



## Fall 2016 GPSA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

*Date:* 2016 September 13

*Location:* UNM Student Union Building, Sandia Room

*Presiding Committee Member:* Isaac Olaoye

*Present Committee Members:* Isaac Olaoye, Travis Scholten, Joe Raborn, Brian Mackie-Mason, Hahn Nguyen

*Absent Committee Members:* Nina Cooper

Meeting called to Order at 1000

Agenda Approval: Rep. Mackie-Mason moves to approve agenda as-is, seconded by Rep. Scholten. Motion carries unanimously.

### 1 Preliminary Business

#### 1.1 Media and Gallery

No media and gallery.

#### 1.2 Consideration and Approval of Standing Rules

The committee considered amendments and modifications to the 2015-2016 Standing Rules. (NOTE: The line numbers referenced below are with respect to the 2015-2016 Standing Rules.)

Rep. Scholten moves to modify Section IV, changing the phrase “graduate of professional student” to “GPSA member” for consistency with the GPSA Bylaws. Seconded by Rep Raborn. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep. Mackie-Mason moves to add the line “Organizations are encouraged to request appropriations for the line items given below.” to just under Section V. This provides clarification regarding which line items organizations should be requesting money for. Rep. Scholten seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep. Mackie-Mason moves to reduce the maximum allocation for the “Advertising” line item to \$50. Rep Scholten seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Scholten moves to delete line item 6 (“Dues and Fees”), to create a new line with the text “The following line items shall not be funded:”, and to add a sub-line “Dues and Fees to External Organizations”. Rep Raborn seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to increase the funding limit for line item 7 (“Food/Refreshments”) to \$300. Discussion regarding utility of increasing the limit ensues. The Committee agrees that groups tend to make larger requests for this line item on average (approximately \$330, based on 2015-2016 appropriations data), and that events are important to maintain graduate student community and rapport. Rep Raborn seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Raborn moves to delete line item 10 (“Professional Services”), to raise the limit for line item 9 (“Honorarium”) to \$250, and to strike the restriction that an Honorarium may not cover professional services. Rep Mackie-Mason seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Hahn joined the meeting.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to raise line item 12d, (“Travel: Airfare”), to \$800. The Committee discusses whether raising the limit is appropriate. Rep Mackie-Mason points out that airfares have gone up in recent years. Rep Raborn seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Scholten moves to create a new line after the line items for “Travel”, to read “Any line item requested, but not listed above, shall be categorized as “Other”, and may be funded up to \$500.” Discussion ensues regarding the necessity of this category. Rep Scholten observes that, based on available data from last year, almost 40% of requests were categorized as “Other”. The Committee agrees this category receives a lot of funding, but not much scrutiny. Chair Olaoye reminds the committee that having some funding available for “Other” spending is important. Rep Raborn seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to create a new line, 13(g), with the text “The FC may recategorize and consolidate line items in an appropriations request at their discretion.”. Discussion ensues regarding the importance of enabling the FC to be able to better manage line items in requests, and to prevent groups from manipulating line item limits through clever recategorization. Rep Raborn seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Scholten moves to change 13(e) to .5%, in alignment with the actual surcharge levied by the UNM Foundation. Rep Mackie-Mason seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to add “Prizes” to the list of line items that shall not be funded. Rep Hanh seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

## 2 Business Items

At this meeting, the only business items are the consideration of appropriations requests, detailed below.

## **2.1 FA 2016-001 - Iranian Student Association**

When the group has events, they want to play music. (Like a party.) They are asking money for computer supplies to help purchase a speaker for the association. Requested amount based on pricing from Amazon/Costco.

Two events are planned, including a welcome back party with an estimated attendance of 50-60, for which pizza and drinks shall be provided, as well as a first day of winter party, where Persian foods will be purchased.

The group requests some money for bringing in a guest singer and their band from San Francisco. The group will be charging students a small ticket fee to attend, and GPSA's funding helps shore up the total cost.

Rep Scholten inquires about the group's self-generated funds. With only 130 students, the group does not receive much in the way of self-generated funds.

The Committee expresses concern here their speaker equipment be stored. The group agrees to inquire with the SAC about getting a locker somewhere in the SUB. They also agree that obtaining the locker is a pre-condition for receiving funding for the speaker.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to consolidate line items 1 and 2, and to fund them at \$150. Funding will be held in escrow until group is able to provide evidence they can store the speakers on campus.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to fund line item 3 as is, and to not fund line items 4 and 5.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to create a line item for honorarium, funded at \$250.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to approve the request as amended, for a total of \$600. Rep Scholten seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

## **2.2 FA 2016-002 - Women in Computing**

Two officers of the group are going to the Grace Hopper Women in Computing event. Part of the reason for their attendance is to listen to sessions about growing their group, as well as bring information back to the group.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to not fund line item 4, and to change line item 2 from \$525 to \$600. Rep Scholten seconds. Rep Hahn moves to change line 1 to \$461. Rep Raborn seconds. Rep Scholten moves to approve line 3 as requested. Rep Mackie-Mason seconds.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to approve request as amended, for a total of \$1461. Rep. Scholten seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

### **2.3 FA 2016-003 - Society of Women Engineers**

Two officers of the group are attending the national meeting of the Society of Women Engineers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The SWE meeting will enable them to come back and provide more information regarding women in engineering, as well as help the officers grow the graduate population of the group. (Currently, the group has only 4 graduate student members.)

