I. Call to order – meeting called to order at 10:11 am

Confirmation of Quorum:
Quorum confirmed, 14 council representatives present:
Benjamin Gerstner – Biology
Aaron Cowan – OILS
Julia Swan – Psychology
Ben Ahern Wild – Public Administration
Nikhil Reddy – Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kyla Charlee - Electrical & Computer Engineering
David Nunnally – Political Science
Raby Sylla – Business
Taryn Brennan – Sociology
Janet Coen – History
John Reinert – Education
Alex Henkel – Education
Andrea Abeita – Education
Jennifer Tubbs – English

Adoption of Agenda:
Motion to amend agenda by Janet, seconded by Nikhil. Motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion to adopt amended agenda by Janet, seconded by Aaron. Motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

II. Opening Business
a. Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2019 regular meeting

Motion to amend minutes by Alex, seconded by Dre. Motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion to amend number of councilors in minutes by Alex, seconded by Aaron. Motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion to approve amended minutes by Aaron, seconded by Dre. Motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

b. Media & Gallery- comments related to agenda items (limit 3 mins per speaker)
Greg Vuksich – at invitation of President.

- Bill from bursar higher than last year. Fees for grad students in Arts & sciences have been changed.
- What was promised in 2017? $60/credit hour increase in student fees. Increase to $35
for another item. $50/credit increase in tuition differential for grad students in A&S ("premium fee").

Motion to extend time by Alex, seconded by Aaron. 13 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

- In 2017, Dean promised that increase in fees was for benefit of grad students in Arts & Sciences. $750,000 generated by this fee → directly for TAs, GAs, RAs, increase in salary or new positions. $450,000 for bringing in support staff for graduate students, new faculty.
- What was input of GPSA to the fee?
- Difficult to get fee removed. Commitment by Dean to use money for benefit of grad students → need to ensure this happens. Suggestion to GPSA to review how money is used.

Alexandra Villegas – Public health administration president

- Tuition differential also being discussed in College of Public Health – proposed changes for undergrad and grad students. Asks GPSA for advice on how to deal with proposed changes from new Dean. Creating exclusion because students reconsidering being part of program in public health.
- Aaron: Who is voting on these changes? Is it Board of Regents? Similar situation happened in School of Admin. Do students have a vote?
- Alexandra: It’s being framed so that students need to agree to differential. Dean did survey and found that College has less funding than others across the U.S. Asking Dean whether earning potential of students at UNM has been accounted for? Will reach out to GPSA Council know if/when there is a meeting.

III. Guest Speakers

a. Brandon DeFlon- PNMGC
- Grad student in Statistics department, leader of Project for New Mexico Graduates of Color.
- PNMGC started in 2002 and run by grad students - aim to retain grad students of color through peer mentoring. Other members of UNM community (undergrad, faculty, alumni, etc.) also part of network
- Provide support: academic, cultural, emotional, social; also networking, leadership. Goal is success beyond UNM
- Mentorship manual to help mentors, workshops – motivate students, maximize GPA
- Certificate of completion, scholarship opportunity
- Goal to add professional mentorship program to graduate program.
- Western association of grad studies conference this year – presented on PNMGC
- How to apply: on webpage - pnmgc.unm.edu
- Mentor core software – mentors can record monthly mentoring sessions, improve help for students, review information on cohorts

- Dre: How can Council support PNMGC? Where does funding come from?
- Brandon: Applied to get funding from State Legislature, among others.
- Alex: Thank you for explaining what you do in detail, that’s an awesome opportunity. Definitely look for other sources for support from the city.

Motion to extend time by Aaron, seconded by Nikhil. 13 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (John Reinert).

