

2020 - 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT: GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION GPSA



UNM

**GPSA**

Graduate & Professional Student Association

**PRESIDENT:**

**NIKHILESWARA "NIKHIL"  
REDDY NAGURU**

Facebook: UNM GPSA  
Instagram: UNMGPSA  
Website: GPSA.UNM.EDU



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO.

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## GPSA INITIATIVES 2020-2021: HOW WE HELP

- Work with UNM on implementing free educational resources to reduce financial burden for students
- Bridge the gap between Main and North campus by collaborating with the Health Science Student Council and the Student Bar Association
- Update the GPSA bylaws and Constitution to reflect current times with a focus on the Grants and Elections code
- Introduce the new GPSA website by the end of Fall 2020
- Increase GPSA's voice on the Student Fee Review Board by making changes to membership
- To become more involved with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students

## OUR MISSION

The Graduate and Professional Student Association has been the recognized student government for graduates and professionals at the University of New Mexico since 1969. We strive to identify, promote, and support the interests and concerns that are important to the welfare and academic development of graduate and professional students at UNM. It is our mission to promote the rights, interests, and professional development of graduate and professional students within the university community, through advocacy, education, and financial support.

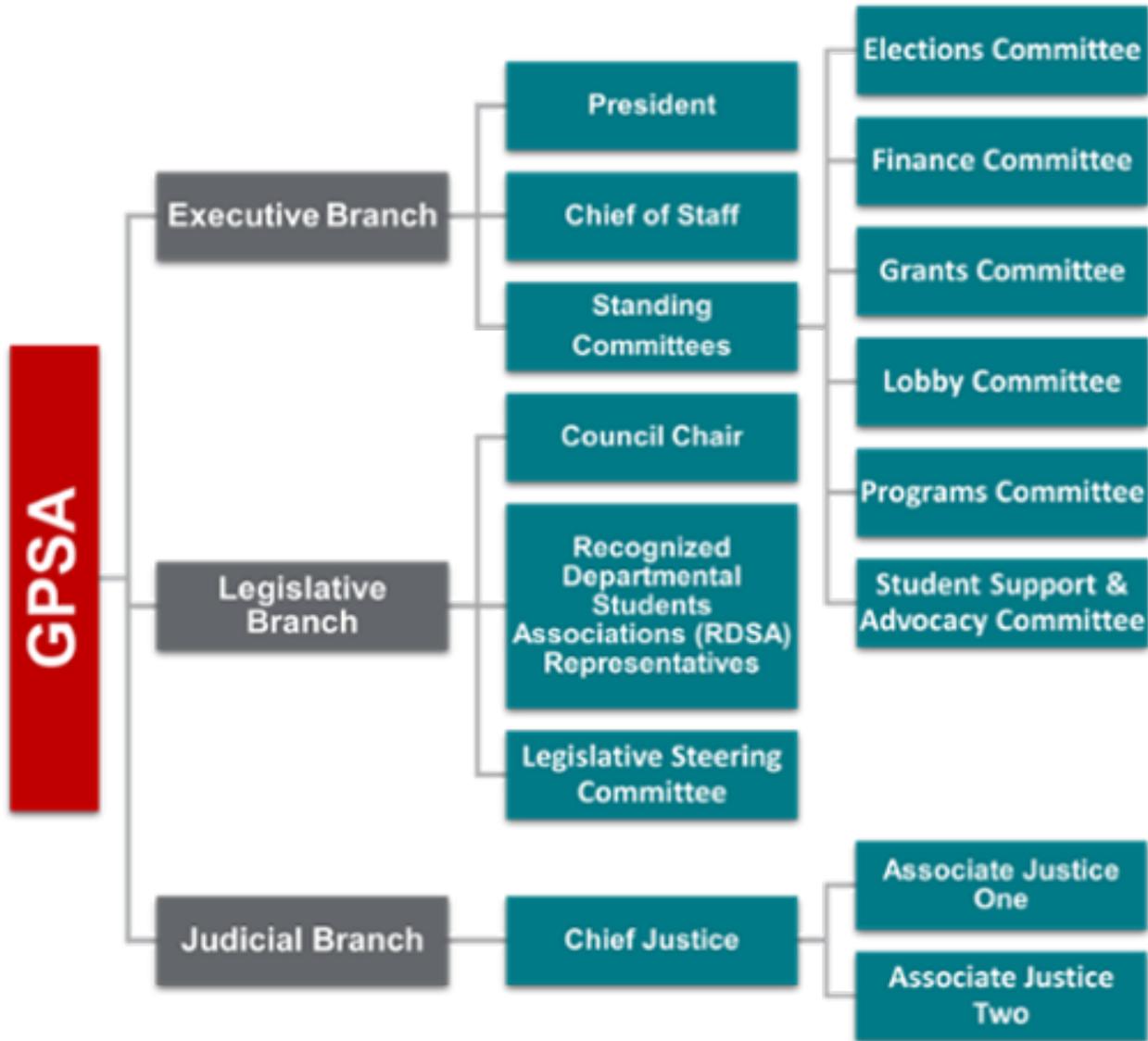
## INVOLVEMENT

Some of the ways the GPSA stays involved on campus, in state and national politics include:

1. Offering numerous [grant funding opportunities](#) to graduate and professional students for research, travel, and presentation of their work at conferences.
2. Offering funding to student organizations through appropriations.
3. Representing graduate and professional students on numerous University and Faculty Senate committees and before the Board of Regents.
4. Representing the interests of graduate and professional students on the [Student Fee Review Board](#) (SFRB).
5. Providing students with the opportunity to represent their departments on the [GPSA Council](#).
6. Sending GPSA representatives to the New Mexico State Legislature to lobby for graduate and professional students' interests via Capital Outlay Projects.
7. Networking with the [National Association of Graduate and Professional Students](#) (NAGPS) and the NAGPS Western Region.
8. Providing a computer lab located in our office, SUB 1021.

## ORGANIZATION

GPSA is organized into 3 branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Together, these branches oversee the day-to-day operations of GPSA.



## **I. EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

- a. President – Nikhileswara “Nikhil” Reddy Naguru
- b. Chief of Staff – Urusha Thapa (Fall 2020)  
David C. Saavedra (Spring 2021)
- c. Elections Chair – Mandela Bright Quashie “MbQ”
- d. Finance Chair – Benjamin Parmoon
- e. Finance Vice-Chair – Katie Rodarte
- f. Grants Chair – Anu Khadka
- g. Lobby Chair – Charles L. Scott
- h. Media & Communications Chair – Hyorim Kim
- i. Programs Chair – Jazmin Moreno
- j. Student Support & Advocacy Chair – Bibek Acharya

## **II. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

- a. Chief Justice – Jessica Martinez
- b. Associate Justice – McKenna Mains
- c. Associate Justice – Aaron Moore

## **III. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

- a. Council Chair – Bountouraby “Raby” Sylla
- b. Legislative Steering Committee Chair (LSC) – Aaron Cowan

## **IV. OFFICE STAFF**

- a. Office Manager – Victoria Martinez

## OUR TEAM



**PRESIDENT – Nikhileswara "Nikhil" Reddy Naguru**  
**[gpsapres@unm.edu](mailto:gpsapres@unm.edu)**

Nikhil is currently doing his Masters in Electrical Engineering specializing in 'Smart Power' along with his MBA from Anderson School of Management. He started his life at GPSA as a volunteer and most recently served the Spring 2020 semester as GPSA Council Chair. He has also held positions on Council, Legislative Steering Committee and Grants Committee. He loves food and during free time, he likes to hike to burn his calories.



**COUNCIL CHAIR – Bountouraby "Raby" Sylla**  
**[gpsacouncil@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacouncil@unm.edu)**

Bountouraby "Raby" Sylla is the GPSA Council Chair originally from Guinea, Conakry but now resides in Albuquerque by a way of life. She obtained her dual bachelor's degree in Finance and International Management with a Minor in French from the University of New Mexico, Anderson School of Management. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Accounting at the University of New Mexico Anderson School of Management with a concentration in Non-profit. Raby served GPSA last year as the Finance Chair and a Council member.



**CHIEF OF STAFF – David C. Saavedra**  
**[gpsacos@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacos@unm.edu)**

David C. Saavedra (He/Him/His) is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Grants. He holds a B.A. in Public Communications with a minor in Business Administration from UNM. David is a first-year graduate student working toward obtaining a Master of Public Administration degree from the School of Public Administration. David's interest in public sector leadership was sparked by the desire to make a difference and make an impact. In his free time, David enjoys playing tennis, long distance running, and traveling; it is always a plus when all three are combined! His favorite place that he has traveled to is Amsterdam, Netherlands.

## CHIEF JUSTICE – Jessica Martinez

[gpsacor@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacor@unm.edu)



Jessica serves as the Chief Justice of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Court of Review. She is a third-year law student and a dual-degree candidate at the University of New Mexico School of Law and School of Public Administration. She is also pursuing an Indian Law Certificate. Before law school, Jessica worked as a legal secretary and was a community activist and leader. She has been a volunteer with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) for over fifteen years and was elected to leadership positions locally and nationally.

