

The Graduate & Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico
September 28, 2019 – Regular Meeting
10:00 AM – Student Union Building (SUB), Acoma A & B
Graduate Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

- I. Call to Order – meeting called to order at 10:14 am
 - a. Suspend part of standing rules requiring council representatives to turn in credentialing forms by Wednesday before meeting.
Motion to suspend by Benjamin, seconded by Austin. Gregor and Drea abstain.
No nays. Approved by majority.
 - b. Confirmation of Quorum
Quorum confirmed, 16 council representatives present:
Benjamin Morrison - Physics & Astronomy
Austin Daniel - Physics & Astronomy
Emily Alden - Biomedical Sciences
Russell Hunter - Biomedical Sciences
Nikhil Reddy - Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kyla Charlee - Electrical & Computer Engineering
John Reinert – Education
Andrea Abeita - Education
Leroy Saiz - Education
Alex Henkel - Education
Gregor Hamilton – Biology
Ben Ahern Wild - Public Administration
David Puthoff – English
Janet Coen - History
Gwen Peel - Spanish / Portuguese
Crys LaCroix - Communication & Journalism
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
Motion to adopt agenda as is by Emily, seconded by Kyla. Motion approved unanimously.
- II. Approval of Minutes: August 31, 2019 regular meeting
Motion to approve minutes by Austin, seconded by Emily. Benjamin abstained.
Approved by majority. No nays.
 - a. Media & Gallery- comments related to agenda items (limit 3 mins per speaker)
 - Ryan Lindquist – GPSA Advisor. Commends Council for good attendance by Councilors, LSC and Finance Committee for their work.
 - GPSA President – thanks guest speakers for service to students.

III. Guest Speakers

- a. Dean Torrez- Campus Safety Council
- UNM Dean of Students – Co-chair of safety council. Currently talking to staff, faculty, students about biggest safety concerns on campus, what to do to address to report to UNM president by early Oct on safety concerns
 - Dean Torrez Office hours Tuesdays 2-4pm – can bring concerns from constituents
 - CSC includes UNM PD, emergency preparedness, Director of security of UNM Hospital, HSC, UNM President’s office, ASUNM & GPSA presidents
 - Subgroups in CSC working on issues: Sexual misconduct & assault, security & safety task forces, behavioral threat assessment team, training & prevention, policies & procedures, communication & marketing
 - Issues that have been brought up: homeless population and non-students/staff on campus, lighting/night time safety, improvements to night time escort service
 - Safe educational environment: key card access to libraries/buildings, limit building access hours to public, fencing around campus

Questions:

- Emily: Suggests key card access to Chemistry building. Homeless people sleeping in building.
- Benjamin: ensure access after hours for grad students. Thefts on campus.
Dean Torrez: Bike locks available.
- Drea: accessibility on campus – make sure students aren’t profiled. Campus resources should be accessible to community.
[David motions to extend time for questions, seconded by Austin] No vote was taken
Dean Torrez: ensure student voices heard
- Crys: How will security be enforced? Will University PD be tasked with increased enforcement?
DT: increased presence of UPD and also other security

b. Adam Biederwolf & Madelyn Lucas-ASUNM

President & VP of undergraduate student government.

- Adam: President’s roles: oversee events for undergraduate population, sit on various campus committees
- Madelyn: VP roles: head of student Senate, finance & legislative bodies, outreach & appointments to ASUNM
- ASUNM updates:
 - o Monthly initiatives: Sept – highlighted athletic department. Oct – Hispanic heritage month, student health & wellness in collaboration with SHAC
 - o Thanks GPSA president for help with ASUNM appropriations
 - o Capitol outlay ideas: renovation of campus bus stops to increase lighting
 - o Finance committee budget hearings in process
 - o Steering & rules committee – changes to constitution to improve process for filling in senate vacancies
 - o Outreach & Appointments – events for student wellness around mid terms, event for student athletics (promote athletic games & events)

Questions:

- Drea: how to advocate for homeless students with initiative from state government to have free college education?

Adam: will take state initiative into account to promote inclusivity for all undergraduate students moving forward

IV. Officer Reports

a. President's Report

- Thanks guest speakers, especially Dean Torrez. Include broad student opinions in decision-making, not just President. Safety Council – working on getting input from constituents before making decisions
- GPSA grant cycle closed yesterday.
- Thanks GPSA finance committee and LSC for their work on making changes to GPSA. Victoria Martinez has joined GPSA staff.
- President Stokes' Office hours were held in GPSA office
- Upcoming collaborations with campus resource centers. Hispanic heritage month celebrations with El Centro de la Raza

Questions:

Benjamin: Suggestions to enhance ASUNM/GPSA collaborations, especially at departmental level?