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President’s Report
      - It’s an honor to represent GPSA today because in Nov 1969 GPSA was incorporated.
      - Celebrating GPSA 50th anniversary tonight in SUB Ballroom C
      - Mandatory student fee - SFRB decided on 7.7% increase in mandatory student fee. Last year 3.4% increase, were dealing with decrease in enrollment. IT was getting a large share of student fees but gave it up to students last year. This year 6% decrease in enrollment, increase in fees was inevitable to ensure students have resources
      - LSC Bill to create new position for Leadership initiative - How should we proceed with Leadership initiative? Waiting until Feb (next meeting?). Would be best interest to hire someone soon to plan logistics to recruit students when Spring classes start.
      - Elections in April – students trained in Leadership initiative will be better able to represent students on campus

Questions:
- Nikhil – if Council won’t vote until January, if Council doesn’t approve the hire in January, how will person be able to start?
- Clarification: Currently student graduate assistant (office manager) 20 hr/week, take this money to hire someone for 15 hr/week to work with students, design syllabus, how UNM and GPSA operate, how Council works, to act as coordinator
- Dre: Have we secured funding to make sure office manager is going to keep being paid?
- President: Yes, funding is secured for this year. Funding is year by year.
- Nikhil: Some committee members don’t get paid, why don’t we use that money here in Council
- Appropriations list to increase stipend by $1400 to $2000. Stipend doesn’t justify work but shows appreciation.
- Dre: What is the plan to hire people? Could you review status of committees?
- Pres: Programs (full), Finance (missing 1 person), Lobby, Elections chair hired (committee needs to be filled), Advocacy (needs filled), Chief Justice
- Nikhil: Should advise President now on hire so that he gets clear idea of what Council is thinking
- Alex: I’m on the Legislative Committee and I personally think it’s a great idea. I’m against the idea that you would be the one to hire because I’d like more of an open system
- President: You mean the people who want to be a part of the Leadership program? The person who would be hired would be approved by Council. Intent is to make GPSA work effectively, get people from Leadership program to participate in GPSA.
- Dre: Hesitant to hire new position even though good ideas – use as stipend to pay
officers? Also, worried about office manager’s salary. Remember, up to $30,000 to pay new position.
- President: New position won’t be full graduate assistantship, paid hourly up to 15 hours.
- Nikhil: This is a good time to look at Finance Committee Chair position-- should be graduate assistantship, just like Grants Committee.
- President: Would have to appoint 2 assistantships: Finance chair and vice chair, don’t have the budget for that.
- Alex: Is it an option to have a group that doesn’t have to go through LSC, we all (Councilors) know how to be leaders. Could have grassroots mentorship.

Motion by Dre to end discussion, seconded by Alex, 7 in favor, 4 against (Taryn, Nikhil, Raby, Janet), 2 abstained (Benjamin G and Julia).

b. Council Chair’s Report
- Please feel free to email President with further questions.
- 50 years ago was a different world for GPSA, while it’s changed quite a bit we have a lot to do still.
- Thank Radha for her work (Grants chair who resigned).

Questions:
- Jennifer: Do you know who will take the position? What happens in interim?
  - Ben: No, the president will hire. Radha will continue in interim.
- Nikhil: Is it possible to know deadlines? How many people are applying?
  - Ben: I’m not part of the process, so I don’t know.
  - Dre: What is the process for appointments? Are all GAships hired by President?
  - Ben: Email was sent out on listserv. 10 candidates made it through based on CV. President hires all except for Finance vice chair and Council chair.
  - Alex: Looking over Bylaws, grants chapter 9, it looks like a huge job. Maybe put down what their job description is. I don’t know the situation why (Radha) isn’t here anymore. This is how many hours you’re going to spend (working on this job).
  - Ben G: Regarding your first point about the 50 years, are there stats to look at how GPSA has changed demographically and monetarily, for thinking ahead?
  - Ben: Best bet would be student activities, connect with Ryan. Good point about other forms of discrimination: “fieldism”, certain types of grants awarded more than others.

V. Committee Reports
None

VI. Old Business
Motion to open old business by Dre, seconded by Janet. 13 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (John Reinert; not in room).

a. Bill #190109-Survey

Author: Ben Brandley
Mandatory to make GPSA do yearly opinion poll. Problem with some wording – “any GPSA member may submit question” to say everyone can have right to bring forth questions, but might get some inappropriate questions. Council could be gatekeeper (if Council approves).

