



GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA Council Meeting Agenda

Saturday 12th of December 2015, 9:00am

Student Union Building, Ballroom A

I. Roll Call

- a. Via sign in sheet – Attendance list following the meeting minutes

Call to Order by Hilary Wainwright, GPSA Council Chair 9:13am

II. Opening Business:

- a. Approval of the Agenda
Approved as Amended

- b. Approval of the Minutes
Approved as is

- c. Media & Gallery
No Comments

III. Guest Speaker:

- a. Ryan Berryman- Student Regent
2 main items being worked on:
Online fees - Vote postponed until January
Johnson Center – More information to come
Contact Ryan for more information on either issue or for general information

IV. Action Items:

- a. Appointment to Finance Committee
Motion to appoint Moses Allen
Motion Seconded

VOTE: Moses Allen approved as finance committee member

- b. Appointment to Legislative Steering Committee
Motion to appoint Travis Scholten

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Travis Scholten approved as legislative steering committee member

c. Finance Committee Appropriations

- Emergency Appropriation Request from SHSGSA
SHSGSA submitted a request for PB funds after the deadline. The request was denied to prevent setting new protocol for requests made after the deadline.

Motion to add a line item for food and refreshments in the amount of \$200.

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Motion carried. Line item for food and refreshments in the amount of \$200 to be added to the request approved.

Additional Discussion:

- Consider a spring audit
- Clarification - What is the difference between requesting funding specifically for food and refreshments and PB funds which are unrestricted? The food and beverage appropriation must be spent on food and refreshments.
- What is the intention of the money – what are they spending it on?
- Jesse could not speak on it much further – the money was to be designated for town hall discussion and telling the dept about GPSA and what they do
- Important to note: Texanna called all departments to let them know if their PB funding forms had not been turned in.

d. Legislative Action

Changes to the bylaws and constitution – see documents previously sent out for review for further details.

1. FA_2015-001

Section 4 changes.

Motion to approve removal of section 4a line 2.

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Motion carried. Changes approved - remove section 4a line 2

2. FA_2015-002

Section 4d – Executive committee chair stipend – change language from stipend to compensation

Motion to approve

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Motion carried. Change to language approved

3. FA_2015-003

Change to constitution – Legislative Branch, Section b line 1.

- Add the sentence – at the discretion of the council chair with the approval of council. This is being proposed because currently meetings during finals week

in December and May are required. With this amendment, if there was no business to conduct, the council could vote not to meet.

Question: Why is this in the constitution?

Motion to move this vote to Constitutional Bylaws Committee for future review

Motion seconded

Discussion: Does this vote need to be moved?

VOTE: Motion carried. Move FA_2015-003 to constitutional bylaws committee for further review.

4. FA_2016-004

- Language in finance code bylaws need grammatical changes. There is confusion in Section 4 line c. When do the PB funds revert? The suggestion is to remove “PB not requested in the semester” so say something like “if not, then” or some verbiage along those lines.
- Suggestions for rewording:
 - i. PB funds not so requested are automatically reverted
 - ii. Move to remove “in the semester”. All that really needs to be changed is “if not”.
 - iii. “If not, PB funds shall automatically revert to the GPSA general fund
 - iv. Add “if not, they are”.

Question: Is section 4c used to push funds back to the general fund after the semester or is there a separate section of code that handles that?

Answer: This section is separate for the other section. That reversion takes place at the end of the fiscal year. This section addresses PB funds that do not get requested.

Discussion:

The language change request is so the money doesn't have to stay waiting until requested and can go to the general fund before the end of the year to be used, by council and students.

Motion to change the language to “PB funds shall automatically revert to the GPSA general fund”.

Motion Seconded

Discussion: Language, subject/object distinction

VOTE: Motion carried. Bill language to change to “PB funds shall automatically revert to the GPSA general fund”.

Amended bill approved. The language now states that ““PB funds shall automatically revert to the GPSA general fund”.

Discussion: None

Motion to approve Bill 4

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Motion carried. Bill 4 approved as amended.

5. FA_2015-005

There have been hefty changes to the elections code bylaws. This bill is to accept all changes except change from candidate to candidates. *The document was pulled up for review.*

- Everything in red was being added. These changes were designed to make the election process smoother and clarify language about write-in candidates.
- Previously there was no language about write-ins and withdrawals – options for advertising was not uniform. The proposed language changes allow for alternative advertising methods.
- Leave language as the candidate because it refers only to “the candidate” not candidates.
- Lines 32-38 are about write-ins, but define a candidate as a person who submits paperwork and then does not choose to have their name on the ballot.

Comments: Last year there was no language for write-ins. These clarifications provide definition, describe how to submit proper paperwork, detail how write-ins can use resources, etc...advertising must be 50 feet from the office, clarifies language around what they can use for advertising and how they can spend election funds.

