

MEMORANDUM

To: Zoila Alvarez, GPSA Legislative Council Chair

From: Travis Scholten, GPSA Finance Committee Vice-Chair

Subject: GPSA-Related Appropriations Requests

Date: 2016 October 26

This month, the Finance Committee heard appropriations requests from the GPSA itself. The purpose of this memo is to provide some historical context and explanation for the FC's recommendations.

At its meeting, the FC listened to the GPSA President and Chief of Staff describe their requests. The explanation given for these particular requests was that the GPSA does in fact need additional money to operate, as its FY 16-17 budget was funded at the minimum level required by our Constitution and Bylaws. However, in keeping with the general spirit of austerity which is necessary to help weather UNM-related budget cuts, the requests attempted to balance the needs of the Association against the necessity of utilizing our members' money wisely.

Requests Overview

In Table 1, for different GPSA committees and organizations (including the Court of Review and Legislative Council), we present the actual expenses for FY 15-16, the budgeted amounts for FY 16-17, and the total amount requested in this month's appropriation requests. The column "Expenses (FY 15-16)" is based on historical balance sheets provided to the FC from the Student Government Accounting Office, via the GPSA Executive Branch. The column "Difference" is computed as "(FY 16-17 Budget" + "Requested") - "FY 15-16 Expenses" , and thus represents the difference in the amount of money actually spent by that organization and the total amount of money the Finance Committee has budgeted/recommended for it. If "Difference" is negative, the corresponding organization is currently funded at a level less than its FY 15-16 expenses.

Regarding the large value of "Difference" for Grants, Council converted the Grants Chair to a Project Assistantship during Spring 2016 at the request of the former GPSA President. By doing so, the Chair would then need to be paid a salary, in addition to having tuition and insurance paid for. In FY 15-16, the total expenses for the PA-ship were \$25,965.94. In the FY 16-17 budget, the PA-ship was not fully funded. This does raise some issues which the FC will need to visit during its FY 17-18 budget deliberations.

Committee/Organization	Expenses (FY 15-16)	Budget (FY 16-17)	Requested	Difference
Grants	33453.76	11910	201	-21342.76
General Government	84791.86	68417	8226	-8148.86
Lobby	2578.65	252	754	-1572.65
Student Support and Advocacy	1489.87	453	553	-483.87
Elections	1315.26	252	754	-309.26
Finance	1099.64	402	603	-94.64
Programs	1013.07	453	553	-7.07
Court of Review	402.00	402	603	603.00
Council	20839.29	26517	201	5878.71

Table 1: Overview of GPSA FY 15-16 Expenses, FY 16-17 Budget, and the amounts requested at this month’s FC meeting. Negative values of “Difference” indicate committees which are funded at a level less than its expenses. NOTE: For “Grants”, the FY 15-16 expenses *do not include* the amounts awarded for GPSA grants. Thus, the expenses indicated are precisely those which were used to run the committee.

Line Items Requested

In Table 2, we break down the appropriations requests by line item. Most requests have line items to fund purchasing food and refreshments for committee meetings, as well as to pay the stipends for the Chairs of those committees. Historically, the GPSA has paid most Chairs \$400 per semester of service¹. In its FY 16-17 Budget, Council did not fund the Chairs at that level; hence, it was necessary to make up the difference at this time.

Regarding the appropriations request for the GPSA General Government, this request would help fund the operations of the GPSA Office. Most of the funding levels are in alignment with FY 15-16 spending; after some discussion with the GPSA President and Chief of Staff, the FC elected to reduce funding for the “Food and Refreshments” and “General Operating Expenses” line items².

¹Exceptions include the Lobby Chair, at \$500 per semester, the Programs Chair, at \$500 per semester, including summer, and the Student Support and Advocacy Chair, at \$400 per semester, including summer.

²The GPSA may make additional requests if necessary.

Committee/Organization	Line Item	Expenses (FY 15-16)	Budget (FY 16-17)	Requested	Difference
Council	Food and Refreshments	1384.82	168	200	-1016.82
Court of Review	Food and Refreshments	0.00	0	200	200.00
	Other	400.00	400	400	400.00
Elections	Food and Refreshments	64.31	0	200	135.69
	Other	800.00	250	550	0.00
Finance	Food and Refreshments	294.16	0	200	-94.16
	Other	800.00	400	400	0.00
General Government	Computer Costs	29.90	0	100	70.10
	Copying Services	1100.00	0	1000	-100.00
	Food and Refreshments	3774.76	0	1500	-2274.76
	General Operating Expenses	4191.95	0	2000	-2191.95
	Office Supplies	1391.06	0	1400	8.94
	Telephone Line Charges	1080.00	0	1100	20.00
	Telephone Long Distance	20.26	0	25	4.74
	Telephone Voice Mail	60.00	0	60	0.00
	Travel	1421.51	0	1000	-421.51
Grants	Food and Refreshments	0.00	0	200	200.00
Lobby	Food and Refreshments	369.33	0	200	-169.33
	Other	800.00	250	550	0.00
Programs	Food and Refreshments	208.03	0	200	-8.03
	Other	800.00	450	350	0.00
Student Support and Advocacy	Food and Refreshments	416.00	0	200	-216.00
	Other	800.00	450	350	0.00

Table 2: Breakdown of the requests by line item. Most requests contained line items for “Food and Refreshments”, as well as “Other”. The “Other” line items will be used to fund the stipends for Chairs of GPSA Committees.