



GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA Council Meeting Agenda

Saturday 26th of March, 9:00am
Student Union Building, Ballroom A

I. Roll Call

Call to Order by Hilary Wainwright, GPSA Council Chair 9:10am

Make sure you have credential forms turned in by the end of the week!

a. Via Sign In Sheet

II. Opening Business:

a. Approval of the Agenda

Approved as is

b. Approval of the Minute

Approved as is

c. Media & Gallery

No comments

III. Introduction of Candidates and Presidential Debate – Please reference bios/platforms included in supporting documents

a. GPSA Council Chair

- Zoila Alvarez

See her statement in supporting documents.

- Reminds us that there is a write in option for the elections and would like to try engage as many people as possible in the GPSA. Thank you!

b. GPSA President

- Sally Barker

See her statement in supporting documents.

- These are unsettled times and it is important to have a strong voice for GPSA.
- She has 10 years of experience in higher education and experience managing a budget.
- She has 5 goals to accomplish and a plan to accomplish them.

- Create a communication pipeline between leadership and students – more transparency. You should be reaching out to your constituents.
- Increase the feeling of community among grad students.
- Social and academic programs encouraging students to have their voices heard – she will reach out to every student in the room.
- Administer surveys to see how GPSA is doing.
- Make sure constituency is informed – improve the website.
- Work to develop a one stop shop for website – stop inboxes from being clogged.
- Work with shared services to make sure one weekly synopsis email is sent out instead of many.
- Work to improve voter turnout.

- Glenda Lewis

See her statement in supporting documents.

- She came to UNM in 1985 from Clovis and attended for 5 years.
- She has worked in various industries and leadership roles. While working in industry she also learned budgeting and other important life skills.
- Involved in COE leadership last year and served as council rep last year.
- This year as advocacy chair she has worked with students to help resolve challenges.
- Member of finance committee – worked to allocate resources in a fiscally responsible manner.
- She represents ALL graduate and professional students.

- Kelly Johnson

See his statement in supporting documents.

- Would like to thank council and commend current president, chair and chief of staff.
- Committee and service experience has prepared him to become the next council president.
- He understands what is like to face a budget crisis and has 4 goals as President:
- Bring media attention to opportunities on campus.
- Break down silos.
- Provide assistance for students.
- Drive student voice on campus
- Would like to commend Glenda for the professional development and conference initiative. It is a step in the right direction.
- The university offers relevant programs in teaching and research that have the possibility to impact global populations.
- He will direct collective strengths – work with HSC, north campus and make sure everyone's voice is heard.
- He will create an ad hoc law school committee because they are a large underutilized asset. He would work to increase funding for students and support online initiative because it would create financial stability.

- Use ad hoc and standing committees to make sure communication is more streamlined.
- It is important to have staff on campus, listen to their voices and support their needs.
- Where there are challenges there are also opportunities if we work together as one!

Questions for the candidates – for the purpose of identification candidates initials were used to identify their responses: Kelly Johnson (KJ), Sally Barker (SB) and Glenda Lewis (GL).

Question: How long have you been involved in GPSA and what has your involvement been?

Answers:

KJ – Since last year, with one year experience in GPSA and council. He has served on other university committees.

SB – Involved with GPSA since January after starting her program last fall. She has experience with outside organizations.

GL – Last year with COE as a full voting member. Member of the finance committee and black graduate students' professional organization.

Question: Over communication via email, how do you balance information while streamlining?

Answers:

GL- Have the media and outreach person be responsible for streamlining efforts while working closely with the GRC and OGS to help minimize overlap.

SB – Start with OGS and reduce emails to one per day. May not be able to get rid of all of them, but encourage departments to plan in advance, reducing last minute announcements.

KJ – Streamline. We could lessen over communication and instead use student leaders to get information out to where it needs to go. If we are getting a lot of emails chances are we will not read them all anyway.

Question: Many facilities projects are underway, how can you help GPSA interface with relevant people.

Answers:

SB- There needs to be a back and forth conversation. Have a person at each of the meetings to represent the GPSA. The interested people should have an opportunity to have their input heard and then they can bring information back to council. Encourage more participation.