Questions:

- Kyla – “question to be considered”

Motion by Aaron motion to change “legitimate” to “relevant” on line 32, seconded by Nikhil, 11 in favor, 1 against (Kyla), 1 abstained (John; out of room).

- Alex – Section 12 D, who is the E-Board? And do we have an elections committee? This is preventing us from being more flexible. There are so many positions that are non-existent at the moment so it would be irrelevant.
- Ben- Executive board. Vote for elections committee is on the agenda today. This would be an item on E-Board agenda
- David: Is the elections committee the same as the E-Board or are they separate?
- Ben: They’re separate.
- David: Where does that leave room for Council?
- Ben G: Regarding findings that shall be published, is that raw results or will it be answers in brief, summarized form?
- Ben: Print quantitative summary from Survey Monkey
- Ben G: Findings maybe should be elaborated, the entirety of the quantitative and qualitative, present raw results. Change to “raw data”.

- Aaron: Do the E-Board and Court of Review have equal authority to write questions?
- Ben: Envisioned E-Board and Court of Review to meet together to consider questions for the year, including questions from GPSA members. Councilors would meet first to review questions.
- Dre: Could we create a survey committee? What is the survey for and how are we going to use it? People may not want to answer if all the raw data will be published online. For sensitive issues it doesn’t make sense to publish raw data.
- Ryan: The reason this is put out through election committee is because opinion poll occurs on presidential election ballot. It’s not a long format. E.g. Would you be in favor of a tuition differential for A&S departments? Yes or no.
- David: Why would we need consent of Court of Review? Any decisions made in opinion poll would be non-binding.
- Aaron: Theoretically it could be longer, if we did want to talk about a safety topic, there isn’t language that prohibits it so we could have a longer survey
- Ben: For important but sensitive topics it could be anonymous
- Ben G: What about HIPAA violations-- Who actually has access to raw data results? Survey Monkey as a source may not go through same vetting processes. Secure means of polling necessary.
- Ben: So e.g. “Poll must be done on a secure website”
- BriAnne: Only elections committee chair can access information with password. Poll
done through IT. Registered grad students sent survey.

Discussion:
None

Motion by Aaron to amend line 33 “of” to “with”, seconded by Taryn. 11 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstained (Kyla and Alex).

Motion by Dre to amend line 34 to new item E. “Council has the right to edit and amend the survey. “…”Final version of the survey shall be approved by Council by majority vote”, seconded by Aaron. 9 in favor, 1 against (Taryn), 2 abstained (Julia and Alex) not in room).

- David: I really like this, but as Council we should also get to review rejected questions from E-Board and have a say as to whether they should go back on.
- Taryn: After we approve the survey, does E-Board get any say? Cutting purpose of Council vetting questions. Want collaborative process between Council and E-Board.
- Aaron: They should be available for questions at Council meeting

Motion by Ben G to change wording to “at minimum, the poll shall ask 2 questions: first, a measure of GPSA member satisfaction with GPSA performance, and second, suggestions for changes to GPSA that will be discussed at next GPSA Council meeting” and remove redundant language, seconded by Aaron. 9 in favor, 2 against (Alex & David), 0 abstained (2 councilors have left).

- Aaron: You can’t be sure this would be feasible to do at the next council meeting--would depend on the amount of feedback.
- Ben G: “Next meeting” so that doesn’t fall by wayside and gets addressed by Council. I don’t see point of having opinion survey where don’t address responses. Intention is for long-term tracking of member satisfaction with GPSA performance.
- David: only issue is with “performance” based on how GPSA functions, and not GPSA as institution at large. Suggests to remove.
- Ben G: Don’t necessarily think this is the best word, but want to compare across years
- Dre: If we’re going to do longitudinal data, do we want to create these two standard questions?
- Aaron: What are we measuring with GPSA? Perception? Its function, its output?
- Ben: Perceptions.
- Ryan: Suggestion to take these edits and discussion to LSC, probably should be tabled and referred back to LSC for finalization.

