BILL # 190106

2019 FALL SESSION

Legislative Action:
Introduced by: Grants Committee

1st Reading: ________________ Naguru Nikhileswara Reddy
Referral To: ___ LSC Committee

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

3rd Reading: ________________ Council
Council Action: ____________________

Executive Action:
Approved Vetoed

_________________________ _________________________ Date
GPSA President

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 9.2 Governing Rules for Applicants of GPSA Grants and Scholarships

a. Applicants must be GPSA members at the time of applying for GPSA Grants and Scholarships. GPSA members are students who have paid the GPSA fee.

b. Applicants must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program at the time of applying for GPSA Grants and Scholarships. Graduate students who are transitioning between graduate programs may not be eligible to apply for GPSA Grants and Scholarships. For example, if a student graduated with a master’s degree in Summer and will join a PhD program in the Fall, the above-mentioned student may not be eligible to apply for GPSA Grants and Scholarships during Summer but will be eligible to do so during Fall.

c. An applicant may submit only one application per cycle for each of the GPSA Grants or Scholarships.

d. An applicant can request funds for only one activity or event per application. An applicant can apply to both the Student Research Grant and the Professional Development Grant for the same event. In that case, each application must be submitted according to the requirements for each grant [Section 9.4 and Section 9.5] or scholarship [Section 9.6] and must not be identical.

e. Applications must be submitted through the online system. Applicants must create a user account or may sign into the Grants website in order to apply for GPSA Grants and Scholarships.

f. Applications must be submitted before the deadline. The deadline for submission of applications will be 11:59pm on the fifth (5th) Friday of Fall and Spring semesters and second (2nd) Friday of Summer semesters. In the event of unforeseen or extraordinary circumstances, the GPSA Grants Committee Chair shall establish a new deadline. Any change in deadlines shall be posted by the Grants Committee Chair in accordance with Public Notice Requirements.

g. Applicants must identify their perspective from the following:
   i. Fine Arts and Design (FAD) – Applies to any creative arts whose products are to be appreciated primarily or solely for their artistic, aesthetic or intellectual content. Examples include studio art, music, theatre, dance, film, creative production.
   ii. Humanities (HUM) – Applies to academic disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture, or process and document the human experience. Examples include ancient and modern languages, literature, linguistics, philosophy, geography, history and religion.
   iii. Natural Sciences (NAS) – Applies to sciences that deal with matter, energy, or the physical world, and their interrelations and transformations or with objectively measurable phenomena. Examples are biology, chemistry, earth sciences, astronomy, physics.
   iv. Formal Sciences (FOS) – Applies to disciplines concerned with theoretical formal systems and theoretical branches of computer science. Examples include computer science, math, geometry, statistics, logic, information theory and systems theory.
   v. Applied Sciences (APS) – Applies to disciplines that apply scientific knowledge to practical problems. Examples include Medicine, Health Sciences and engineering.
   vi. Social Sciences (SOS) – Applies to disciplines dealing with the institutions and functioning of human society, or with an aspect of human society. Examples are economics, business, management, public administration, public policy, law, political science.
vii. Behavioral Sciences (BES) – Applies to disciplines that examine human behavior.
Examples include psychology, sociology, education, anthropology, women studies, compensation.
h. An applicant’s work may fit into multiple perspectives. Applicants must choose their perspective based on the department they belong to. If an applicant is unsure about their perspective, they must contact the Grants Committee Chair to clarify their perspective.
Context for the 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 second bill pertains to bylaws for applicants of all Grants and Scholarships. These are eligibility rules for graduate students to be able to apply for any Grants and Scholarships from GPSA. During the summer, there have been cases where graduate students transition between different levels of their graduate program but would still like to request for funds. The current version of the bylaws does not mention anything about such situations. Therefore, I request that graduate students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate at the time of submitting applications in order for them to be able to apply for GPSA Grants and Scholarships.

The current version of the bylaws stated the deadline to be at noon. Upon recommendations from members of the Grants Committee, I would like to request the time of the deadline to be moved to 11:59pm. Extending the time of deadline would provide students with a little more time to turn in their applications.

With regards to perspectives, the current version of the bylaws provides applicants with four perspectives to choose from. However, in the past year, students were provided with seven perspectives to identify their applications with a choice to choose the perspective under which they want their application to be considered. I request to continue with the seven perspectives as the Grants Webpage is set up that way and I am not able to change it. Furthermore, changing it to 4 perspectives doesn’t cover most departments on campus and applicants have a hard time identifying with a perspective. That said, some applicants do not identify themselves under the correct perspectives, despite our bylaws providing information regarding them. So as to avoid confusion and to be able to recruit readers for each application based on the correct perspective, I request the bylaw with seven perspectives and applicants having to identify their applications based on their department be passed.