KJ- Form an advisory committee for Johnson center. UNM loses a lot of student athletes because of the facilities. He is in full support of physics and astronomy building and other buildings funded with bonds and students fees. Improvements have the ability to attract new faculty and big grants. He would continue to work with the current administration to make sure communication is streamlined and that students have a voice.

GL - The communication should be streamlined. Students interested in the areas will be encouraged to take ownership to bring information back to council. We need to keep up infrastructure in order to be attractive to students and faculty.

Question: How can we change culture on campus to relieve pressure on students and address mental health of graduate students?

Answers:

GL - Student mental health is important. There are resources at SHAC, but in some departments we need to look at how they are putting pressure on us (graduate students_ without support, food, exercise, etc. The departments are under a lot of stress because they are trying to figure out how to compete with other markets and the administration is scrambling trying to keep the numbers up amidst low enrollment, salary caps, etc....We need sustainable measures in place and see that department heads sitting down thinking about work load. They want us to work 20 hours by contract and we are working closer to 40. It is important to come to some resolution.

SB – Graduate school should be challenging, but that doesn’t mean students shouldn’t be supported. Begin by publicizing resources available already. Students should feel comfortable coming to student support and advocacy or the ombudsman.

KJ – Create stress management workshops and use SHAC as a springboard to promote workshops. Work with other groups on campus using the resources we have. He is in full support of improving student mental health. Identify how to reach out to different resource centers to make sure needs are supported.

Question: How do you see yourself reaching out to the health sciences students?

Answers:

SB - Have more events over at the health science becoming a larger presence on north campus. Engage this population with that population especially as we move towards more dual degree programs for graduate students.

KJ- A great divide should not exist work with HSSC. We need to collaborate on more projects – reaching out to the law students and seeing if we can create ad hoc committees, using their expertise to help bridge the gap between main and north campus. There are fundraisers on the north campus that main knows nothing about. See what kind of ideas HSSC has to bridge the gap.

GL - Promotion of solidarity that has been sparked by Texanna. It seems there more of a sense of community in the 80s – as the next president I would remind people we are here to work together - E Pluribus Lobo!

Moses: If there are more questions for the candidates there will be 2 public forums in the atrium of the SUB:

Monday from 12-1

Tues from 3-4

IV. Action Items:

a. Finance Committee

- March Appropriations – Hahn

See supporting documents for appropriation request details.

1. Many items did not fall within what GPSA allowed
2. The request came in, but was dismissed due to other available funding
3. Karate club – was funded for the amount requested

4. Appropriated requested funds. The group said they still had to raise funds outside of UNM
5. Did not come for presentation- deferred to next month
6. GPSA – conference request- bring women to campus to see leadership in action – outreach event – appropriated as requested
7. Grants committee software development – one time item, all or nothing – if council decides not to fund it, it will not happen.
8. Funded within the bounds of standing rules

Discussion:

Question: The executive branch decided to fund the women’s conference?

Question: Item 5 Did sociology GSA indicate if they were going to encourage students to apply for GPSA grants?

Answer: Yes

Question: Item 6 Where does president funds come from?

Answer: Use Texanna’s money that she doesn’t use for this group to lessen general fund burden.

Question: Item 8 The per diem idea? What is it going to be used for?

Answer: Understand that it to be used for food. They will also raise funds from other sources

Hilary: Per diem can only be used for food and hotel

This group works very hard to find additional funding.

Question: Is their funding retro or proactive?

Answer: They are looking for funds through multiple places.

Question: Item 10 Food and refreshments are capped at \$200 and copying capped at \$100? Did finance commit lift standing rules to approve it?

Question: Was the amount requested sufficient for hiring a GAship for the grants project?

Question: Clarify the line item for grants – tuition, hourly wages, ect...

Answer: It is for one person, they get 6 credit hours for this month – graduate studies has offered to help out with a small amount. The GAship sent over from the provost office

Question: Are there rules against giving money for prizes?