Motion by Kyla to table bill, seconded by Dre. 10 in favor, 1 against (Alex), 0 abstained.

b. Bill #190111-Elections Bill
Author: Nikhil
Two things being proposed. Section G regarding candidates’ use of content, adding a new option for voters if someone is trying to influence their vote can lock out of account
Questions:
- Alex - Fix the article numbers to using May 2016 version of Constitution. All of G and H not in Bylaws. Section 5 D is all new in this Bill.
- Dre – Can we actually lock accounts?
- Nikhil – This was tabled last time and it was found that we can’t do it. Need to strike out Section D.
- Aaron – Can author directly remove language?

Discussion:
- Alex – I don’t know what Constitution or Bylaw this came from but it’s not matching up. It’s incorrect information.
- Nikhil – it would be nice if Council could update Bylaws and Constitution online at end of every semester.

Motion by Dre to table Bill, seconded by David, 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

VII. New Business
Motion to open new business as a block by Nikhil, seconded by Aaron, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

a. December 7, 2019 Council Meeting Cancelled
- Ben AW: potential for one appropriation, but can also request reimbursement next semester
- Dre: What happened to December appropriations? We’ve always had December appropriations, need to make sure that student groups know there are no December appropriations.
- Nikhil: Is it the student group’s first or second appropriation this semester? We are basically deciding whether to fund that specific student group two or three times this school year.
- Ben AW: First. We voted down their appropriation the first time.
- Aaron: If we did not have Council meeting, could we still have other committee meetings? Finance and LSC could meet, bills would hang on until next Council meeting.

Discussion:
- Nikhil: If only have Finance but not Council meeting, would decisions be on hold until Council meets? Are decisions counted toward Fall or Spring semester?
- Ben AW: We could also suspend our standing rules and allow that particular student group to apply for additional appropriation in Spring.
- Aaron: To clarify, in this case, if Finance committee meets, student group would still get appropriation for this semester or allowed three appropriations next semester.
- Dre: We should meet in December: LSC has a lot of things pending, and should have let students know about December appropriations. If 60 days passes for reimbursement in January, then it won’t count.
- Ben: December meeting to discuss Capitol Outlay Project. Deadline extended to
Wednesday, groups wanted to come present today but didn’t because of extension.

Motion to have December meeting by Dre, seconded by Alex, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

b. Legislative Steering Committee Appointment – Andrea Abeita

- Nikhil: currently have 6 members, allowed maximum of 12. If anyone is interested, will have increased chance of meeting quorum.
- Dre: I’ve been member of Council for 2+ years, and this is my last year in GPSA. We are the student voice, I’d like to help LSC make quorum if I attend meetings.
- Alex: She’s awesome with reading information, wide knowledge, gathering people for meetings. I vouch for her.

Motion by Kyla to approve Andrea, David seconded. 10 in favor, 0 against, 1 (Andrea) abstained.

c. Elections Committee Chair Appointment – Aaron Cowan

- Aaron: I’ve been involved in grants committee, have strong technical background. I can ensure that I’ll iron out difficulties, I like to pay attention to details and happy to serve in that role.
- Alex: What’s the job description?
- Aaron: For most of the year when elections are not occurring, it’s about chairing meetings, creating survey results. It’s particularly vital that we have someone coming in to an election, it’s an important component in selection of the President to ensure we’re having fair elections, that candidates follow the rules, that campaigns are run properly.
- Alex: In Bylaws it doesn’t say how much the chairs get? We’re voting for people to be in paid positions, so can we know how much that is?
- Ben: It’s in the budget. Each committee has specific amount, potentially changes every year.
- BriAnne: Mandated for finance committee that Chair and Vice chair equal amounts. $400 per committee chairs, except finance-- $200 in fall and $300 in spring for chair and vice chair. All have been approved by executive board.