Jessica is an enrolled member of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. The Chihene are descendants of Apache people throughout Southern and Central New Mexico. The Chihene Nde Nation's mission is to preserve their language, culture, and traditions, including protecting historic and sacred sites. Jessica is currently the tribal parliamentarian for the Tribal Council. She is connected to the land and has a deep love for New Mexico. Jessica's educational aspirations are motivated and energized by her desire to serve her community through public interest law.

## ASSOCIATE JUSTICE – McKenna Mains

[gpsacor@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacor@unm.edu)



McKenna graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she is originally from. She came to New Mexico for Law School in 2018 and is currently completing her final year there online. She was an avid debater in high school and during her undergraduate, and the skills she accumulated during debate have helped her graduate career immensely, as well as her ability to be an associate justice for the Court of Review. McKenna comes from a big family and was taught to serve her community from an early age. She views this position as an opportunity to serve the University of New Mexico graduate community and help them find fair and equitable solutions to their disputes.

## ASSOCIATE JUSTICE – Aaron Moore

[gpsacor@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacor@unm.edu)



Aaron Moore is a Master's student in the Community and Regional Planning Department concentrating in Community Development. He received his BA from UNM in 2015 where he majored in Philosophy and minored in Ancient Greek Language (Attic). A lifelong New Mexico resident, Aaron is Co-facilitator of the Executive Leadership Committee for the American Planning Association's UNM based student group, APA UNM and the Co-chair of the Solidarity Committee for the United Graduate Workers of UNM—the student worker organized and run Labor Union. Aaron helps manage social media for the Community and Regional Planning Department in addition to working as a TA for undergraduate planning courses. Outside of the University, Aaron works for the Albuquerque Affordable Housing Coalition on administrative support and policy advocacy.



**ELECTIONS CHAIR – Mandela Bright Quashie “MbQ”**  
**[votegpsa@unm.edu](mailto:votegpsa@unm.edu)**

Mandela Bright Quashie “MbQ” is the Elections Committee Chair for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. He is a PhD student in applied mathematics. His main objective is to help conduct free and credible elections and to help transfer of mandate from one team to another to enhance continuity of GPSA. MbQ loves motivating people, computer programming, debate, cooking, writing, language, playing board games and traveling around the world. His motto is to make the world a better place than when he met it.



**FINANCE CHAIR – Benjamin Parmoon**  
**[gpsafin@unm.edu](mailto:gpsafin@unm.edu)**

Benjamin is the GPSA Finance Chair. He is currently working on his Masters of Science in Information Systems and Assurance with a concentration in big data. Benjamin has also been a member UNM’s track and field team for four years.



**FINANCE VICE-CHAIR – Katie Rodarte**  
**[gpsafin@unm.edu](mailto:gpsafin@unm.edu)**

Katie is currently pursuing an MBA in Management of Technology and an MS in Global and National Security. Outside of GPSA, Katie spends her time horseback riding, running, biking, swimming, hiking, camping, snowboarding and traveling. Katie classifies herself as an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys being able to explore new adventures.



**GRANTS CHAIR – Anu Khadka**

**[gpsafunding@unm.edu](mailto:gpsafunding@unm.edu)**

Anu Khadka is currently pursuing her dual degree in graduate studies of Accounting and Information System and Assurance with a concentration in Cyber Security from Anderson School of Management. She is very involved on campus as she is associated with different school organizations i.e., ALPFA, ISMART and ASM Graduate Ambassadors. In her free time, she loves exploring new adventures, hiking up Sandia Mountains and cooking creatively with her friends.



**LEGISLATIVE STEERING CHAIR – Aaron Cowan**

**[gpsalsc@unm.edu](mailto:gpsalsc@unm.edu)**

Aaron is a 3rd-year doctoral student in Learning Sciences, having earned master's degrees in Learning Sciences and an MPA from the School of Public Administration. He is the President of the OILS Student Alliance and is currently serving as the GPSA LSC chair as well as a council representative. Previously, he was the GPSA Election Chair, an officer in PAGSA, a UNM Staff Councilor, and a Faculty Senator. He was also a journalist for the Daily Lobo and a Lobo League referee. In his spare time, he enjoys writing, traveling, and learning languages like Esperanto and Spanish.



**LOBBY CHAIR – Charles L. Scott**

**[gpsalobb@unm.edu](mailto:gpsalobb@unm.edu)**

Charles L. Scott is the Graduate and Professional Student Association's Lobby Chair. His objective is to facilitate the success and growth of graduate students through the research, development, and implementation of the legislative agenda throughout the university. He currently holds an MBA from Franklin Pierce University and is pursuing a Master of Architecture with University of New Mexico SA+P. His core philosophy is pragmatism. In his free time, Charles enjoys exploring architectural design, playing folk music on his acoustic guitar, exercising strategic positioning on the chessboard, fiction writing, and abstract painting.



**MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR – Hyorim Kim**  
**[gpsamedia@unm.edu](mailto:gpsamedia@unm.edu)**

Hyorim Kim is the GPSA Media and Communications Chair originally from South Korea. She earned a bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music concentrating in Flute Performance as a Woodwind Quintet Graduate Assistant. She loves spending time for cooking, hiking, and playing board games.



**PROGRAMS CHAIR – Jazmin Moreno**  
**[gpsaprograms@unm.edu](mailto:gpsaprograms@unm.edu)**

Jazmin Moreno is GPSA's Programs Committee Chair and is determined to highlight the culture of UNM's Graduate students through her experience in organizing workshops, events, and social opportunities as a community organizer in Southeast Los Angeles and previous student council board positions as President and Event Coordinator at Cal Poly Pomona. Throughout the years, she has learned to truly advocate for her local community and utilize the necessary tools to advocate for diverse student bodies. Jazmin is new to Albuquerque and is pursuing a Graduate Dual Degree in Community Development & Public Administration, with hopes to continue specializing in creating opportunities of environmental justice, social equity, and overall safer futures for Black and Brown folks who are overdue for a better quality of life.



**STUDENT SUPPORT & ADVOCACY CHAIR – Bibek Acharya**  
**[gpsasupport@unm.edu](mailto:gpsasupport@unm.edu)**

Bibek Acharya is a graduate student in Political Science with a concentration in international relations and methods. Outside of GPSA, Bibek works as a Research Assistant at Cradle to Career Policy Institute (CCPI). He is engaged in conducting education policy and program evaluation that supports policymaking for children and families. In his spare time, he loves traveling and connecting with people.



**OFFICE MANAGER – Victoria Martinez**  
**[gpsaoff@unm.edu](mailto:gpsaoff@unm.edu)**

Victoria Martinez is the Office Manager for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Her objective is to facilitate the success and growth of graduate students and graduate student organizations at UNM. She graduated from UNM with her bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies and a minor in English, concentrating in Creative Writing – Fiction. Victoria finds herself always interested in learning new languages, writing and folklore. She loves to spend her free time by traveling, playing with her pets, or playing board games.

## ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

### Committee Members:

Mandela Bright Quashie, Chair  
Olaitan Anifowoshe, member  
Nirmala Srinivasamurthy, member

### Elections

Two elections were held. The GPSA Presidential Elections and the GPSA Council Chair Elections.

The itinerary for the Elections was as follows:

#### Itinerary for General elections for Spring 2021

Item	Date
Call for Application (1st Notice)	February,11, 20221
Application Due	March,1,2021
Meeting with Candidates	March,2,2021
Notice of Elections (2nd Notice)	March, 4,2021
Notice of Elections (3rd Notice)	March,22,2021
Notice of Forum	March,9,2021
Information Session about Positions	March,17,2021 (12:00 PM)
Forum	March,23,2021
Deadline for Candidates to Withdraw from Elections before 5pm.	March,24,2021
Elections	March,29,2021-April,2,2021
Results of Elections	April,5,2021

Three Candidates filed to contest for the President and also three candidates expressed interest in contesting for the Council Chair. However, one candidate withdrew from the Presidential Race. This year's elections had an unusual setting we had a candidate who contested both for the Presidential and Council Chair Elections.

Here are the final Candidates for the Spring 2021 Elections:

## GPSA Presidential Candidates:



### David C. Saavedra

David, born and raised in NM just like many other Lobos, is currently working toward obtaining a Master of Public Administration degree.

David is running for GPSA President because he is dedicated to giving back to the community and looks forward to a fulfilling career in public service. He believes that the office belongs to all graduate and professional students; their perspectives are UNM's most valuable asset. He commits to supporting the graduate and professional student population by serving as a mode of communication between students and UNM administration with integrity.

David looks forward to serving you as GPSA President!



### Aaron Cowan

Aaron Cowan is a doctoral student in Learning Sciences. He has master's degrees in Public Administration and OILS, as well as undergraduate degrees all from UNM. He is running for President after years of service in multiple GPSA committee chair positions. Aaron is committed to getting maximum benefits for UNM students. He believes GPSA members must be paid fairly for their hard work. He teaches citizenship at Catholic Charities, and fights for opportunity for all students, including the undocumented, while holding UNM administration accountable. He is a TA and RA and strongly supports unionization.

## GPSA Council Chair Candidates:



### **Benjamin Gerstner**

Ben has served in various roles within the GPSA; Grants Committee Member (2017), Fill-in RDSA Representative (Spring 2020), RDSA Representative (Fall 2020 – Current), LSC Vice-Chair (Spring 2021). Given this experience and natural tenacity to understanding processes, he seeks to continue to lead the Council towards increased efficiency, transparency and RDSA participation.