Answer: Yes.

Question: About grants – what is the commitment expressed by the computer engineering program and are there any quality assurances? Is there a contract in place for them?

Answer: The goal is to get it online and secure or we will have to go back to paper grants applications after this semester. A person working on the software already. The next GPSA president will have to oversee the process.

Hahn: This needs to be developed on campus and cannot leave campus. The software will not go anywhere, if it is funded it will be proprietary and the property of GPSA. There is potential that his software could be transferred to other colleges who want to distribute grants.

Question: Could this become a revenue channel for the GPSA?

Answer: Yes

Question: Do we have any motions?

Motion to block

Motion Seconded

Question: How much will be left in the fund?

Answer: \$9545 would be left and there is only one more appropriations meeting left to the semester.

Question: Can we discuss the IT appropriation more? Can we unblock that from the rest?

Vote: Motion to block appropriations approved.

Comment: We need to lift the standing rules to vote on the issue the finance committee needed to lift their rules for. The requires approval by a 2/3 majority.
29 voters

Vote: 18 in favor of lifting the standing rules. Since this is not a 2/3 majority, lifting the standing rules for the GPSA request was not approved.

Motion to vote on appropriations item by item

Motion Seconded

Vote: Motion to vote on appropriations item by item approved.

SP-005

Motion to approve as requested

Motion Seconded

Vote: Approved as requested

SP-007

Motion to approve as requested

Motion Seconded

Vote: Approved as requested

SP-008

Motion to approve as requested

Motion Seconded

Vote: Approved as requested

SP-010

Required GPSA to lift standing rules to appropriate more than allowed for a conference.

This is a GPSA sponsored event for graduate students and helps provide food to attendees.

Tis UNM event will also be a recruiting event and is the result of a brainstorm from GPSA.

They will be working with the women's resource center highlighting exceptional New Mexico women in leadership. Chaired by Victoria.

Question: Who are the stakeholders? What other resources have been brought in?

Comment: Since we did not vote to lift standing rules, we cannot fund the requested amount.

Question: Not to man swing it, but what other resources have the stakeholders brought in?

Answer: They are waiting for budgets to be evaluated. So far, satellite will help out, frontier, ect...this will just be for lunch for at least 100 grad students and some undergrads. We need this funding commitment in order to go forward.

Question: What is the amount within the standing rules for this?

Answer: \$350 can be approved without lifting standing rules.

Motion to approve amount within the standing rules

Motion Seconded

Question: Why do we need to lift GPSA standing rules for this?

Answer: Because we need to adhere to finance commit standing rules. We would not be following our own bylaws if we did not lift our rules as well.

Clarification: \$300 it total allowed appropriation not \$350.

Question: All in favor of reducing the appropriation to \$300?

Vote: Appropriation approved at \$300.

SP-011

Motion to approve as requested

Motion Seconded

Question: Why is this appropriation not considered an operational expense?

Answer: There was discussion about that at the last council meeting.

Vote: Approved as requested.

SP-012

Motion to approve as requested

Motion Seconded

Vote: Approved as requested

Recess: 10:20am

Call to order 10:39am

- Annual Budget

See summary in supporting documents.

Action: Isaac will send out his spreadsheet with the additional details.

Discussion:

Question: Stipends? Isn't it required that we pay our justices?

Answer: Funding was reduced from \$400 to \$200 per semester. The bylaws only state they have to get a stipend, it does not specify an amount.

Question: Can we go back to the spreadsheet? Balances are zeroed out for grants which is against our constitution? How does that work?

Answer: We needed to find a way to fund grants GAship.

Question: What about the zeros for grants?

Answer: They are statutory and accounted for elsewhere in the budget.

Question: The grants chair is a GAship, correct?

Answer: We lifted the bylaws to allow the grants chair to be a GAship this year, but did not make it a continuing GAship and include it in the updated bylaws. It is not a requirement.

Comment: This is an issue that will be discussed in constitution meeting today. The GAship was supported legislatively, but GPSA may not be able to realistically allot that amount of money for it. The stipend before it was changed to an assistantship was \$1200, which was higher than all the other stipends. It has been cut but is still more than it was

Question: What about the stipend for the readers?