- The changes are an attempt to include last minute candidates in the election process, but if they miss the deadline for the forms they will still need to submit them eventually and be held to the rules for campaigning.

Question: This change refers to write-in candidates that want to run, not the ones that get written in. Do we need clarification to distinguish the two?

- Last year there was confusion about how to campaign as a write in. This new language is needed to clarify that process.

Question: Is a write in an actual write in? Do we need to prevent people from putting other people names on the ballot during the election?

Answer: There must be a write in option – per the constitution – the ability to nominate others is important.

Question: Does this piece need to go back to the LSC? Timeline is important. This needs to be submitted for changes before the elections begin. Will these changes affect timeline? Is there danger in the language?

- There is confusion about what a write-in candidate is. Should it be labeled more like an alternative candidate?
- Without the language, there is still an option for a write-in. They need to be approved, submit forms, etc....if someone is unaware that they are being written in then it is a different issue.
- The current bill proposes language that attempts to address covert candidates from running without meeting the paperwork deadline.

Question: What if we just remove the write in part?

Answer: Because, this is what happens after the deadline closes.

- If a person didn't run and gets written in, there is no way for them to follow all the rules.
- This amendment provides rules around what if they are running after the deadline.

Discussion

Motion to approve the bill as is.

Motion Seconded

VOTE: Motion carried. Bill approved as is.

Motion to recess

Motion Seconded

RECESS: 10:15am

CALL TO ORDER: 10:28

V. Officer Reports

a. President's Report – Texanna Martin

Congratulations!

ACTION: Texanna to send out the board of regents talking points.

Highlight from the past month: Grants

- Many students have been coming into office upset about not being awarded grants. There was even a hacker that got into the grants system software.
- Please go to your departments and remind students to be respectful!
- If the staff feels threatened they have a panic button in the office and have been instructed to use it.
- Please look at the UNM code of conduct. Unprofessional behavior can and will be reported

Question: Not to justify the behavior, but what motivated someone so strongly to behave like that?

Answer: Tough financial times, people have been accosted, under a lot of pressure – they don't understand why they haven't gotten the grant, and they think it's the GPSA's fault.

- People don't recognize the applications a competitive growth process. The GPSA ended up with 406 applicants. The process is attempting to mirror a national grant level application process.
- Are there any support workshops? Shac offers anger management
- Are there grants writing workshops, events? Yes, see the GPSA website.
- Looking at better software options that are more difficult to hack.
- Grant readers not always in the area of the applicant's specialty. This is the same for national programs.
- Writing for readers outside of your field is a good skill to have and may help people learn how to handle criticism.
- There will be an online training program for grant writing net semester. It might be good to add a disclaimer stating that we don't have someone from your specific department reading the grant...peers do not always read your material.

- The philosophy behind the online training program to develop universal grant writing skills
 - Graduate day is February 9. The council will be sending out a flyer.
 - 3 minute presentation to regents coming up. Consider speaking during the graduate update.
 - Please contact Texanna if you have any questions about the upcoming topics, including the online fees.
 - School of engineering differential proposal
- Happy holidays!

b. Council Chair's Report – Hilary Wainwright

Thank you for being awesome this semester!

- The participation, the legislative action, updating the bylaws and constitution a little bit each month, it is worth the effort.
- Feedback...is there anything that could make the meetings better in the spring?
- Email Hilary with ideas and suggestions – maybe about Roberts rules, do we need an overview?

c. Legislative Steering Chair Report –Cindy Nava

- Present voting for spring
- Proposals from the ad-hoc committees have been emailed to everyone. The items to be removed are crossed out and the items to be added are underlined.
- The committee is trying to remove repetition in bylaws and constitution.
- 13 sections are being amended. Please look over tem for next meeting – article changes, grammatical changes, numerical changes and a few things were added that weren't there. The majority of the changes are deletions.
- Please have questions or comments for the ad hoc committee at the next council meeting.

Comment: One should not attempt to legislate through the constitution, it is very specific now. Attempting to streamline the constitution, offloads the nitty gritty into the bylaws which allows easier regulatory changes in the future.

Question: During the committee meeting everything was reviewed, it is important to make sure what is removed from the constitution is in the bylaws and not removed completely.

- LSC Bill to be voted on in January

1. FA_2015-006

VI. Executive Committee Reports

a. Grants Chair- Matt Barstow

- Boot camp in Marine Corps easier than GPSA grants!