Muhammad: organizing event to introduce GPSA/ASUNM members to each other, highlight importance of graduate students to undergraduates

b. Council Chair's Report

- Thanks Councilors for good turnout. Excuses BriAnne for help with Chair duties as she's away at conference.

V. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Steering Committee

- Nikhil: LSC Chair. No LSC last year – rebuilding LSC, starting with LSC standing rules. Currently working on bills prepared by finance committee.
- Requesting confirmation of new LSC member (Kyla)
- Maximum of 12 LSC members allowed – can currently add 6 more. Meetings held 1 week before each Council meeting on weekend /remotely to make scheduling easier
- Changes to Constitution: have to get approval from Board of Regents. Aim for Dec 10 Board of regents meeting to bring changes for approval

b. Finance Committee

Ben Wild: Vice chair of committee. Meeting notes from Finance committee meeting on GPSA website.

- Made changes to standing rules – Changes to appropriations for funding events - Items over \$200 require quote at time of request
- 5 current appropriations requests that Finance committee recommends to approve
- Next meeting: Oct 18

Motion for 5 minute break by Alex, seconded by Kyla. Approved by majority, Ben and Austin abstained. No nays.

Meeting called back to order at 11:16 am

Questions:

- Nikhil asks what was discussed outside during break:

Drea had asked whether amount we have to spend has been confirmed as correct, because in previous years GPSA ran out of money. Confirmed as correct amount (\$78,269 for academic year). Money comes from SGAO, changes based on grad student enrollment (comes from student fees).

Benjamin motions to extend time for questions to Finance committee, seconded by Drea. Approved by majority. Kyla voted nay. David and John abstain.

Ben - standing rules exist to protect funds for dispersing to student organizations

VI. Old Business

a. Council Meeting Food Budget

Janet makes motion to open voting on council food budget, Kyla seconded. Majority approved. No nays.

Options raised last meeting: change to stipend for council representatives, keep for food, put back into appropriations.

Suggestions:

- Ben, Nikhil, Drea suggest leaving for food and refreshments as opposed to stipend. Gregor feels conflict of interest to vote for own stipends.

- Drea asks about general funds for sub-committees – were defunded last year. Tried to get funds back but it was complicated by red tape

- Gwen and Kyla – fund coffee and water, but put rest back into appropriations because food was not eaten last year.

- Benjamin – buy less food? Restrictions from SUB catering make this difficult

- Nikhil – no refreshments

Drea motions to keep the current \$1000 for coffee and small breakfast for Council meetings but order less food to spend mindfully, seconded by Kyla. Passed by 2/3 majority. Gwen votes nay. David, Crys abstained.

Ben makes motion to close old business, Austin seconded. Majority approved. No nays.

VII. New Business

Kyla makes motion to open new business, Benjamin seconds. Majority approved.

a. Legislative Steering Committee Standing Rules

- Developing new standing rules because none existed. LSC standing rules based on Council standing rules.

- Drea suggests lowering quorum to ½ from 2/3 to be able to meet quorum.

Emily motioned to adopt LSC standing rules, Gregor seconded. Majority approved. John abstained. No nays.

b. Confirmation of Legislative Steering Committee Member—Kyla Charlee
Motion to confirm LSC member by Ben, seconded by Benjamin. Approved by majority.
Kyla abstained.

b. Finance Committee Standing Rules

Proposed changes to funding requirements:

- Will not fund any costs that have already been incurred
- Require quote for items over \$200 at time of submission

Discussion:

- Drea opposed to changes because would negatively affect student organizations because of lack of flexibility in event planning.
- Gregor recommends to make suggested changes because requires foresight and planning prior to event.
- Benjamin asks for clarification on what changes entail. Finance committee chair: stop retroactive requests, rather than requesting funding beforehand. This was not specified previously in standing rules.
- Finance committee – goal to treat student organizations fairly, allow opportunity for all students within organizations to travel, etc. Deal with some funding requests by providing alternative resources e.g. free printing.
- Gregor asks for clarification – funding still comes as reimbursement. Change is that must request beforehand, not retroactively.
- Kyla: opposed to changes because overregulation from Finance committee.
- Chair of finance committee: option to table changes to standing rules until next semester so student organizations can prepare.
- Benjamin and David ask to strike line item regarding retroactive funding from proposed standing rules.
- Alex: Finance committee standing rules line item changes were not made clear in posted document, councilors cannot make informed decision.