Answer: The amount asked for was more than necessary. We gave numbers used in the past and forecasted expectation, in the past we had taken the highest need semester instead of looking at it on a semester basis.

Comment: Readers lead to better grant writers.

Comment: The Elections committee stipend was reduced.

Question: Are there professional services related to web elections? Do we pay IT to run the elections? Will they do it if we don't pay them?

Answer: They have not charged us so far. The department might charge in the future but not now.

Question: What about *Food for Thought*? How much money is made each money from that?

Answer: \$30-\$60 per event

Question: How much money does GPSA bring in when we hold that event?

Answer: \$30-\$60 per event. There is a time cost but not a monetary cost to hold the event.

Question: Aren't there chair stipends for all committees?

Answer: Fall and spring will be allocated half of what they were getting – but allocations across semesters for chairs are not consistent.

Question: Why are some \$250 and some \$450?

Answer: The request was presented at an amount that needed to be reduced.

Question: What is the reason why GPSA executive branch is such a large portion of the budget?

Answer: Because of the assistantship – only a couple of years ago chief of staff became a GAship.

GPSA has grown to have more GAships with fixed costs in the budget instead of utilizing hourly student employment. Last year they slashed assistantships that were not mandated in the constitution and bylaws.

Question: What is the FTE for the assistantships?

Answer: 0.5

Question: Do the line items account for a .5 for each one?

Answer: No, there are 4 .25 assistantships.

Question: Where would the money come from?

Answer: The 5% that we set aside from the appropriation funds.

The amount set aside will be determined by enrollment

We are allotted 300k in the budget based on a headcount number. Each GPSA member pays \$25. If enrollment goes up there could be a windfall of money, but we don't budget to that.

Question: how much are we taking out in total vs. the 5% we set aside? What is the scope?
How much do we take out vs what we set aside 1:1?

Answer: The amount of unspent money this past year was 47K but we don't know what it will be next year.

Question: By not funding the government how does business get conducted in the summer and fall?

Question: If we don't fund the government we can't provide services?

Question: What amount is the minimum for functionality so we can balance the budget and keep working

Answer: This is a functional amount so we can continue to function into the next year. The executive office will not grind to halt if we approve the budget as recommended. This is the same predicament as last year and we did not stop. When reversions happen there is the avenue to ask for money in the fall.

Question: Maybe look at increasing the \$25 fee because it may not be enough to continue to fund GPSA?

Comment: This is discussed in the constitution and bylaws meeting – the amount of tuition credit is too much - 12 credits – but because it is currently mandated then that amount needs to be allocated for.

Comment: Bring issues back to the constituency because the things need to be voted on in the general election and we continue to be restricted by the mandates.

Comment: Back to the Big Number – take out grants position –

Comment: There is \$100 allocated for new associations and \$200 for returning associations. We can use balance from the reduction to fund the grants GAship.

See supporting documents for more details of the breakdown and the complete budget.

Question: How hard would it be to fund the grants GAship at a more reasonable level for the fall semester?

Answer: It is up to council what the final outcome of the meeting is.

Question: How many non-GPSA entities are on the spreadsheet?

Question: Where is the money we approved earlier in the meeting?

Answer: It is part of this year's budget. If next month's appropriation is small then next year's budget would be bigger.

Comment: If we increase the GAship by \$3000 and divided the remainder between organizations they would get \$100 more per organization.

Comment: If there is already \$1200 for grants and we gave them 3000 – then it would still be bigger than a 400 stipend.

Question: I would to call attention to certain associations being disproportionately affected by the equal distribution. How can we distribute funds so the levels are constituent with previous funding levels?

Question: If every organization declared the number of students in them maybe allocate more money per this number?

Question: It may be a mistake to say per capita is the most equitable way? Groups that had more funding with less people will be disproportionately affected by the reductions. The work that the social justice initiative does may cost more than other groups.

Comment: If the balance can go to the GAship why do we have the balance form appropriations?

