BILL # 190107

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

__________________________________ __________________________
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 9.3 Governing Rules for Readers of GPSA Grants and Scholarships

a. GPSA Grant Readers must be GPSA members at the time of reading and scoring applications for GPSA.

b. Grant Readers must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program at the time of reviewing Grant and Scholarship applications for GPSA. Graduate students who are transitioning between graduate programs may not be eligible to read and score grants for GPSA.

c. Applicants who have signed-up to review Grants and Scholarships for GPSA may only read and score applications belonging to a category different from the one they have applied for. For instance, if an applicant has applied for the Student Research Grant, the applicant can only read and score applications for the Professional Development Grant and Graduate Scholarship Fund but may not do so for Student Research Grant applications.

d. Grant Readers will be compensated $50 for scoring 15-20 applications, $75 for scoring 21-25 applications, and $100 for scoring 26 applications or more.

e. Grant Readers must attend a Grant Reader Training Workshop at least once between August 1st of the current year and July 30th of the following year. The Grants Committee Chair may require re-training at their discretion.

a. 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.

b. Grant Readers 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 third bill pertains to bylaws for readers of all Grants and Scholarships. These are eligibility rules for graduate students to be able to review 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 read GPSA Grants and Scholarship application. 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 reviewing applications in order for them to be able to be financially compensated for GPSA Grants and Scholarships.

The current version of the bylaws requires that GPSA Grant Readers be compensated with a payment for their work, but it does not mention a specific amount. The previous year, readers were paid a $50 stipend for reviewing 15-20 applications and a $100 for reviewing more than 25 applications. Currently, I request that readers be compensated with $50 for scoring 15-20 applications, $75 for scoring 21-25 applications, and $100 for scoring 26 applications or more.

The current version of the bylaws require that readers attend a Grant Reader Training workshop once between June 1 of the current year and May 31st of the following. I request that be changed to August 1 of the current year to July 30 of the following year because readers who have read for GPSA in the past find it difficult to attend training workshops during Summer (as they are on vacation or are performing field research outside of Albuquerque) and the incoming Grants Committee Chair thus loses valuable readers during the first cycle that he/she administers.

With regards to perspectives, the current version of the bylaws provides readers 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 readers have a hard time identifying with a perspective. That said, some readers 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 readers having to identify their applications based on their department be passed.