He firmly believes communication is key to resolution and maintains a deep respect for viewpoints outside of his own. In this position he will work to create an official joint-research and analytics team with the executive branch, tasked with providing data-backed reports for the legislation brought forth to Council.



### **Alyssa Espinoza**

As a medical student at UNM's School of Medicine, Alyssa wants to foster an environment that helps graduate students succeed by improving issues that impact them most. Improving GPSA's communication and collaboration across campuses (as stated in their mission) is a top priority of hers. Having graduated from New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, she knows the importance of educational and professional advancement and believes in championing diversity initiatives and inclusiveness policies that reflect our community and improve campus culture. When not studying Alyssa enjoys trying out new recipes from her Indian cookbook, picnics with her dog and swimming.



### **Aaron Cowan**

Aaron Cowan is a doctoral student in Learning Sciences. He has master's degrees in Public Administration and OILS, as well as undergraduate degrees all from UNM. He is running for Council Chair after years of service in multiple GPSA committee chair positions. Aaron is committed to getting maximum benefits for UNM students. He believes GPSA members must be paid fairly for their hard work. He teaches citizenship at Catholic Charities, and fights for opportunity for all students, including the undocumented, while holding UNM administration accountable. He is a TA and RA and strongly supports unionization.

The elections schedule went as planned in general, the only one that did not go as planned is the forum for the president. It was postponed to make up for preparations and notices.

There were two Constitutional amendments also to be voted on. The two amendments were as follows:

**Constitutional Amendment #1:**

This amendment allows GPSA Council to move the GPSA Council Chair Election to a month of their choosing rather than mandating it must occur at the April meeting.

**Constitutional Amendment #2**

This amendment allows GPSA to place constitutional amendments on any GPSA election ballot rather than mandating amendments may only be placed on the General Election ballot in April.

**Results of Elections**

**Constitutional Amendment #1**

In favor	Opposed	Abstain
167	50	35

**Constitutional Amendment #2**

In favor	Opposed	Abstain
193	35	24

Thus, per the results the two amendments are approved by the GPSA members.

**Elections Results Challenge**

The GPSA Presidential Elections was challenged by Mr. Aaron Cowan within the time frame stipulated by the constitution. The Court of Review heard the case on April 16,2021.

A summary of their Judgment was given on April 19, 2021. The held that the Elections was valid. This helped the Council members who wanted to know the outcome of the Court decision to inform their decision for the Council Chair Elections.

On April,26,2021 The Court of Review sent out the detailed summary of their Judgment which can be found on the GPSA website.

**GPSA Council Chair Elections**

The GPSA Council Elections were held on April 20, 2021 and it ended on Wednesday April 21, 2021.

The Certified Results are as follows:

**Certification of the Spring 2021  
GPSA Council Chair Election**

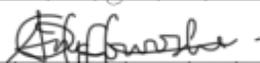
The Spring 2021 GPSA Council Chair Election was held via IT Opinio Electronic Ballot between 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through 11:59 pm on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.  
A total of 13 students voted.

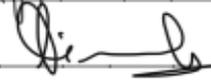
**Presidential Election**

Name	Votes
Benjamin Gerstner	6
Aaron Cowan	7 - <b><u>ELECTED</u></b>
Write In	None

**This Election had 16 invitations, but 13 votes. There were 0 “not answered” ballots.**

Mandela Bright Quashie, GPSA Elections Chair  **04/28/2021**

Olaitan Anifowoshe, GPSA Elections Committee  - 04/28/2021

Nirmala Srinivasamurthy, GPSA Elections Committee  - 04/28/21

## Certification of the Spring 2021 GPSA Presidential Election

The Spring 2021 GPSA Presidential Election was held between 8:00 am on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> through 11:59 pm on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
A total of 254 students voted.

### Presidential Election

Name	Votes
David Saavedra	130 - <b><u>ELECTED</u></b>
Aaron Cowan	117
Write In	3 (Paul Hunhoff, Alex Henkel, Neither)

### Constitutional Amendment #1

This amendment allows GPSA Council to move the GPSA Council Chair Election to a month of their choosing rather than mandating it must occur at the April meeting.

In Favor – 167 (76.9%) - **PASSES**

Opposed – 50 (23.1%)

Abstain - 35

### Constitutional Amendment #2

This amendment allows GPSA to place constitutional amendments on any GPSA election ballot rather than mandating amendments may only be placed on the General Election ballot in April.

In Favor – 193 (84.6%) - **PASSES**

Opposed – 35 (15.4%)

Abstain – 24

**This Election had 163 ineligible votes cast, but not counted, and 15 not answered ballots.**

Mandela Bright Quashie, GPSA Elections Chair

Olaitan Anifowoshe, GPSA Elections Committee

Nirmala Srinivasamurthy, GPSA Elections Committee

### **Budget**

The Election Committee did not request any funds for this year's elections. All the resources were available to the committee by dint of the hard work of the President and his able assistants, also primarily because everything was online since The University had moved to a virtual system.

### **Public Forum**

Just as it occurred last year, this year's forum students submitted their questions, and it was then tabled down and asked of the candidates. The forum was held via zoom and recorded; the recording was made available on YouTube for the entire student body to have access.

### **New System**

This year's elections, the UNM-IT added another layer of security to prevent unauthorized access to the system. One has to log into my.unm.edu first then also log into the ballot system. Just as every new system, very few students had issues with it but was dealt with so no one was barred from voting.

### **Recommendations**

1. There should be a looked at the Constitution to deal with the situation where one can contest two elections at the same time.
2. The Elections Committee should have access to the student list so that communication to the student body would be easy and avert any kind of complaints in the future.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Committee Members:**

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Benjamin Parmoon  | Chair           |
| 2. Katie Rodarte     | Vice-Chair      |
| 3. Md Atiqur Rahman  | Member at Large |
| 4. Ganiyu Azeez      | Member at Large |
| 5. Maimouna Bio Gado | Member at Large |
| 6. Tosin Olofinsao   | Member at Large |

### **Meeting Dates:**

- September 26, 2020
- October 31, 2020
- November 21, 2020
- December 5, 2020
- January 30, 2021
- February 19, 2021
- February 27, 2021

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- March 27, 2021
- April 17, 2021

### **Appropriations:**

- 7 submissions
- Total Disbursement Amount: \$4,375
- Approved Student Organizations Amounts:

<b>Student Organization</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>
Industry Pharmacist Organization	\$800	11/11/20
African Students Association	\$402	11/25/20
High Desert Linguistics Society	\$252	11/25/20
Student American Society of Landscape Architects	\$1135	11/25/20
Women in Computing	\$413	11/25/20
SPGSA	\$438	3/17/21
Society of Native American Graduate Students	\$935	4/17/21

### **GPSA Budget Summary**

- \$125,200 Allotted Amount
- \$103,398 Disbursed to Student Organizations
  - \$21,802 under budget
- 35 student organizations received funding for FY 21-22
- Approved Student Organization Amounts:

<b>Student Organization</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
ACCESS Medicine	\$503
African Student Association	\$624
American Medical Women's Association	\$734
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)	\$955
American Planning Association	\$448
Association of Native American Medical Students	\$151
Association of Women Surgeons	\$503
Bangladeshi Student Association	\$815
Biophysical Society	\$302
Cardiology Interest Group	\$332
Chinese Students & Scholars Association	\$704
Community Action for UNM Student Empowerment (CAUSE)	\$453
Crossroads	\$332
Diversity Organization	\$473
Economics Graduate Student Organization	\$498
GPSA Council	\$27,410
GPSA Court of Review	\$804
GPSA Elections Committee	\$905

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GPSA Executive Adhoc Committee	\$804
GPSA Executive Finance Committee	\$2,010
GPSA General Government	\$52,597
GPSA Lobby	\$1,508
GPSA Programs Committee	\$2,161
GPSA Student Support & Advocacy	\$1,206
Industry Pharmacist Organization	\$201
Information Security Management & Analytics Research Team (iSMART)	\$851
International Business Students Global	\$754
Iranian Student Association	\$302
Medical Interpretation SIG	\$483
Medieval Studies Student Association	\$568
No One Dies Alone	\$503
Pediatric Medicine Interest Group	\$503
Physical Medicine & Rehab Interest Group	\$503
Rural & Urban Underserved Student Interest Group	\$493
SAC Publications	\$1005

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- **Chair – Benjamin Parmoon**
  - **Duties:**
    - Monitored Finance Committee email mailbox and responded to inquiries
    - Created Zoom invitations, meeting agendas and meeting notices
    - Emailed the Finance Committee members about upcoming meetings
    - Conducted Finance Committee meetings
    - Created annual budget meeting schedule and emailed the student organizations
    - Submitted approved appropriations and AB forms to GPSA President
    - Spoke at monthly Council meetings when needed
    - Coordinated with SGAO representatives, Joanna Garcia, and Ryan Lindquist, for questions about policies, forms, funding, etc.
    - Collaborated with Vice-Chair to create the annual report
  
- **Vice-Chair – Katie Rodarte**
  - **Duties:**
    - Assist Chair to create Zoom invitations, meeting agendas and meeting notices
    - Co-conducted Finance Committee meetings with Chair
    - Took minutes during Finance Committee meetings, appropriations, and budget workshops
    - Posted notices, agendas, minutes, and budget hearing details on the GPSA website
    - Organized Finance Committee webpage through Cascade and helped migrate content to the new GPSA website

- Spoke at monthly Council meetings when needed
- Collaborated with Chair to create the annual report

# GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

**Grants Committee Chair:** Anu Khadka

**NMRG Chair:** Olaitan Antifowoshe

## Grants Committee Report – Summer 2020 Cycle

The Summer Grants Cycle 2020 was conducted between May 31<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Student Research Grant, Professional Development Grant and Graduate Scholarship Fund were offered during the Summer 2020 Grants cycle. A total of \$7350 was given out to students at the end of the Summer 2020 cycle.

