



Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Chair
Legislative Steering Committee
Graduate & Professional Student Association
University of New Mexico

Re: Continued Funding for Student Publications & Daily Lobo Newspaper

As chair of the UNM Student Publications Board, I am writing to ask that the GPSA continues to provide much-needed funding to support the Daily Lobo newspaper and UNM Student Publications.

As you know, operating a college campus newspaper nowadays is extremely challenging. As with even the largest and most established newspapers, the struggle to maintain readership and raise revenue in the form of advertising sales proves to be a constant siege. The staff at the Daily Lobo work tirelessly to not only cover the news that is important to our campus community, but to also find new and innovative ways to maintain the newspaper's financial solvency and role as the independent voice of a diverse institution and community.

The Daily Lobo has been in operation since 1895 and has maintained its circulation despite facing egregious financial strains. Over the past several years, the student journalists and editors that run the newspaper have been solely responsible for this feat, as they have worked diligently to reinvent the Daily Lobo as a digital newspaper despite great challenges. These students often do not serve only one role, but rather serve as writers, photographers, editors, publishers, videographers, and business managers, going far above and beyond to cover broader local, regional and national news stories that impact our readership. New Mexico generally, and Albuquerque specifically, face all the typical challenges of an impoverished and struggling state. Additionally, working to maintain the Daily Lobo as a viable news source has required the Daily Lobo staff to understand the business side of newspaper publishing while staying loyal to delivering objective news and preserving the newspaper as a social force on our campus.

Additionally, the Daily Lobo and our two literary magazines play a vital role in offering experiential and professional learning opportunities, not just for Communications & Journalism students, but for all UNM students. Student publications function as a necessary conduit by which students can convey their thoughts and opinions. UNM students, I am certain, would be glad to know that their fees and costs are being used to support a university-centered forum via an independent and free press. The Daily Lobo also provides a vital platform for democratic discourse and deliberative democracy in what is a very important time in America's history. If the Daily Lobo fails as a going concern, we will lose an important source of criticism, information sharing and enlightening debate in the not-so-distant future.

If there is anything else I can do to encourage GPSA to continue its support of Student Publications, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is kowal1@unm.edu and my phone number is (505) 228-0137. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica M. Kowal, Ph.D.
Chair, Student Publications Board
Associate Dean, Community Engaged Learning & Research
Strategic Planner for Community Engagement, Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost