

The Graduate & Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico
August 31, 2019 – Regular Meeting
10:00 AM – Student Union Building (SUB), Lobo A & B
Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order – meeting called to order at 10:08 am

a. Confirmation of Quorum:

Quorum confirmed, 11 council representatives present:

David Puthoff

John Reinert

Minea Armijo

Austin Daniel

Emily Alden

Benjamin Ahern Wild

Alex Henkel

N. Nikhileswara Reddy

Peter Njagi

Gwen Peel

Jennifer Tubbs

Non-representatives:

Jane Kalu

Raby Sylla

Nathaniel Wilson

b. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt agenda as is by Gwen, seconded by Austin. Motion approved by majority.

II. Introduction ^[1]_{SEP}

a. Council Chair: Ben Brandley

- Goals for this year: improve and update Bylaws, build collaborative Council

III. Opening Business

a. Approval of Minutes: April 27, 2019 regular meeting. Motion to approve minutes by Nikhil, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.

b. Media & Gallery- comments related to agenda items (limit 3 mins per speaker):

- Ryan Lindquist - Director of student activities and GPSA advisor, introduced himself.

IV. Officer Reports

a. President's Report: Muhammad Afzaal Hussein

- Wants to collaborate with Council this academic year

- Thanked Ryan Lindquist for his help to GPSA; Chief of staff Emily, Grants committee chair Radha, and Council members for their work

- Advocate for student success: make campus resources known to students, organize collaborative events w/ student resources
- Grants: summer cycle has finished, Fall grants cycle opens soon. Working to increase number of grants offered, improve grant application process.
- Goal of increasing inclusivity & diversity, particularly bridging North campus and main campus to improve communication across student body.
- GPSA involved in Law School, Medical school, and Pharmacy welcome events
- 50th anniversary celebration of GPSA - upcoming event. GPSA important for success of UNM students, alumni and beyond. Bring Council & other leaders to event – how to take GPSA further this year
- Staff positions in GPSA: encouraging staff to stay on for another year w/ funding
- Leadership institute: Goal this year to develop leadership initiative like ASUNM Global leadership initiative to train GPSA leaders. Working on getting outside sponsor support.

Motion to extend time for President by 5 min by Gwen, Alex seconded.

- Connect GPSA w/ UNM administration. President Stokes will hold office hours in GPSA office Sep 4, 10:30-11:30am
- Encourage active involvement by Councilors to assist President.

Questions: Gwen asked where funds for 50 year anniversary celebration will come from. Most of budget from outside resources from departments, some from appropriations.

b. Council Chair's Report: Ben Brandley

- [SEP] Need to change outdated bylaws
 - o e.g. Councilors have no term limits
 - o To change bylaws, need to form LSC (legislative steering committee) - 5 members including chair needed.
 - o Nikhil interim chair of committee
 - o Small stipend to encourage participation in committee
- Question from Nikhil: Ben clarified that we have to follow last administration's standing rules for Council meetings until approve new rules.

V. Executive Committee Reports [SEP]

a. Grants Chair – Radha Swaminathan

- Summer grant cycle report – three grants available, total of 28 grants awarded
- Grants reader retainment is a challenge. Grad students volunteer to sign up as readers. Need to provide more incentives
- Grants website challenges
 - o For applicants: creating account is confusing (must create account specific to grants website). Some accounts were linked to wrong students
 - o Readers challenges: wrong applications from previous cycles appeared, error messages from website

- Grants chair challenges: points on applications automatically scored incorrectly by webpage. Had to score manually
- Goals: resolve grants webpage issues – new website by Spring 2020
 - Changes to Grants code section of bylaws

Motion to extend time by Emily, Gwen seconded, approved unanimously

- Some applications had to be disqualified because of exceeding word limits – make all grants have same word limit in order to be less confusing
- Training workshops for applicants to encourage students to apply for GPSA grants

Questions:

- Nikhil- how is it decided how much money is awarded for each grant? - Fixed number of applications can be awarded per cycle, according to Bylaws. Doesn't reflect budget, want to change
- Emily asks were many applications disqualified? - working to make application process more straightforward
- Stipends for readers of \$50. David asks have considered increasing amount? - Need to change bylaws to do so- would be easy way to retain readers

VI. Action Items

a. Mandated Items

- i. Adoption of Standing Rules:
 - Changes to standing rules at this time include limiting time for speakers, starting meetings by 10:10am to keep time limit to 2 hours
 - Turn in credentialing forms by 10am on Wednesday before meeting to make meetings more streamlined
 - Added Code of ethics

Motion to adopt standing rules by Gwen, seconded by David. Approved by majority.
- ii. Adoption of GPSA Open Meeting Resolution:
 - State laws require open meetings, make information accessible to all

Motion to adopt by Nikhil, seconded by Gwen. Approved by majority
- iii. Confirmation of Grants Committee Chair: Radha Swaminathan

Motion to confirm by Alex, seconded by Ben. Approved by majority
- iv. Confirmation Communication Committee Chair:

No voting necessary because ad hoc committee. Acts as liaison between GPSA and UNM
- v. Confirmation of Elections Committee Chair: Sheikh Ahmad*****

Motion to confirm by Emily, seconded by Gwen. Approved by majority
- vi. Confirmation of Finance Committee Chair: Raby Sylla
 - Appointed by President
 - Appropriations amounts for student organizations were cut last year, Gwen and Austin ask will the amount be cut again this year

Finance Committee members:

a. 2 other members: Emily Wilks, Simoni Valderes (not present at meeting)

Motion to confirm committee by Austin, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.

b. Vice-Chair Confirmation: Benjamin Ahern Wild

Motion to confirm by Gwen, seconded by Austin. Approved by majority.

c. Finance Committee Members Confirmation: Nate Wilson (Finance & Accounting), Jane Kalu (English)

Motion to confirm by Gwen, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.

vii. Confirmation of Programs Committee Chair: Urusha Thapa

Goal to expand outreach of GPSA

Motion to confirm by Nikhil, seconded by Austin. Approved by majority.

viii. Court of Review (Chief Justice & 2 Associate Justices):

Chief Justice: Gabriel Gabaldon

Associate justice interviews in process (will likely be appointed from law school). Alex recommended herself for an associate justice position.

Motion to confirm Chief Justice by Emily, seconded by Peter. Approved by majority.

ix. Confirmation of Deputy Council Chair: BriAnne D. Amador^[SEP]

Assists Council Chair, especially with changing Bylaws.

Motion to confirm by Alex, seconded by Minea. Approved by majority.

x. Confirmation of Council Recorder: Oona Takano^[SEP]

Motion to confirm by Emily, seconded by Austin. Approved by majority.

xi. Confirmation of Legislative Steering Committee Chair: Nihileswara (Nikhil) Reddy Naguru

LSC is only body that can change Bylaws or Constitution.

Motion to confirm by Gwen, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.

xii. Call for Legislative Steering Committee Members (& Confirmation):

David, Alex, Peter, Jennifer, and Emily volunteer. LSC will be formed.

Motion to confirm by Nikhil, seconded by Austin. Approved by majority.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Parliamentary Procedure

- Meeting procedure cheat sheet available on website

- Who can talk when, how voting works
- b. Accessible Information on Website
 - Meeting dates, agenda and minutes all available

c. Council Meeting Food Budget

- \$1100 for food and refreshments for council meetings.
- Proposed changes for use of this money, will vote next meeting:
- Change to stipend for council reps that show up to every meeting
 - Put back into appropriations for grad student organizations
 - Informal vote in favor of no coffee for September meeting.

VIII. Council Announcements

Public Comment – comments not related to items on the agenda (limit 3 mins per speaker). - None.

IX. Upcoming Meeting ^{[[]]}_{SEP}

a. Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM in SUB Acoma A & B

X. Adjournment

Austin made motion to end meeting, Gwen seconded, approved by majority. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.