This summer 2020 applications were accepted from the new grant website i.e.

<https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/>. Out of 143 accounts created by user, only 11 applicants applied for the funding on Summer 2020 cycle and 10 applicants were awarded. Only one applicant was disqualified as he did not meet the funding qualification criteria. The major issue that was faced during the Summer Grants Cycle was the lack of understanding of the website since the website had lot of complications that was supposed to be resolved before the applications go live.

The following report delves deep into the amount awarded for each grant/scholarship, appeals, and issues with the Grant webpage.

### **STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT**

A total of **3** Student Research Grant applications were received and all the applications were awarded. **2** applications were from the **Applied Sciences (APS)** perspectives and **1** application was from the **Humanities (HUM)** perspectives. A total \$1500 was given out for Student Research Grant.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

A total of **2** Professional Development Grant applications were received and all the applications were awarded. The **2** applications received were from the **Social Sciences (SOS)** Perspectives. A total \$850 was given out for Professional Development Grant.

### **GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A total of **6** Graduate Scholarship applications were received, of which **5** applications were awarded and **1** application was disqualified. **3** applications were from the **Applied Sciences (APS)** perspectives and remaining **2** application were from **Social Science (SOS)** perspectives. A total \$5,000 was given out for Graduate Scholarship Fund.

### Appeals

This summer 2020 cycle, I witnessed a smaller number of applicants. Only 11 applicants submitted the applications and out of 11 applications, 10 applications were awarded. So, we did not have any appeals in the Summer 2020 Grant Cycle.

### Issues with the Grants Webpage

One of the biggest challenges during the Summer Grants 2020 cycle was learning and understanding to work with the Grants webpage (unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com). The following is a list of issues that applicants, readers and the Grants Committee Chair faced during the Summer Grants 2019 cycle:

1. The grant website was a new website, and the scholarships went live in the new website without prior testing. The website had so many missed application questions for example: Perspectives of Applicants, Department of Applicants etc. for the applicants. Good thing was that the problem was an easy fix.
2. The other issue was with the requirements being asked in the grant website. For Professional Development Grant, we require the statement of Proposal of 750-word limit and the budget sheet. But in the grant website, applicants were required to submit a recommendation letter also which was not a requirement of professional Development Grant. Unfortunately, I was made aware about this problem a few hours before the deadline. This might have created confusions among the applicants.  
Also, for Graduate Scholarship fund, 500-word limit statement of proposal and a recommendation letter from UNM faculty was required. Unfortunately, the grant website required students to submit 500-word limit essay, 750-world limit statement of proposal and a recommendation letter. So, I emailed students to copy the materials they have for their essay and paste it to the Statement of Proposal box. As of now, I have removed that extra box that asks for 750-word limit Statement of Proposal.
3. I assume the previous grant website was an interactive i.e., applicants could read feedbacks provided by the grant reader. Unfortunately, the new grant website is unable to provide that opportunity of interaction. They won't be able to view the feedbacks in their dashboard. Once the applicants hit the "Submit" button, they can no longer access their applications and view the results.

### Goals of the Grants Committee

One of the primary challenges faced during the Summer Grants cycle lack of understanding of the Grants webpage. The problems encountered during Summer Grant Cycle was an easy fix and has already been fixed. However, we need to fix the feedback problem. Goal of the Grant Committee can be summarized as:

1. Conduct training workshops in departments that haven't had an applicant who hasn't been awarded a Grant or Scholarship.
2. Reach out to every departments at UNM regarding scholarships and grants information for the fall 2020 semester.
3. Co-ordinate and plan with the Media and Outreach Chair for the fliers for the Fall 2020 Grant Cycle.

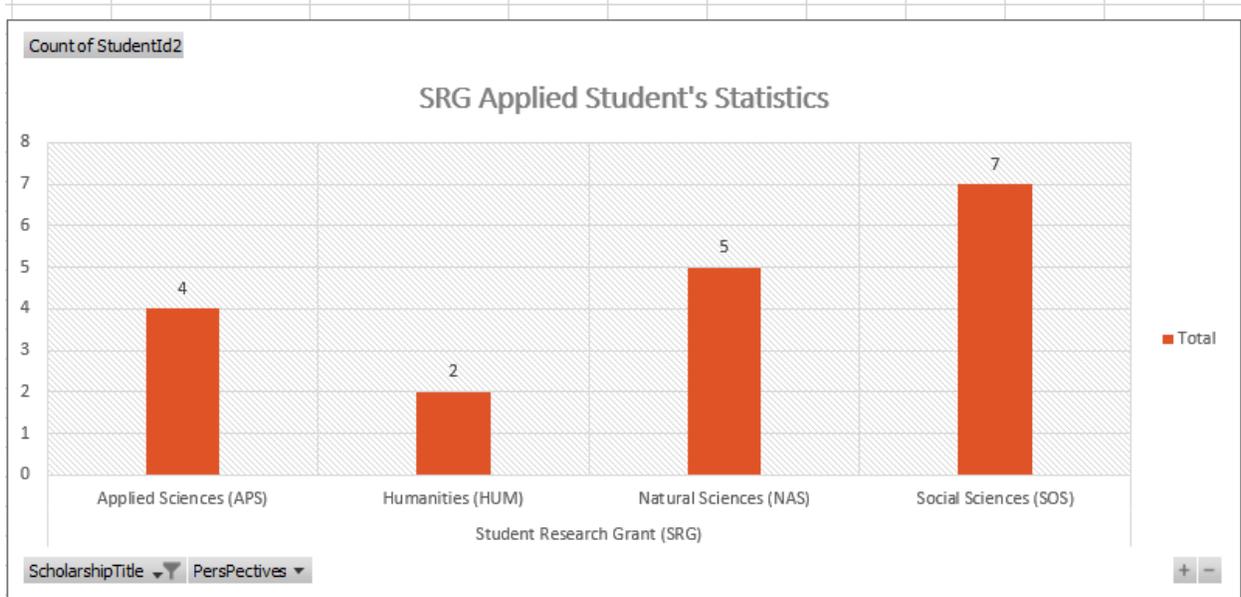
**Grants Committee Report – Fall 2020 Cycle**

The Fall Grants Cycle 2020 was conducted between 28<sup>th</sup> August – December 30<sup>th</sup> . The Student Research Grant, Professional Development Grant, Graduate Scholarship Fund and New Mexico Research Grant (High Priority and General Priority) were offered during the Fall 2020 Grants cycle. A total of \$77,309.17 was given out to students at the end of the Fall 2020 cycle including Grant Reader’s Stipends.

This Fall 2020 applications were accepted from the new grant website i.e., <https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/>. 62 applicants applied for the funding on Fall 2020 cycle and 58 applicants were awarded. Three applicants were disqualified as they did not meet the funding qualification criteria. No technological issue was faced during the Fall Grants Cycle. The following report delves deep into the amount awarded for each grant/scholarship, appeals, and issues with the Grant webpage.

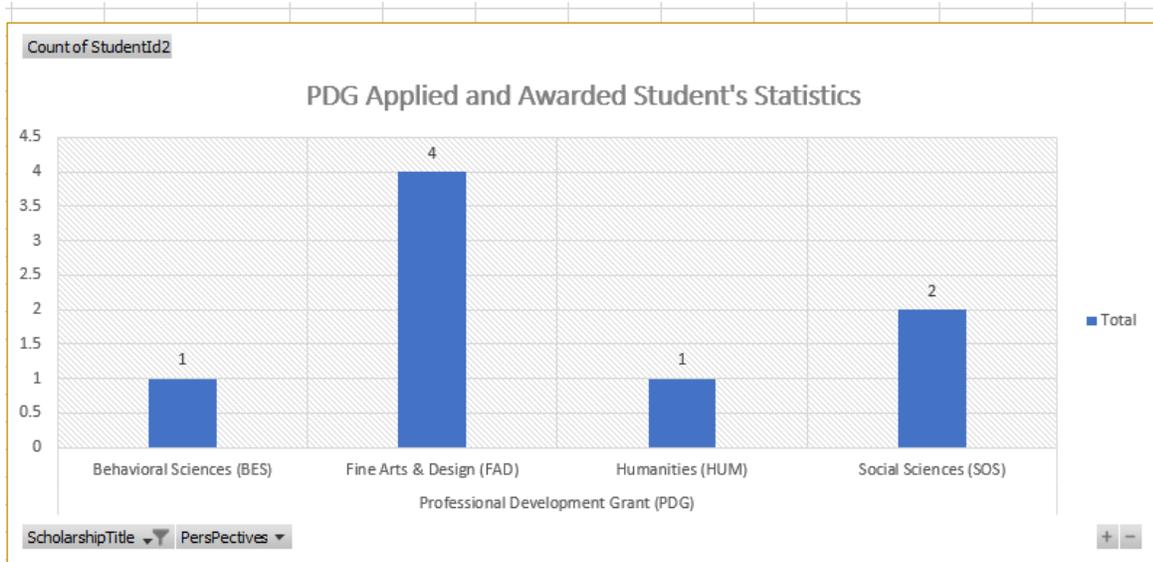
**STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT**