Rep Scholten moves to approve line item 1 as requested. Rep Scholten moves to reduce line item 2 to \$546 Rep Raborn moves to not fund line item 3 and to create a new line item “Per Diem”, at \$300.

Rep Scholten moves to approve request as amended, for a total of \$1026. Rep Mackie-Mason seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

### **2.4 FA 2016-004 - Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association**

The Panda GSA membership is scattered across different parts of campus. As such, the group is looking to provide a place where they can all come together. Usually, the Panda GSA holds two events each semester, which are usually well-attended, and thinks a mid-semester event would be useful in further promoting graduate student community within the Physics Department. The group expects 60 students would be in attendance.

The Committee expresses some concern regarding the line item for “Advertising”. The GSA will be trying Facebook ads as a way to reach other graduate students who, for one reason or another, are not “hooked in” the GSA. This is different than just posting an announcement on the GSA’s Facebook page - it will be able to reach more students.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to fund line item 1 as requested. Rep Scholten moves to recategorize line item 3, “Other”, as “Food and Refreshment”, to join it to line item 1, and fund it at \$300. Rep Mackie-Mason seconds. Rep Mackie-Mason moves to fund line item 2 at \$50. Rep Hahn seconds.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to approve the request as amended, for a total of \$350. Rep Raborn seconds. Motion approves unanimously.

### **2.5 FA 2016-005 - Student Veterans of UNM**

The Student Veterans group is about 1500 students on campus. This group hasn’t come for funding from GPSA in the past, and is looking to change that. The group has been somewhat inactive, and revitalization efforts, in the form of social events, would be useful. One such event being the “Veterans’ Sound-Off”.

The Committee has questions regarding computers and supplies. The groups’ current computing equipment is broken, and supply levels are low. Hence the need for computers and

computer supplies. Educational supplies are for some books for student veterans. The group does have an office on campus, next to the GPSA office.

The Committee expresses concern about the Challenge Coins, and how they benefit the group and students. The idea is to make them and then re-sell them for the group's fundraising efforts. Some of the coins will be given out to the student veterans as gifts, and some would be sold to the community at large. The Committee informs the group that, per the standing rules, gifts to students may not be funded. Further, the Committee agrees that financing the purchase of Challenge Coins for resale puts the GPSA in the position of helping fund fundraising efforts, something the Committee feels is beyond the purview of the Committee in particular, and the GPSA in general.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to approve line item 1 at \$500, line item 2 at \$150, line item 3 at \$350, and line item 4 at \$600. Rep Mackie-Mason moves to deny funding for line item 5.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to approve the request as amended, for a total of \$1600. Rep Scholten seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

## **2.6 FA 2016-006 - Student Association of Geography and Environmental Studies**

The student association is chartering as both grads and undergrads, partly in an attempt to re-boot the group. A meeting held last week drew 20 graduate students. The group is requesting money to help them purchase outdoor equipment to help build a common area for students. Currently, most of the department's space for graduate students is student offices, so there's not much common area for the students.

In speaking with PPD last week, they agreed to provide refurbishments in the area as well, provided that the group gets some money. (This will make the area more presentable/beautiful.) Some historical aspects of the building will need to be preserved, however. In speaking with PPD about the cost, the estimates range from \$7000 (equipment completely inside an outdoor covered area) to \$9000 (having to move the equipment outside, and plus put an umbrella on it).

This space could also be used by the organization to hold meetings and other activities

The Committee expresses concern that this particular project is a large-scale "capital improvement" project, which the Committee feels is not necessarily a good use of appropriations funds. In particular, the size of the project would put a strain on the Committee's ability to fund other requests throughout the rest of the year. The Committee commends the group for making efforts to work with PPD. The Committee suggests the group follow up with GPSA President or Council Chair to see if they know of some people who could help finance this project.

Rep Mackie-Mason moves to deny funding for the request. Rep Scholten seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

### **3 Closing**

The next meeting shall take place on October 11, at 1000.

Meeting adjourned at 1209.

### **4 Appropriations Summary**

At this meeting, a total of \$16294 dollars was requested, and spending in the amount of \$5062 was recommended by the Finance Committee. From correspondance with SGAO, the most recent estimate of the General Fund's balance through 2017/06/30 is \$71,942.24. This estimate was computed as of 2016/07/26.