BILL # 190105

2019 FALL SESSION

Legislative Action:
Introduced by: Grants Committee

1st Reading: Naguru Nikhileswara Reddy
Referred To: LSC Committee

2nd Reading: LSC Committee on Sep 16
Committee Action: Approved

3rd Reading: Council
Council Action: ________________

Executive Action:
Approved Vetoed

______________________________ __________________________
GPSA President Date

Unsigned by the President on this ___day of _______ 20XX. Bill automatically becomes law.

Legislative Response:
Veto override vote taken: ___________________ Council Action: ___________________

Be it enacted by the Graduate and Professional Student Association at the University of New Mexico that the following be amended in (Article X) of the GPSA Constitution/Bylaw:
Section 9.1 Governing Rules for GPSA Grants Committee

A. Responsibilities of the GPSA Grants Committee

a. The Grants Committee shall be composed of 4 members from at least 3 different Recognized Departmental Student Associations (RDSA’s) who are to be selected in open call to GPSA membership, e.g., via the electronic mail list.

b. Members of the Grants Committee shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the GPSA Grants process.

c. Members of the Grants Committee shall assist the Grants Committee Chair in conducting at least two (2) Grant Applicant Training and Grant Reader Training workshops. The workshops shall be advertised via the electronic mail list at least twenty-one (21) days from the application deadline. Other means of advertisement (such as placing an ad with LoboMail) are encouraged.

d. The Grants Committee shall meet once a month to discuss the logistics of each funding cycle and update on the progress of each funding cycle.

e. The Grants Committee will make a good faith attempt to conduct outreach workshops for departments without a single successful applicant from the previous year.

f. The Grants Committee shall post the scoring criteria for all GPSA Grants and Scholarships on the GPSA Homepage and GPSA Grants website. Scoring of all applications shall be performed according to the criteria posted on the GPSA Homepage and GPSA Grants website.

g. The Grants Committee can make changes to the scoring criteria for individual Grants and Scholarships mentioned in the GPSA Bylaws. For these changes to take effect, more than two-thirds (2/3) of the Grants Committee must approve the changes.

h. Members of the GPSA Grants Committee are eligible to apply for GPSA Grants and Scholarships.

i. Members of the GPSA Grants Committee are eligible to read and score GPSA Grant and Scholarship applications only for category(s) for which they have not applied. For instance, if a member of the Grants Committee has applied for the Graduate Scholarship Fund, he/she can only read and score applications for the Professional Development Grant and Student Research Grant but may not do so for Graduate Scholarship Fund applications.

j. Members of the Grants Committee shall be compensated between $50-$150 per semester (does not include Reader Stipend).

B. Responsibilities of the Grants Committee Chair

a. The GPSA Grants Committee Chair shall administer the Student Research Grant, the Professional Development Grant, the Graduate Scholarship Fund and any adhoc/emergency scholarships that GPSA establishes. Additionally, the Grants Committee Chair shall oversee the smooth execution of the New Mexico Research Grant every Fall semester.
b. The GPSA Grants Committee Chair may not be eligible to apply for ALL the
GPSA Grants and Scholarships.

c. The GPSA Grants Committee Chair may be eligible to read and score GPSA
Grant and Scholarship applications.

d. The Grants Committee Chair(s) must accommodate students with circumstances
that prevent or prohibit their use of the online system. If a method of
accommodation for circumstances not concerning disabilities cannot be agreed
upon by the applicant and the chair, the applicant can appeal. Students with
disabilities will be accommodated through recommendations by the Accessibility
Resource Center.

e. The Grants Committee Chair can provide an applicant the scoresheet of their
application upon request. However, the applicant cannot have access to other
applicant’s scoresheet in accordance with Federal and State law.

f. The Grants Committee Chair shall pass electronic records of the following to the
incoming Grants Committee Chair:

i. All applications

ii. Score sheets of all applications

iii. A database of coversheet information for applicants—name of applicant, department of
applicant, email of applicant, type of grant/scholarship applied, awarded/denied, and
score results.