A total of **18** Student Research Grant applications were received and **17** applications were awarded. **1** application was disqualified because of incomplete applications. A total **\$8,110.21** was given out for Student Research Grant. Below is the statistical bar diagram:



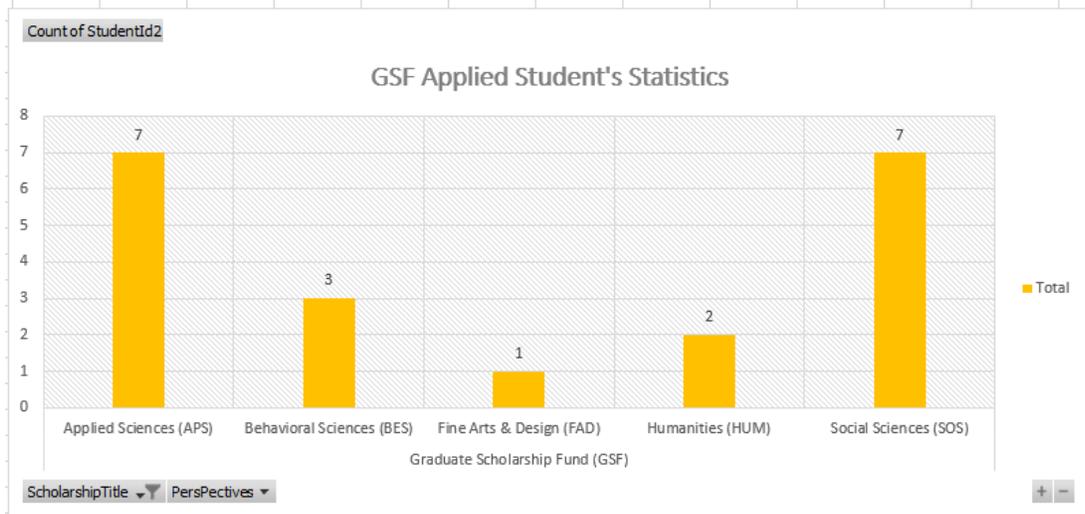
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

A total of **8** Professional Development Grant applications were received and all the applications were awarded. A total **\$3973.04** was given out for Professional Development Grant. Below is the statistical bar diagram:



**GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A total of **20** Graduate Scholarship applications were received, of which **18** applications were awarded and **1** application was disqualified where the other one never accepted the grants. A total **\$18,000** was given out for Graduate Scholarship Fund. Below is the statistical bar diagram:

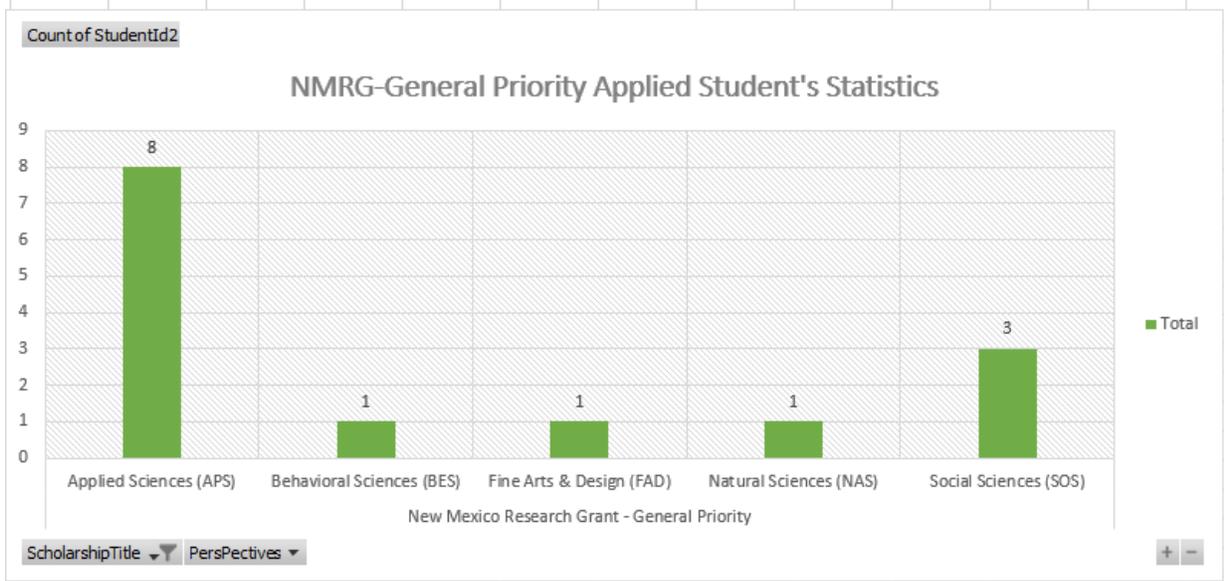


**New Mexico Research Grant (High Priority and General Priority)**

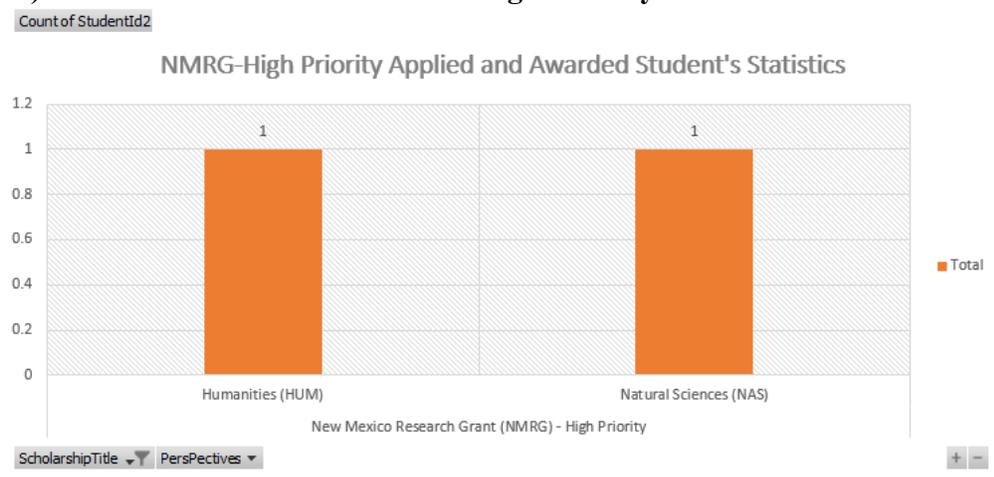
A total of **16** applications i.e., **2** applications for *New Mexico Research Grant – High Priority* and **14** applications for *NMRG-General Priority* were received. Out of **14** NMRG-General priority applications, only **13** applications were awarded, and **1** application was disqualified because of low score that was below the minimum score. **1** NMRG-General application was asked for further documentation before the fund was disbursed. All **2** applications for New Mexico Research Grant – High Priority were awarded.

Below are the statistics of each grants:

a) *New Mexico Research Grant – General Priority*:



**b) New Mexico Research Grant – High Priority:**



**Appeals**

This Fall 2020 cycle, I witnessed a smaller number of applicants. Only 62 applicants submitted the applications, out of which 58 applications were awarded, and 3 applications were disqualified. We had only one application that applied for appeal session. The appeal session was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> October via the zoom and the decision was made in favor of the applicant.

**Issues with The Grants Webpage**

The Fall 2020 grants process went smoothly as expected. No issues or challenges were faced during the grants cycle.

**Goals of the Grants Committee**

The goal of the Grant Committee can be summarized as:

1. Conduct training workshops in departments that have not had an applicant who hasn't been awarded a Grant or Scholarship.
2. Reach out to every departments at UNM regarding scholarships and grants information for the Spring 2021 semester.
3. Co-ordinate and plan with the Media and Outreach Chair for the fliers for the Spring 2021 Grant Cycle.
4. Work on the Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF) bills and New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG) bills for its approval

### Grants Committee Report – Spring 2021 Cycle

The Spring Grants Cycle 2021 was conducted between January 29<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup> . During this time, grants were accepted, scored and the awardees were awarded. The scholarship website went live between January 28<sup>th</sup> (midnight) and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Midnight. The Student Research Grant, Professional Development Grant and Graduate Scholarship Fund were offered during the Spring 2021 Grants cycle.