Motion to approve Aaron by David, seconded by Dre, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

d. Lobby Committee Chair Appointment- Shaikh Ahmad

President speaking on candidate’s behalf, Shaikh absent today. He’s been actively involved in GPSA on lobby projects.

- Dre: How many committees and appointments is Shaikh on in GPSA? How is he balancing all these roles?
- President: Election committee chair and finance committee member. He left the election committee chair role.
- Alex: What is the lobby committee chair’s job description? Which department does he represent?
- President: They go to Santa Fe every year when in session to lobby to fund different student projects. Public administration department.
- Dre: Can you speak to his experience for the Capitol Outlay Project? What experience does he have in community organizing or public policy?
- President: He was program coordinator of 2000 students as an undergraduate. He was involved in undergrad student government. GPSAs executives as a whole have been working on these projects together.
- Dre: Did anyone else apply for the position/was anyone else qualified? How are you recruiting for these positions? We’re in November and half these committees aren’t filled.
- President: No and no- sent emails and interviewed people in summer. Hired a student advocacy chair but she got a job in mayor’s office and quit. Sent emails again at start of fall semester, one qualified candidate was under impression it was an assistantship and declined, other person interviewed wasn’t qualified. Everyone can apply.
- David: If we do not approve lobby chair, will that sacrifice our ability to advocate for the Capitol Outlay project?
- President: have to look at Bylaws.
- Ben: have to be appointed by end of semester.
- Aaron: That would create more work for President and rest of committee. Wouldn’t say we couldn’t lobby but would make more work for others.

Discussion:
- David: The only email I have about the lobby chair position is from May. The emails aren’t getting out to the appropriate people.
- President: We’re assuming all grad students are on email list
- David: Regarding earlier suggestion that lobby committee chair vote tabled until next meeting-- next meeting Dec 7, unrealistic that could get another candidate by then.
- Alex: These job descriptions are one line at the bottom of the email, so if you’re not looking for it you couldn’t find it.
- Ben G: It was suggested that we have lobby chair to get lobbying done in January, so I think it’s important to vote today on position. Are we really serving the student body if we don’t have someone to lobby for them?

Motion by Ben G to approve lobby committee chair, seconded by Taryn. 7 in favor, 2 against (Andrea & Alex), 2 abstained (David & John). Shaikh confirmed as lobby committee chair.

Questions:
- Aaron: I understand there are questions about the process and Shaikh isn’t here so wouldn’t it be better to have someone in the position than not?
- Dre: Is anyone here interested, or know anyone interested in taking on this project? Are we comfortable voting for this person just to have someone?
- Taryn: A lot of the issues we are having with the appointment are the ways Bylaws are written. I think he has valuable experience to offer for the position.
- Alex: I strongly oppose people wanting to be in the position of getting money but don’t show up to be hired for the position.
Chief Justice, Court of Review- Jessica Martinez
- President: She is a law school student, holds prestigious fellowship in law school. Vision to have law student as Chief Justice because understand wording, process of law.

Questions:
- Alex: What is the job description for Chief Justice?
- President: Chief Justice is head of judicial branch. They deal with any matter that arises that is illegal in the student government. They are the chair of the court.
- Aaron: That is a job that requires knowledge of laws, does she pass that?
- Alex: Is it the same stipend, $200 per semester?
- President: I read the budget a few months ago, I don’t want to give exact answer.
- Dre: What is the plan for the Court of Review? It needs 3 members to function. How will Jessica help with that?
- President: I discussed with office manager to send email this coming Monday to ask if people want to be associate justices for Court of Review.
- Aaron: Do we have anybody in mind?
- President: No.
- Dre: What is happening in the interview process that people aren’t getting hired?
- President: Which position are you speaking of?
- Alex: Why are people in other departments not looked at as available to hold that position?
- Ben AW: Did you say what year in law school Jessica is?
- President: 3L
- Alex: Why did candidate not show up?
- President: She is part of a trial that is graded for her academics.

Discussion:
- Kyla: Does the candidate know enough about process to train associate justices?
- Nikhil: Suggestion to request candidate to be here for Dec meeting.