iv. A separate record of list of applicants awarded, when the applicants were awarded, and
the amount awarded.

v. A database of coversheet information for readers—name of reader, perspective of reader,
email of reader, number of applications that the readers scored

vi. A copy of voting records to support changes made to the Grants Code section of the
GPSA Bylaws.

g. The Grants Committee Chair must submit a report at the end of each funding cycle
to the GPSA President, which upon approval, shall be available on the GPSA
website. The report shall contain the following information:

i. The number and total amount of allocations per Grant and Scholarship.

ii. A breakdown of applications submitted, and applications awarded by department.

iii. The balance amount left in each Grant and Scholarship account after allocation.

iv. Number of appeals and the appeal decision.

h. The Grants Committee Chair must allocate between seven (7) to twenty (20)
awards during the Fall and Spring semesters and between four (4) to eight (8)
awards during the Summer semester for the Graduate Scholarship Fund.
Additional awards may be granted at the discretion of the Grants Committee
Chair. Remaining funds shall remain in the endowment.

i. The Grants Committee Chair must allocate between fifteen (15) to thirty (30)
awards during the Fall and Spring semesters and between seven (7) to fifteen (15)
awards during the Summer semester for the Student Research Grant. These
include between five (5) to seven (7) appeals for the Fall and Spring semesters
and between one (1) to three (3) appeals during the Summer semester. Additional
awards may be granted at the discretion of the Grants Committee Chair.
Remaining funds shall remain in the endowment.
j. The Grants Committee Chair must allocate between fifteen (15) thirty (30) awards during the Fall and Spring semesters and between seven (7) to fifteen (15) awards during the Summer semester for the Professional Development Grant. These include between five (5) to seven (7) appeals for the Fall and Spring semesters and between one (1) to three (3) appeals during the Summer semester. Additional awards may be granted at the discretion of the Grants Committee Chair. Remaining funds shall remain in the endowment.

k. The GPSA Grants Committee Chair shall receive financial compensation. The maximum limit shall be in accordance with the GA monthly stipend at the 0.5FTE rate as determined by University Policy. Compensation shall include six (6) resident graduate tuition hour per Fall and Spring semesters and three (3) credit hours during Summer semester at rates published by the Bursar’s Office.
Context for this bill:

The text, other than those highlighted in blue, are already a part of the current Grants Code. However, the Grants committee decided that the organization of the bylaws within the Grant Code is not reader friendly. Hence, I request that all bylaws be passed and have each section of the Grants Code as a bill. The first of the bills, is with regards to the responsibilities of the Grants Committee. In the current version of the Grants Code, there isn’t any mention of compensation for members of the Grants Committee. However, given that Grants Committee members help perform myriad responsibilities that include helping the Grants Chair conduct training and outreach workshops and because members of the Grants Committee have been compensated in the past, I request that compensation become a part of the bylaws.

Under responsibilities of the Grants Committee Chair, records of applicants and readers alike haven’t been passed on to the incoming Grants Chair, which is cumbersome as the new Grants Chair will not have access to a list of experienced readers. The Grants Committee Chair shall provide a report to the GPSA President at the end of each funding cycle which shall also contain the number of grants that were awarded for the funding cycle.

With regards to allocation of the number of grants each cycle, in the previous year, only 20 grants were awarded per Fall and Spring semesters and 10 grants for the Summer semester. However, the budget allocated for each grant could allow for providing a greater number of the grants. According to the current version of the Grants Code, the Grants Chair must decide the number of awards based on the number of applicants from the previous year. However, neither do I have data about the number of applicants from the previous year for me to be able to decide the percentages of funds for the current funding cycle. Furthermore, it is difficult for the Grants Committee Chair to compute percentages from the previous year as the Chair will not know the amount to allocate until after September, when students pay the GPSA fee, which will be too late for the Summer cycle. Therefore, based on input from the previous Grants Committee Chair, I have recommended a range of the number of grants to be awarded each funding cycle. Furthermore, I have increased the number of appeals that can be awarded, as in the past, 2 appeals for Spring and Summer semesters were not enough relative to the number of appeal requests that were received.