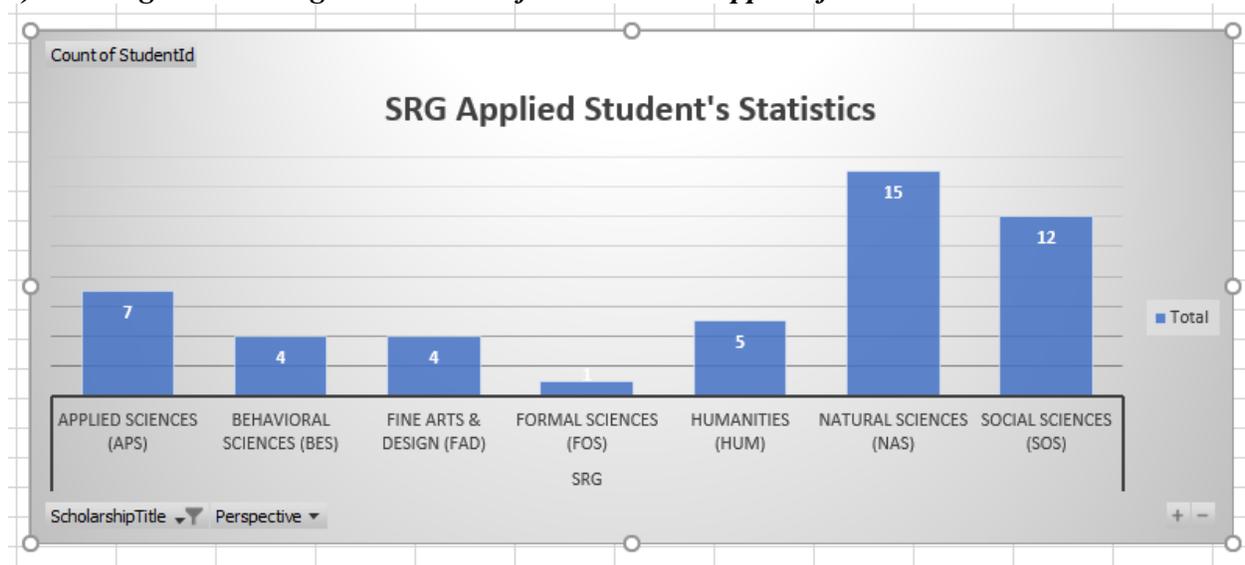
This Spring 2021 applications were accepted from the new grant website i.e., <https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/>. Out of 137 new accounts created by user, 96 students applied for the funding and 75 applicants were awarded. Only 1 applicant was disqualified because the applicant had applied the grant that he had been awarded in the previous semester i.e., Spring 2021. There were no appeals this semester.

The following report delves deep into the amount awarded for each grant/scholarship, appeals, and issues with the Grant webpage.

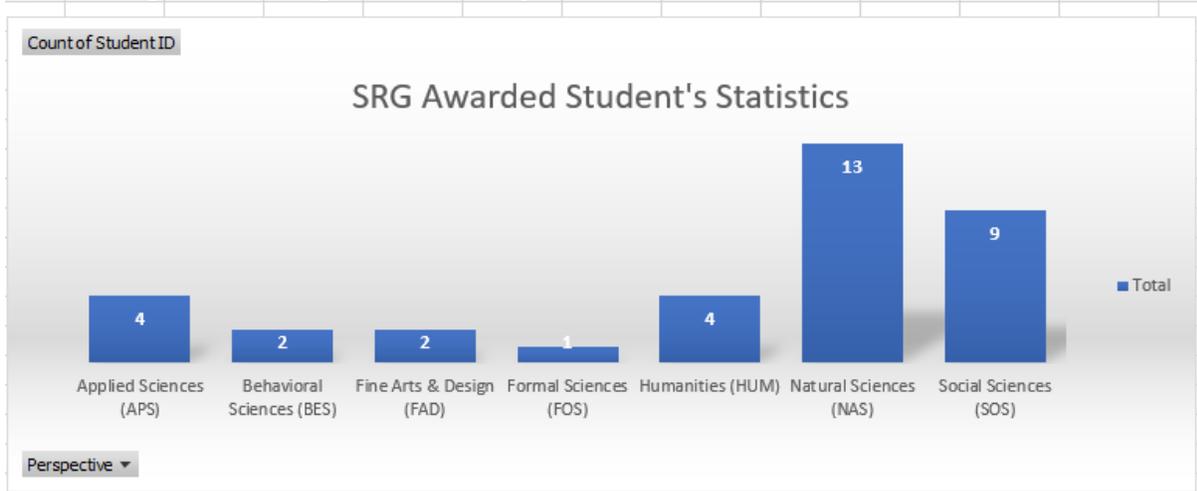
#### **STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT:**

Out of **96** applicants, **48** applicants applied for the SRG out of which **34** applicants were awarded. The total amounts disbursed on SRG category was **\$16,380**. Following bar diagram shows the statistics for the Student Research Grant (SRG).

#### **a) Bar diagram showing the statistics of students who applied for SRG**



b) Bar diagram showing the statistics of students who were awarded SRG

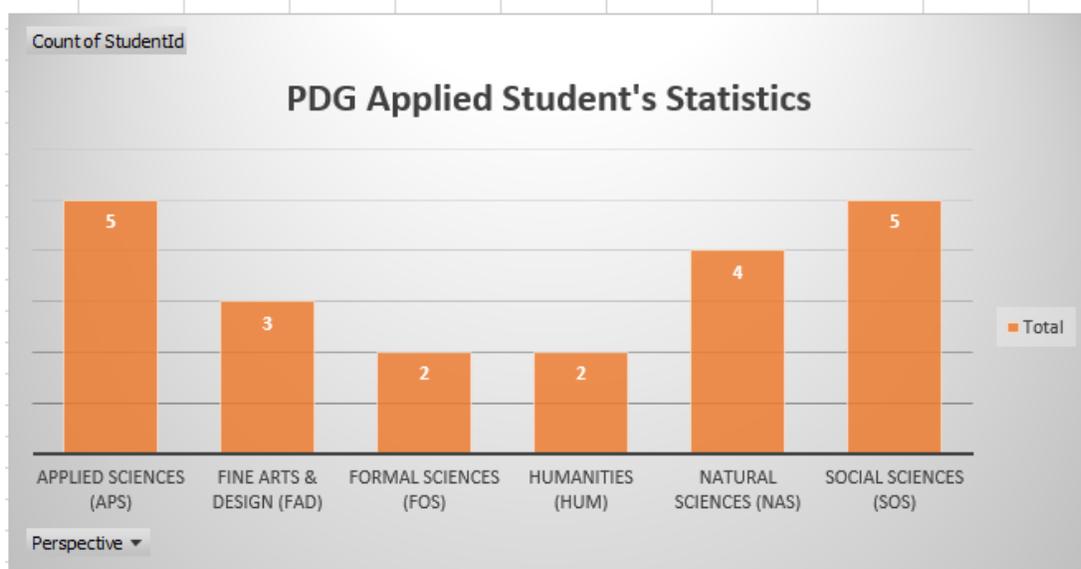


**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

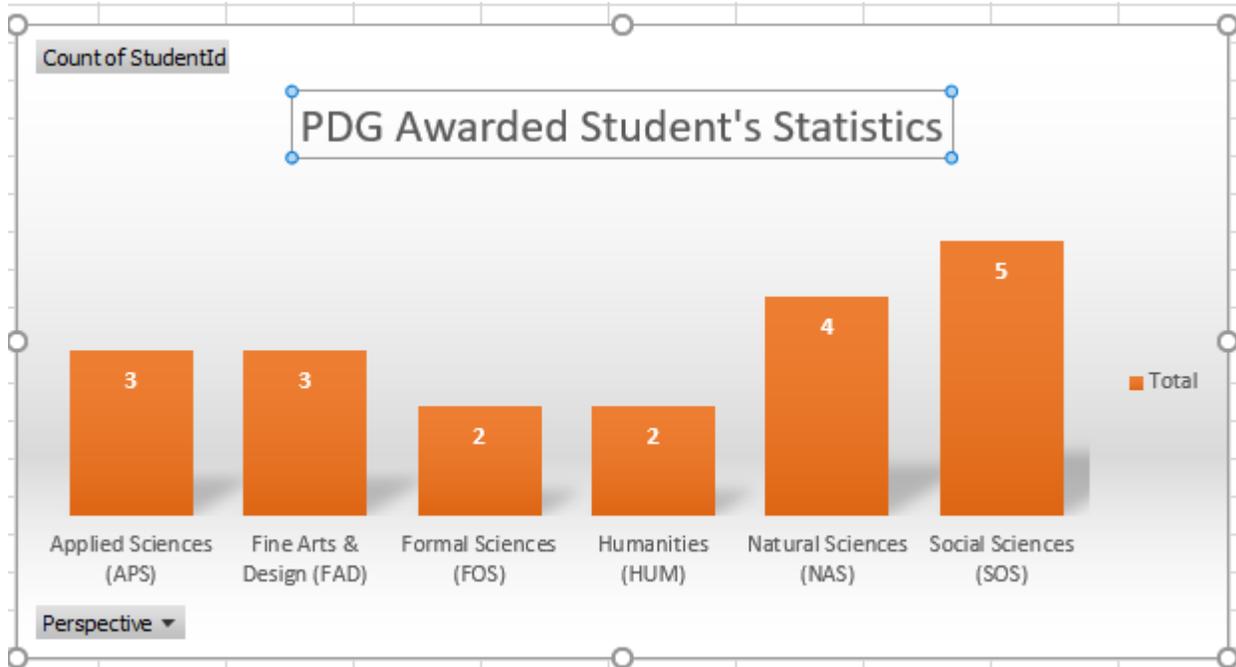
21 applicants applied for the PDG out of which 19 applicants were awarded but as of now only 17 applicants claimed the fund. The total amounts disbursed on PDG category was \$7,350.