Comment: I am advocating redistribution to reflect proportionality of the current funding level

Response: The current funding may not fall in line with standing rules. If you look at the line by line requests some organizations ask for amounts that are way above what we allow.

Question: What is the difference between a new and old org?

Answer: They are considered old after one year.

Question: I have a concern that cuts may be disproportional – any metrics to evaluate organization performances?

Question: GPSA is also going to come forward for appropriations and could request a lion's share. Maybe it would be better to constrain ourselves now and give the organizations that money now so the GPSA does not have to compete with them.

Comment: If we are going to be short staffed already then it would be difficult to facilitate a mini budget talk at the beginning of the fall semester.

Comment: What are the next steps?

Move to approve the budget as is? Move to dole out the amount in a specific way or just have it go to the general fund

Question: Can we look at the line item budget for the Indian students association? How do we justify the request?

Question: Shouldn't there be a consequence for a frivolous budget. They are requesting 10k for what?

Comment: No requests are laughable. One of the Indian students association is a film festival and having that be a revenue generating event. They presented the budget request and finance takes all factors into consideration.

Motion to break

Motion Seconded

Recess 11:41am

Call to order 11:50am

Motion to fund grants committee chair with \$3000.

Motion Seconded

Question: What is specified for them now?

Answer: We could advise that the funding goes into the line item budget under grants and then it could be used at the discretion of the executive. The language is important here.

Question: So we do nothing or put money aside now?

Answer: We can settle this now or later.

Comment: There is \$3000 going into the line item budget.

Vote: Approved. \$3000 will go into the executive branch budget under the line items for grants.

Question: What would the effect be of the money in the general fund if you increase fees by \$1 per semester?

Answer: It is difficult to do because it needs to be approved by the regents, but the current enrollment is around 5100, so it would be 5000k more? What would change? Percentages of that \$1 would go to different areas and at that level it would have to go out for a vote in front of regents. This is not a motion, the intent was just to put the idea on the table.

Motion to distribute remaining balance on a per student basis to every GPSA organization that has requested a budget.

Motion seconded.

Discussion

Comment: Because it is being done on a per student basis it seems like we are giving them back part of their fee.

Response: It would not go back to the students, but the organizations that serve the students – could risk the double counting of individuals if they are in multiple groups.

Question: What is the ratio math to accomplish this motion?

Answer: Take the total number students and \$3900 dollars left over. Divide by that number of students in the organizations and allocate the funding to the organizations.

Vote: Approved. Dole out the remaining \$3900 per the calculation suggested

Motion to pass the budget excluding the \$6900 that was just dealt with.

Motion Seconded

Vote: Budget approved.

b. Legislation

- Vote on Constitutional Changes from SPR_2016-002

See supporting documents for details of changes.

Removal of text, language and redundancies with some items move to the bylaws.

Motion to pass constitutional changes.

Motion Seconded

Vote: Constitutional changes Approved.

Please Vote!

Please fill in evaluation document for Texanna Martin. You have until 04/29 to fill it out and return it.

V. Officer Reports

a. President's Report – Texanna Martin

Handouts distributed that included a statement following the budget summit, talking points about what each standing committee is doing and tuition increase details.

Action: Send out PowerPoint

- Discussion of tuition and fees increase.
- A lot of decisions were made based on undergraduate documents – see slides for breakdown.
- Tuition and fees have 2 separate numbers. One of the goals was to make sure the fees were not inflated to an exorbitant amount. The 10.5% increase in fees will be the projects that are already up and moving. The total fee increase is 3.96% which equals \$148.32 increase for 12 hours or more.
- We do not have a universal plan for all campuses. A subcommittee was put together to make sure it was a universal increase.
- FSRB was approved as presented. See slide for breakdown.
- The flat tuition rate increase is for 12 credit hours, even though graduate students are full time at 9 credit hours. Dissertation hours were not discussed. This is all in the document that was supplied by the budget planning office.

Action: Texanna will send out electronic copies!