Accept standing rules as proposed by Finance committee by roll call vote:

Yea: Ben, Austin

Nay: Gwen, John, David, Drea, Janet, Alex, Crys, Leroy, Kyla, Benjamin

Abstained: Gregor, Nikhil, Emily

Drea makes motion to adopt former standing rules from end of last year, repost last year's standing rules and amendments clearly for Councilors to view online, have town hall meeting of student organizations, and to re-vote at next meeting. Seconded by Nikhil. No vote.

Discussion on motion: Ben says changes would allow Finance committee to keep track of money and fund student organizations in most equitable way.

Benjamin: because major changes are proposed, constituents and Councilors should have more time to look over changes.

Drea makes motion to adopt former standing rules from last year, seconded by Nikhil.
Votes: 8 yea
Nay: Ben, Austin, David, Gregor
Gwen, Kyla abstained. Motion does not pass.

Kyla motions to adopt standing rules from last year with only proposed amendments to Section V, items 1-9. Seconded by Benjamin. Yea: Nikhil, Austin, Benjamin, John, Drea, Kyla, Gwen, David, Janet, Leroy, Crys. Ben, Gregor. Alex abstained. Motion passed by majority.

Motion to close standing rules Drea, seconded by Benjamin. Majority approves.

Kyla motion for 3 min break at 12:31 pm, David seconds. Nays: Crys, Benjamin, Austin.
Majority approves.
Meeting called back to order at 12:37.

c. Appropriations

Motion to open appropriations by Austin, seconded by David. Majority approves. No nays.

- i. F1- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
Request for travel, conference registration, and food/refreshments for students.
Benjamin motions to approve, David seconded. Majority approves. Passed unanimously.
- ii. F2- UNM School of Law ACLU
Flyers and food for event with School of Medicine
Benjamin motions to approve as recommended, seconded by Austin.
Approved by majority. Passed unanimously.
- iii. F3- Cardiology Interest Group
New student organization, applied for funds for kickoff event food.
Motion to approve by Kyla, Benjamin seconded. Approved by majority.
Passed unanimously.
- iv. F4- Word Affairs Delegation
Conference travel costs and per diem request for students. \$75/day/person requested. \$500 total recommended by finance committee.
Motion by Benjamin to amend amount to \$525 for per diem total in accordance with approved standing rules. Seconded by Drea. Majority approves. Amended unanimously.

Motion by Benjamin to approve, seconded by Austin. Majority approves, passed unanimously.

v. F5- Communication and Journalism Graduate and Professional Administration
Motion by Alex to suspend Robert's rules to allow representative to speak, seconded by Drea. Majority approves. Kyla, Drea abstains.

Christina, President of CommGrads – grow student participation in student organization. Received small amount of PB funds because small department, requesting more from appropriations. Requesting funds for travel to annual meeting, guest speakers, office supplies for TAs, food and refreshments for year-end departmental party with presentation of student awards.

Questions:

CommGrads requesting funding simultaneously for multiple events. Suggestion to submit second appropriations request for party.

Motion to return to Robert's rules by Ben, Kyla seconds. Majority approves.

Motion to amend request by removing funding for second event (party) by Ben, second by Benjamin. Passed unanimously.

Motion to increase per diem to \$525 by Benjamin, seconded by Drea. Majority approved, passed unanimously.

Motion to move food & refreshment funds from party to computer supplies by Kyla. Seconded by Crys. Majority approves, passed unanimously.

Motion to approve appropriations request by Drea, seconded by David. Majority approved, Drea abstains.

Motion to close appropriations by Benjamin, seconded by Nikhil. Majority approved. No nays.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. Bill #190101

Change from two to one months for process to amend bylaws by not having requirement to have proposed bills as Discussion Items month before.

b. Bill #190102

LSC meet 5 days, not 9 days prior to Council meeting.

c. Bill #190103

President and Council Chair should not sit on other committees.

d. Bill #190104

Increase quorum of RDSAs at Council meetings from 6 to 9.

- Benjamin – last year had to cancel council meetings because not enough representation, recommends to keep quorum at 6.

- David – propose new bill through LSC to appoint GPSA member (whip) to go to departments to encourage sending representatives for meetings.

- Nikhil – incentive to increase RDSAs by not allowing to departments that don't have representatives present to ask for appropriations.

d. Bill #190105

Grants Committee members would receive stipends (\$50-150). Previously, committee members have not received any stipends.

e. Bill #190106

- Grants Committee – Changes to grant applicant eligibility
- f. Bill #190107
 - Grants Committee – Changes to grant reader eligibility and compensation
- h. Bill #190108
 - Grants Committee – Changes to grant application requirements

IX. Council Announcements

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

X. Upcoming Meeting

- a. Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 10:00 AM in SUB Lobo A & B

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Benjamin, seconded by David, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.