(Note: It is not that we did not have funding to fund other two students, but their scores for applications were too low and not convincing. Their proposal was a barely of 5 sentences.)

a) Bar diagram showing the statistics of students who applied for PDG



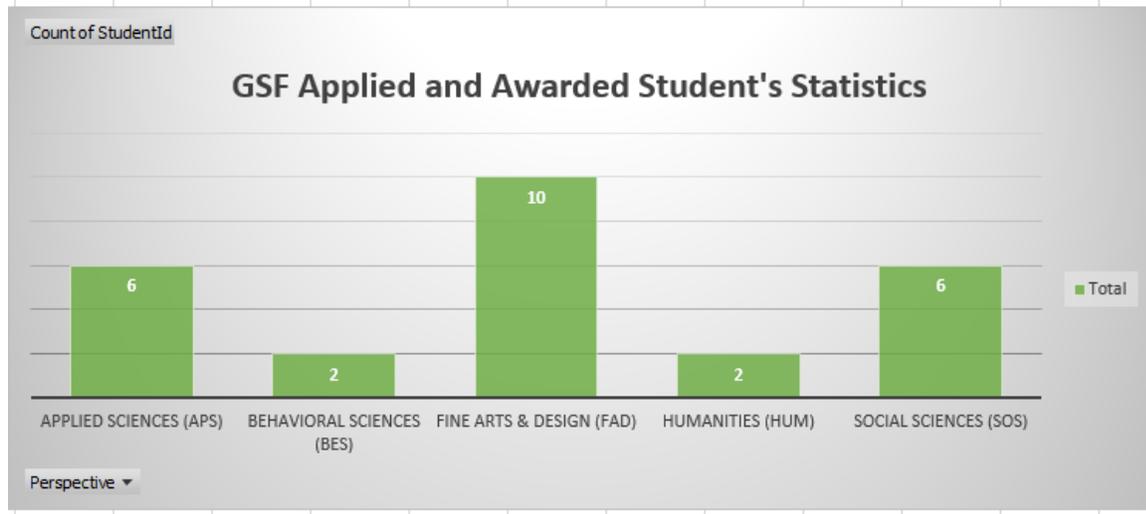
b) Bar diagram showing the statistics of students who were awarded PDG:



**GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

26 applicants applied for the GSF and all the students were awarded but as of now only 24 applicants were awarded. The total amounts disbursed on GSF category was \$24,000.

a) *Bar diagram showing the statistics of students who applied for and awarded for GSF:*



**Appeals**

We received a large number of applicants on SRG i.e., 48 applicants out of which only 36 applicants were awarded. We were expecting some appeals cases on this grant, but we did not receive any appeals this semester. Hence. No appeal session was conducted during this semester.

**Issues with The Grants Webpage**

The Spring 2021 grants process went smoothly as expected. No major issues or challenges were faced during the grants cycle. However, we faced a small issue. For each grant, we have work citation box when applicants use this box to provide citations and define the technical terms if used. So, we found that the SRG did not have that box. I tried creating it, but it was too technical. This issue is not major and can be solved by talking to the vendor.

### **Goals of the Grants Committee**

This is my last semester to act as a Grant Chair. As I go, I will make sure, I will hand over my duties and responsibilities to upcoming chair and will be happy to train him/her on the new website and share my experience with the grants.

## **LOBBY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Lobby Committee was not able to conduct its duties at the State Legislature. Therefore, no report was submitted.

## **PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Programs Committee Chair:** Jazmin Moreno

### **Committee Goals:**

The primary goal this school year was to engage graduate students as best possible under the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant completely holding events online via Zoom and providing a virtual space for the social interaction that student may have been missing.

### **Accomplished Events:**

In collaboration with GRC, we accomplished hosting weekly Graduate Coffee Breaks online in Fall 2020 and bi-weekly Graduate Breaks online in Spring 2021. Additionally, in collaboration with GPSA's Support & Advocacy Committee, we accomplished an online event for the opportunity to connect students with the Dean of Graduate Studies.

(3 flyers are attached in Appendix)

### **Covid-19 Impact:**

The pandemic created a difficult transition for students, making everything regarding school be strictly online. This involved different schedules, different methods of studying, and for many "zoom fatigue" which made it difficult for students to attend every event held by GPSA's Programs. There were times that a significant number of students were engaged, and other times where there were none. This involved us needing to adapt and be prepared to unpredictable outcomes.

### **Recommendations:**

We would recommend involving students more in determining the types of events and programs they would like planned. This would also entail regularly inviting feedback from students in order to adjust future events accordingly. Additionally, we would recommend frequent reminders of events as it is common for students to forget with such busy schedules.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT & ADVOCACY REPORT**

### **Committee goals:**

The standing goal of the Student Support and Advocacy Committee is to aid in student's success through access to information about available resources and support; we focus on the questions and concerns students in any college may have during their time here at the University of New Mexico.

### **Listing of committee members:**

We could not have a big committee this semester because everything was online, and we had tough time finding committee members.

Chair: Bibek Acharya

Member: Ziyadkhan Gurbali

### **Dates of committee meetings:**

Because of the Covid year, we really had a tough time meeting and discussing the problems of the students. However, I did contact President and Council Chair and met with them in the GPSA office in the first part of year Wednesdays and share ideas, questions, concerns, and create a plan for the rest of the year. We discussed to hold after-party reception for Lobo-Bites which was cancelled last minute in fall because of Zoom fatigue participants might have after the video presentation.

### **Activities engaged in:**

As committee chair, I am engaged in the Graduate Student Association and tried collaborating with Be Kind in order to help spread the word about GPSA and the services we offer. We tried to collaborate with Art with Impact Team but could not go through because of their expensive budget. We also helped to reach out regarding GPSA Council representatives from different organization to have many voices represented on GPSA and asked if they were able to fill seats on Council. I also attended UNMPD's first formalized Community Policing Advisory Committee meeting as a representative of GPSA. We had representatives from different groups across campus and discussed safety concerns, UNM Communities thoughts on Community Policing, and campus safety. We worked to help further students feel supported and advocated for at the University of New Mexico and brought the "Ask the grad dean" program in collaboration with the Programs Chair. Most of the questions were raised about the union of graduate students, which Dr. Coonrod answered graciously. Also, we helped students to reach

out to specific departments such as SHAC when there were queries about the departments from graduate students.

## MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**Media & Communications Chair:** Hyorim Kim

**No Report Submitted.**

## COUNCIL REPORT

### About GPSA Council

The GPSA Council is the main governing body of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Representatives from each department meet monthly to address issues facing graduate and professional students across campus. Departments select their own council representatives sometimes referred to as council members. In addition to updating their departments on GPSA functions, deadlines, and news, council members act as the voice of their departments in council. Council strives to represent the range of graduate and professional student interest at UNM.

### GPSA Council Representatives

- Council Chair – Bountouraby Sylla
- Council Recorder – Brendon Barone
- Council Members (Department) –
  1. Anderson School of Management
  2. Biology
  3. College of Education and Human Sciences
  4. Communications and Journalism
  5. Economics
  6. History
  7. Law
  8. Music
  9. Occupational Therapy
  10. Organizational Information and Learning Sciences
  11. Physics and Astronomy
  12. Political Science
  13. Psychology
  14. Public Administration
  15. Sociology
  16. Spanish and Portuguese

## GPSA Council Initiatives 2020-2021

- Collaborative relationship between executive and legislative branch.
- Increase recognized departmental student association (RDSA) participation on council.
- Streamline council credential process.
- Streamline pro-rated benefits (PB) fund process.
- Engage north campus graduate students.