- Important point: The last day to appeal to the MRG is Sunday. The graduate scholarship fund will be done next week. They are waiting on the university. It will most likely be pushed out. FAFSA scores still need to be input.
- A training section has been added and will include anger management forms in the January training sessions
- Any department can request Matt to come in and provide training.
- It is possible the cycle could be pushed out a week in January to address software issues.
- The fall cycle was pushed back by a week because the budget for readers was \$3000 short of what it needed to be in order to handle the volume of applications that were received.
- After 2 weeks of training, there were still no fine arts readers.
- Tot applications received: 406
- 329 applications were processed after the initial disqualification round.
- Please contact Matt for more detailed statistical and scoring information.
- GPSA has received over 20 appeals so far. The next step is for applicants to appeal to the reps. He will be tough, applicants are used to getting the trophy and the readers do not have time to reread and nitpick.
- The legitimate appeals will be reviewed.

Question: What makes an appeal legit?

Answer: Maybe the readers missed something, saying an applicant didn't have a budget and they did, they could have been assigned the same number twice, etc...

Question: Will there be more money requested for administrative overhead?
Should pool of money be expanded to award grants?

Answer: Maybe it would decrease competitiveness if we expand the pool – 11 candidates were excluded but were very strong applications.

Matt is available in the office on tues/thurs and by email. Contact him if you have questions!

VII. Discussion Items

a. PB Funds

- SGAO will come back in January with a more comprehensive presentation with a discussion of the dollar request and money spent in the fall. Please have questions for them.
- The spreadsheet that SGAO provided compared fall 2014 and fall 2015 requests. This spreadsheet was meant to start discussion about changes or clarification needed in the process. It is not meant to be specific to groups.
- In the constitution at the end of the fiscal year all PB funds go back to the general fund. Need to wait until the next term to get funds again
- Two main things – constitution needs to be changed –

- Council established a \$2000 cutoff, so the semester could be started with money in their accounts. This amount is \$2000 of what they were and had been awarded.
- This was a one time measure, but it did not specify how this appropriation would continue. If this was helpful, then now is the chance to specify the need and make it a permanent change.

Motion to create a PB Funds Subcommittee

Motion seconded

Discussion

Question: Would it be under council? Manned by how many members? How many volunteers would be needed?

Answer: Council determines number of people and duration of ad hoc committees per the bylaws.

Question: How long should the Subcommittee serve?

Answer: Upcoming semester is reasonable

Show of hands – who would be interested in serving? We need at least 3 people...

VOTE: Motion carried. PB Funds Subcommittee creation approved.

Committee members: Edria, Mustafa, Ivet, Katrina and Cameron

Further discussion will be conducted in the committee. Please direct comments or questions for SGAO to them.

- b. GPSA Health committee from ad hoc to permanent
 - Why it should be moved.
 - Proposal to move graduate health chair to a permanent committee.
 - They want to represent the entire health sciences campus which encompasses over 1000 students.
 - After Texanna's term there is uncertainty as to what may happen because health sciences and GPSA have not always been cooperative. For the past 1.5 years there has been a good effort in having more health sciences representatives in council and they would like to assure the continuance of this presence.

Discussion

- What would process of moving the committee from ad hoc to permanent look like?
- Just a vote.
- Needs to be an action item
- This move is strongly supported. Would the appointment be departmental?
- No, it would be for all of health sciences.
- If there is no representation for executive board then the schools could petition for it.
- The concern is there might not be a great president in the coming years and Health Sciences wants to make sure they will have representation.

- Does an adhoc committee need to be made permanent in order to continue the collaboration?
- If it is moved to standing committee status, the chair would need to be paid. Why couldn't health sciences manage like the department of education? Since the student population is similar, why hasn't the College of Education been asked to become an ad hoc committee with representation on the executive board?
- Skeptical of creating permanent committees to serve on the board because there are other ways to participate that do not involve the executive board.
- It is being proposed so it can be thought about and voted on at a later date.
- The medical school has the HSSC, but there is a misconception the HSSC does the same thing as the GPSA. This executive committee position builds a bridge between the HSSC and the GPSA.
- It creates a budget, etc...they want to keep the commitment made with the ad hoc committee so that relations don't go back into the dark ages – ad hoc committee created – There is an umbrella that provides professional development and other things but no funding, they can not campaign for more lighting, etc...through the current structure.
- Send additional questions to Hilary or Texanna.
- This is an important issue to think about!

VIII. Council Comments

- Have fun on break!
- A good first semester for serving on council!
- Football players – Basketball tailgate at 5...happy birthdays....
- Read over constitution – send comments to Hilary

Thank you!

IX. Upcoming Meetings

January 30th – Lobo A&B

X. Adjourn

11:28 am

Attendees

Alaa Elmaoued
Cameron Goble
Edria Mitchem
Jesse Trujillo
Mark Holland
Oscar Duran
Tara Hackel

Anny Chung
Carrie Booth
Firas Aydub
Katrina Edelmann
Moses Allen
Samantha Gogga
Travis Scholten

Brian Mason
Cindy Nava
Glenda Lewis
Liliana Benitez De Luna
Mustafa Al-MashhadaniOscar
Sara Bredin
Adam Myers y Gutierrez