Motion by Dre to table rest of appointments (e-g) until Dec 7 meeting and request candidates to be present, David seconded. 9 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (Benjamin W).

Student Support and Advocacy Chair- Aspyn Maes

Finance Committee Member Appointment- Shaikh Ahmad

Appropriations
i. Graduate and Professional Student Association $1407
ii. College of Education Graduate Student Leadership Association $804
iii. Advancing Women in Science - $0 (no show)
iv. Language, Literacy, & Sociocultural Studies Grad Student Org $302
v. Student American Society of Landscape Architects $382
vi. Art Education Graduate Student Association - $0 (no show)
vii. Teacher Education Graduate Student Association - $302
viii. Graduate Statistics Club - $553
ix. Bangladeshi Student Association - $332
x. Iranian Student Association - $0 (no show)
xi. Pi Tau Sigma - $177
xii. Political Science Graduate Student Association - $1709
xiii. Student Organization for Latin American studies - $0 (no show)
xiv. Student Association of Healthcare Administrators - $1287
xv. Indian Students Association - $503

- Dre: Two appropriations for GPSA, last month and this month. Understanding was that President’s budget would cover Welcome back event, but went through as GPSA appropriation last month. Who is making these requests? What happened to sponsorship from President’s budget? Is this appropriation asking for increase of stipends for committee chairs?
  - Ben AW: President submitted this month’s appropriation. Previous was program chair. Yes, increase stipends, and food and refreshments for 50th anniversary celebration.
  - Dre: Is this just for this semester? Or would this be for increasing pay for next semester? Do we have money to pay them this semester?

Motion to suspend part of standing rules to allow President to speak by Ben, seconded by Nikhil. 9 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (Alex). (1 additional councilor has left)

Motion for 5 minutes break by Alex, seconded by Dre. 9 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (David).

Meeting called back to order at 2:11 pm. Quorum confirmed.

Questions to President:
- Ben G: Appropriation regarding supplemental funding for chairs of committees, if they were to be filled at Dec 7 meeting, would the $200 additional be given to those new members?
  - President: Committee chair stipends were cut by half. This money is to bring them to same level of $400 that was given last year.
  - Dre: Instead of creating new position for leadership, wouldn’t it make more sense to use that money for these existing positions?
  - President: Have talked to other organizations to fund half of GAship and we will match it to be fiscally responsible. That GAship needs to be substantial to keep leader motivated to make leadership initiative work.
  - Ben G: Do you anticipate asking for this same appropriation next semester?
  - President: If have same funding level in spring, will be submitting same appropriation in spring.
  - Alex: These people who don’t have positions yet, will they get the $400 this semester even if they only work one day?
  - President: Have discussed giving them $200 if starting now, but may seem
- Aaron: You could have some discretion with the $200 to give more or less.
- Ben G: Pro-rating should be considered. Will you pro-rate based on dates actually served in addition to the $200 stipend?
- President: Yes.
- BriAnne: Council can amend amount of appropriation so that President doesn’t have to request next semester.

Discussion:
Motion by David to un-suspend Robert’s Rules and block approve all appropriations except GPSA appropriation and vote separately on GPSA appropriation, seconded by Aaron. 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion by Dre to table GPSA appropriation, seconded by John. 7 in favor, 2 against (Kyla & Nikhil), 1 abstained (Benjamin W).

- BriAnne: Clarification-- Council chairs would not get $200 additional stipend this fall if appropriation not approved. In Spring would need to have discussion to make it up.

Motion to close new business by Nikhil, seconded by Kyla, 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion to table discussion items until Dec 7 and adjourn meeting by Aaron, seconded by Dre. 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

VIII. Discussion
   a. Transparency and Public Notice Requirements (TPNR)
   b. Tuition differential
   c. Capital Outlay projects

IX. Council Announcements
   Public Comment – comments not related to items on the agenda (limit 3 mins per speaker)

X. Upcoming Meeting
   a. Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10:00 AM in SUB Lobo A & B

XI. Adjournment
   Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.