- The things that did not happen included the online redistribution motion being tabled. The regents have requested more research and planning into it.
- There was a compromise that stated since 67% of students are using online services, this did not need to be a fee. The constituents made it clear to Texanna that they did not want this and that was one of the reasons it was tabled
- Clarify – everything was a discussion item prior to the vote. They sent out a note to say there is a possibility between a 3% and 9% tuition increase. Ideally they wanted 9%. We told them we were only ok with 3%.
- Looking at the documents, historically when there has been a 0% increase, the increase the following year was double.
- It has been a tedious process and sometimes in the meetings there is no agreement. I was told if you go for a 0% increase they would cut the soft money, including funding for GAships.
- It is cheaper for the department to support a staff member than it is to support GAships and as it is, there are 100 positions that are already being taken out of staff.
- The regents approved 2.5%.

Question: The online fee – has there been a clear answer on how it will affect the law school?

Answer: Their constituents were the loudest. 323 law school students said they didn't want the online fee. This is one of the reasons why it was tabled. There is no clear answer as to how it will be handled there.

- HSC board of regents had 2 positions removed without much advance notice which came out in the minutes on Friday.

- If a petition is going to be signed objecting an action it needs to be sent to GPSA president so they are aware of the issue and can advocate for it.
- The restructuring was meant to make it similar to other committees.
- See the website for breakdown!
- The HSC board has been consistently changing. It did not impact hospital structure
- Please see the minutes for more details or ask Texanna.

Question: Does this allow the regents to fund items on north campus?

- I met with HSSC board and college of pharmacy. Their main concern was 200 million dollars being held in reserve. They didn't want it to be touched.
- When tuition dollars come into main campus it is then transferred to HSC
- They are going to look into TUITION SHARING PLAN, which means your department gets all of your tuition dollars for your operations. This is the type of structure they are working on and is how it has *been working with the medical school*.
- Investigating how this would help increase enrollment numbers.

Question: How will they account for tuition dollars?

There is not a clear plan yet, but it may be decided by the end of the semester.

b. Council Chair's Report – Hilary Wainwright

- Vote! Vote! Go hear the presidential forums!
- Service awards ceremony on 04/08
- Last month we discussed extra money in the budget. There are options open to us.
- At this point before the constitution is changed, we are mandated to have a meeting in May, even though we have a meeting on April 30.
- Propose an off campus meeting or would it be more beneficial to hold the money for next year?
- Would people be interested in having a lunch meeting on May 7th instead of coming to the SUB?

Action: Send out an email with options asking for opinions.

- LSC did meet and a decision was made to bring the whole of the bylaws changes to council next month instead of piecemeal – wrapping up today at the afternoon meeting.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

None

VII. Discussion Items

None

VIII. Council Comments

- The week of 04/11 - Shared knowledge conference. They may need volunteer judges and chairs!

- 04/07 - Computer science is having their 12th annual conference in lobo A. It is open to the university, there will be speakers, etc...An email can be sent out with more information.
- 04/16 Conference in collaboration with nanoscience/bio engineering. Offering a \$1000 prize for poster in the SUB. There will be a showcase of student research, national labs and people with entrepreneurial research.

IX. Upcoming Meetings
April 30th, Lobo A&B

X. **Adjourn 12:38pm**

Attendees

Abhinav Aggarwal
Alaa Elmaoued
Anthony McLean
Cameron Goble
Firas Ayoub
Isaac Olaoye
Johnny Kenton
Kymbra Williams
Rose Davenport
Sara Bredin
Tessa Cappelle
Yasir Hussain

Abigail Robertson
Amber Dukes
Azul Cortes
Daniel Oluferri
Glenda Lewis
Jamie Stephens
Jonathan Dorsey
Liliana Benitez de Luna
Sam Escoto
Sofia Locklear
Timothy Becker
Yenthusun Chen

Adam Meyers y Gutierrez
Anny Chung
Brian Mackie-Mason
Eric Karikari
Hahn Nguyen
Jeremy Benson
Kaitlin Kharat
Moses Allen
Samantha Goggin
Taylor Diaz
Travis Scholten