two program coordinators at two different colleges within UNM have identified key issues that will be addressed in a later report.

We are presently awaiting to learn of confirmed speakers to be presenting in association with the Anderson School of Management. Once confirmed, the SS&A committee will promote and distribute the information to the greater graduate student community.

Additionally, and in association with spring 2017 new graduate student orientation, the SS&A committee intends to distribute publications and informational materials to incoming students regarding resources available through GPSA.

Spring 2017:

Committee Chair
James Kaminski, School of Public Administration

Committee Goals
After taking over as committee chair in February of 2017, I inherited two goals established by the previous committee chair: to investigate and advocate for the modification of the timeframe allowed for law school professors to grade finals from 30 days to 14 days; and, to continue to address the student assistantship issue previously initiated by the SS&A committee in 2016. On-going, the SS&A committee will continue to identify points of interests and concerns that graduate and professional students may have, while providing information and direction regarding access to available resources and support.

Future Challenges and Opportunities
The law school has a special provision allowing professors 30 days to submit final grades following final exams. The provision permits professors to deviate from the established rule that final grades are to be submitted within 48 hours of the final as stated in the teachers handbook. It is recommended that the next SS&A committee meet with the Dean of the Law School concerning a proposed written policy change.

Concerning the timely processing of student assistantships additional information was gathered. Currently, the problem has been identified at two different colleges within UNM. Whether the scope
of the problem expands beyond the two identified colleges has yet to be determined. Anecdotally, a student I spoke to, also a former war veteran, identified that during the Fall 2016 semester one of his classes did not submit final grades until “2 weeks after finals”. This caused undue financial hardship due to delays in the ability to register which in turn delayed the monthly stipend the student received from the GI bill. After addressing the problem with the program director, the issue appears to be resolved.
Health Committee Annual Report 2016-2017:

Committee Members
Alex Cervantes – Chair, Fall 2016
Tristen Adams – Co chair
Joseph Sanchez
Zefr Chao
Alexandra Cervantes
Tristen Adams

Overview: The GPSA Health committee is the newest GPSA committee and this is the first semester it has formally been introduced into the executive branch. Given its novelty this semester has proved to be very formative. Tristen and I have worked as co-chairs to really experiment with what this committee could be and will be in the future. Thus, this semester has been mainly focused on gathering our footing by representing GPSA in any capacity our schedules permit. This includes but is not limited to attendance at SHA meetings, Unified Wellness Alliance meetings, as well as HSSC meetings. Additionally, we have attended council meetings and served as representatives for both our committee and the health sciences campus.

Our greatest challenge has been developing the committee overall. Our initial goals were to represent North Campus and help create a more cohesive UNM environment. So we have accomplished this in our own representation and communication between the groups listed above as well as our respective student organizations and peers. However, it has been challenging to figure out how to further this goal given the student body that we currently serve. Most of the students we work with are seeking professional internships and shadowing opportunities that preclude them from GPSA organizational involvement due to the rigor and inconsistent work schedules they are given. Thus, our greatest challenge has been forming a committee with definitive meeting dates and full attendance. With changing hospital schedules, and classes that do not stay consistent throughout the semester, finding a meeting time requires changes on a month-by-month basis given individual schedules. This then has led to slowed progress and in many instances more time dedicated to finding time, than actually working together.

Thus, we believe that our greatest goal for the coming semester is to establish consistency and a very explicit agenda and set of goals for the remaining semester. Additionally, we hope to grow our committee membership and delegate the meetings we currently attend to more of our committee members as to maximize engagement and share the time commitment of serving on this committee.

Goals for Coming Semester:

- Set consistent monthly meetings and have a set schedule for the semester by the end of January
- Increase membership and improve consistency in member involvement
- Host one event on North Campus
- Host one event on Main Campus
• Increase member attendance at additional health and wellness organizational meetings campus wide
• Attend one GPSA Council Meeting as a committee
• Gather student opinion on State Issues including future capital outlay projects
• Present this information to GPSA Leadership
APPENDICES
Appendix A:
Appendix B:

Swap & Sell

August 31, 2016
Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SUB Atrium

Vendors must register with GPSA. For more information, please call 505-277-3803 or e-mail gpsaoff@unm.edu

You must have your UNM ID.
Appendix C:

Hey Grads!

Let's play Volleyball!

Thursday
September 15, 2016
5PM - 7PM
Volleyball Courts

For more information, please contact GPSA.
505 277 3803; gpsaoff@unm.edu
Appendix D:

Café GPSA

A NIGHT OF CAREER NETWORKING WITH ALUMNI

Thursday, September 29
6pm – 8pm
Student Union Building, Ballroom A
Guest Speaker: Brian Colón, GPSA President (1999–2001)
Learn networking tips and chat with former lobos.

Featured Career Areas:
Higher Education * Educational Leadership * Public Administration and Public Service *
International Cultural Marketing * Surgical Nursing * Electrical Engineering *
Information Technology Support with focus on Healthcare, Clinical Health *
Engineering Services and Staffing * Funeral Services * Environmental Science

The University of
New Mexico

For more information please call 505-277-3803 or e-mail gpsa@unm.edu
Appendix E

GPSA RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Research presentations by awardees of the GPSA Fall 2016 Grants

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017
12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
LOBO A & B

Light refreshments will be provided.
Appendix F:

In honour of black history month, presents,

The epic 1973 satire of the politics of power and race in the United States.

"The Spook Who Sat by the Door is a 1973 action crime–drama film based on the 1969 novel of the same name by Sam Greenlee."

Wednesday, Feb 15th
1 P.M. – 3 P.M.
LOBO A&B

A conversation on the notes and criticism of the film will follow the movie viewing.

FACILITATED BY ZERO BEY
Appendix G:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN: CELEBRATING BLACK LIFE AND THOUGHT

S.U.B. Atrium
Friday, February 3rd
12 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT BLACK HISTORY.
Appendix H:

BLACK ART GAMBIT

AT THE DOOR
FREE

SPONSORS
GPSC
AFST
AAAG
BAAartmakers

Closing Black History month with a digital art exhibit.
Featuring paintings from Zero’s catalogue of exciting contemporary hip-hop paintings.

WHEN?
THUR
Feb. 23,
2017
12-1pm

WHERE
SUB
ATRIUM
Appendix I:

GPSA Black History Month Presentation on Microaggressions
Professor Sonia Gipson–Rankin
Feb 17, 2017
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
S.U.B. Atrium
Appendix J:

GPSA is hosting

Graduate Student Roundtable

Friday, March 24

Graduate Student Commons
Zimmerman Library, 1st Floor

Come out and share your research while networking with other graduate and professional students.

3. 24. 2017
12p.m. – 2 p.m.

E-mail gpsa@unm.edu for more information.
Appendix K:

**PARKING & TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT SPRING 2017**

Feb. 21, 2017
11am-1pm
SUB Atrium

Feb. 22, 2017
2pm-4pm
Domenici Conf. Room 3010

JOIN PATS STAFF IN AN OPEN FORUM. Bring forth your questions, concerns, and suggestions to help us improve our service.

TWEET YOUR QUESTIONS @UNMPATS OR ENGAGE IN PERSON FOR A CHANCE TO WIN 1 WEEK OF FREE PARKING!

EVENT PRESENTED BY ASUNM, GPSA, AND UNM PATS
Appendix L:

Graduate Student Appreciation

Movie Tickets

Thursday April 6th
SUB Atrium
3:00 PM

Food
2016 – 2017 GPSA Executive Staff

Glenda Lewis – President

Mark Narvaez – Chief of Staff

Suresh Kumar Appana – Grants Chair

Sabina Rai – Office Manager