## Legislation Considered by GPSA Council

Bill No.	Type	Introduced by	Description	Decision
<b>FALL 2020</b>				
2020-01	Bylaw Amendment	Raby Sylla	Election code - campaigning dos and don'ts	Passed
2020-02	Bylaw Amendment	Raby Sylla	Finance code - update wording	Passed
2020-03	Bylaw Amendment	Raby Sylla	Membership and organization - update RDSA certification	Passed
2020-04	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Election committee - streamline the election process	Passed
2020-05	Bylaw Amendment	Anu Khadka	Grants code - section 1 overview of all grants	Passed
2020-06	Bylaw Amendment	Anu Khadka	Grant code - section 2 Student Research Grant (SRG)	Passed
2020-07	Bylaw Amendment	Anu Khadka	Grant code - section 3 Professional Development Grant (PDG)	Passed
Resolution 1	Resolution	Joint	Support unionization efforts of UE Graduate Workers' Union	Passed
<b>SPRING 2021</b>				
2021-01	Constitutional Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Council chair election - give the incoming council chair time to shadow the outgoing council chair	Passed
2021-02	Constitutional Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Amendments - remove the restriction on when GPSA can consider constitutional amendments	Passed
2021-03	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Election code - eliminating the required council confirmation of election committee members, making the process of appointing elections committee chair clear	Passed
2021-04	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Legislative branch - introduce bylaw amendment as action item directly to council instead of discussion item first	Passed
2021-05	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Legislative branch - allow council chair to introduce legislations to council if respective committees are not formed or not functioning	Passed
2021-06	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Legislative branch - eliminating the required council confirmation of LSC vice chair	Passed
2021-07	Bylaw Amendment	Nick Maestas & Ben Gerstner	Notice of elections - provide greater notice and access to information for GPSA members about candidates and ballot items for upcoming elections	Passed
2021-08	Bylaw Amendment	Nick Maestas & Ben Gerstner	Elections committee - provide greater guidance to the elections committee with regard to public forums held for candidate elections	Passed
2021-09	Bylaw Amendment	Nikhil Reddy	Membership and organization - replacing the contents of TPNR section with single statement that says OMA acts as TPNR for GPSA	Failed
2021-10	Bylaw Amendment	Anu Khadka & Nikhil Reddy	Grants code - section 5 New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG)	Passed
2021-11	Bylaw Amendment (SUNSET CLAUSE)	Ben Gerstner	Finance code - allow RDSAs receiving PB funds to retain the full amount received for fiscal year 2021. This change expires on July 1 2021	Passed
Resolution 2	Resolution	Victoria Pena-Parr	Encourage university administration to acknowledge the UE Graduate Workers' Union	Passed
Resolution 3	Resolution	Nikhil Reddy	Encourage university administration to encourage and adopt green initiatives.	Passed
Resolution 4	Resolution	Nikhil Reddy	Encourage university administration to divestiture from fossil fuel investments	Passed

## Involvements

GPSA council chair Sylla, was selected by President Reddy to serve on the Student Fee Review Board This board is a student committee made up of undergraduate and graduate students. The board meets every year to determine how approximately \$12 million in student activity fees should be allocated to various organizations and resource centers on campus.

Due to the fact that the GPSA council meetings were held via zoom, council decided to put its food budget to good use. At the end of fall 2020, council voted to use funds from its food budget to donate \$447.94 worth of food to the Lobo Food Pantry. As well as donate \$175.00 in Kroger gift cards to GPSA council members. In collaboration with President Reddy, council chair Sylla prepared gift bags for legislative and executive branch members as a thank you for all their support and dedication to GPSA.

The legislative and executive branch worked in collaboration to introduce the new GPSA logo. The previous GPSA logo was around for years, however no one seemed to know where it originated from. Due to this fact GPSA wanted to get ahead of the controversy around inappropriate use of the ZIA so it was decided to introduce a new logo. Council chair Sylla also worked with other members of GPSA in launching a new GPSA website that is more user friendly. Additionally, council chair Sylla worked with President Reddy to administer \$15,000.00 in emergency scholarships to graduate students. These students ranged from main campus and north campus.

With the help of council members, GPSA addressed several issues concerning graduate students. The unionization efforts of UGW received full support from GPSA. Graduate students were encouraged to join the union and share information with their departments. GPSA also addressed the funds distributed to students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). GPSA council chair and president met with UNM administration to voice concerns expressed by graduate students. An email was sent by GPSA and the provost office shining some light on the issue and encouraging students to complete their FAFSA, as this was the tool used to determine student need.

### **Open Matters & Areas of Opportunity**

- Below are a few matters that the next council chair should have on his radar.
- Bill 2021-11 was introduced as a sunset clause and needs to be added as an action item for the first council meeting of the fall 2021 semester. This clause needs to be removed from the bylaws and the language needs to revert back to “At the end of the fiscal year, an RDSA may keep up to 50% of funds allocated during the academic year. The remainder shall be reverted to the GPSA general fund. However, an RDSA’s remaining balance can never be reduced below \$500 as a result of the reversion. This reversion shall never include the RDSA’s self-generated funds.” – Article VIII. Section 3.C2
- Bill 2021-05 prompts a revision of Article IV. Section 11. Suggestion was given by university council to consider the potential benefit adding additional new language that would ensure such presentation directly to council would more-or-less follow the procedures outlined in Article IV, Section 11. A bill may need to be introduced to address this.
- Bill 2020-03 streamline the RDSA certification process. Work on a master list that will be housed with GPSA, SAC, and SGAO so all parties are in the loop on current RDSAs. This will help in accurately distributing PB funds.
- Continue the work with increasing RDSA participation on council. Reach out through email and word of mouth. Also, work with SGAO during the PB fund workshops to tell students about GPSA council.
- Work with advisor to make the connection with administration. The president meets with UNM president, provost, board of regents, and others. This should be extended to council chair as well.
- Work with the graduate resource center to see how GPSA can better help graduate students.
- Invite guest speakers to council meetings. This can be UNM administration or people from the community.
- Continue a healthy and productive relationship with GPSA executive branch.

## COURT OF REVIEW REPORT



I. The Court received two (2) complaints which were consolidated at a hearing. The Court of Review (Court) received two complaints this academic year regarding elections challenges to the GPSA Spring Election. The matter came to the attention of the Court on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Court received answers to the complaints on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Court deliberated on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and used its discretion to consolidate the complaints and call a hearing to determine the validity of the allegations. The hearing was held on April 16, 2021, to determine the validity of the consolidated complaint. The Court held that the allegations did not rise to the level to warrant the election to be invalid. In interest of time, the Court issued a notice of decision so that all the parties would be made aware of the decision. The Court submit the written decision, which included a dissenting opinion on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Court provided some recommendations to be considered by the next GPSA administration. Lastly, the Court ordered the results from the 2021 GPSA Election be certified and in accordance with the GPSA Bylaws. (*See attached notices and published Court decision*)

### II. Other Court Activities

The Court of Review did not have three justices to conduct official court business until the second semester of the school year. Pending a third justice appointment, the Court attended GPSA Council meetings when appropriate. The Court identified improvements needed on complaint

forms and made recommendations for website changes to be more user friendly. The Court worked

with Victoria Martinez, the GPSA Office Manager, to assist us with the updates. She met with us to go over the changes and informed us when the updates were made.

Chief Justice, Jessica Martinez, served on the Selection Committee for the UNM Student Regent. She assisted with interviewing candidates, she was assigned questions to ask candidates and took detailed notes on responses to make a fair and impartial recommendation. She worked with committee members to deliberate and to help provide recommendations.

When a third justice was appointed, the Court met informally to go over roles, expectations, to review the Constitution and Bylaws. The Court reviewed how the Court operates, the scope of our jurisdiction, etc. The Chief Justice prepared a brief Roberts Rules of Order Presentation in case that it would be needed for training purposes. If the Chief Justice is to remain on the Court, she can assist with this training moving forward.

Best Regards,



Jessica I. Martinez  
GPSA Court of Review Chief Justice  
[martinjes@law.unm.edu](mailto:martinjes@law.unm.edu)  
(575) 386-1885

**Attached Documents Regarding Hearing:**

- 1) Notices of Hearing
- 2) Notice of Decision
  - a. Court informed parties of a brief extension to provide the published opinion due to incorporating the dissenting opinion and to include all justice voices collectively.
- 3) Court of Review Decision



# *Court of Review*

**In re:**

Petitioner/s (person/s who started this case):

Aaron Cowen

And Respondent/s (other party/parties):

David Saavedra (Current GPSA Chief of Staff),  
Mandela Bright Quashie (Current GPSA Elections  
Chair), and Nikhil Reddy (Current GPSA President)

Notice of Hearing

A court of review hearing has been scheduled:

for: April 16, 2021 at: 9 am-12pm

at: ZOOM Meeting ID: 634 766 3553

Passcode: COR

The purpose of this hearing is (specify): Contested Election Results

Warning! If you do not go to the hearing, the court may issue an opinion without hearing your side.

## Hearing Procedures

- a. The court will only be hearing arguments for and against allegations made in the complaint.
- b. The Plaintiff(s), followed by the Defendant(s), shall present Opening Statements, which shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in length per party. The three defendants may either present together or separately but will be limited to 10 minutes as a group to promote fairness to the Petitioner. Either party may request a time extension from the court if you feel that is not adequate, but the time will also be offered to the other side.
- c. The Court may ask questions of either party, if clarification is needed.
- d. Witnesses for both the Plaintiff(s) and Defendant(s) shall present their evidence and/or testimony. Parties shall have an opportunity to question each witness subject to the restrictions of the Court. The Court may also question the witnesses, if necessary.

- e. The Court reserves the right to recall any Plaintiff(s), Defendant(s), and/or Witness(es) at any time

during the hearing.

- f. The Plaintiff(s) and the Defendant(s) shall be asked if they would like to make Closing Statements, and if they so desire, they shall be given no more than ten (10) minutes per party for a closing statement.
- g. The Court shall then recess to deliberate in a closed portion of a meeting.
- h. The Court shall issue a decision no later than fourteen (14) calendar days following the hearing.

### Witnesses and Evidence

- a. After opening statements, the Petitioner will have 45 minutes to call witnesses. The Defendants will then have 60 minutes to present witnesses. Finally, the Petitioner has 15 minutes to recall witnesses or call rebuttal witnesses. Either party may request a time extension from the court if you feel that is not adequate. **Each party must disclose their witnesses to the court and the other party 24 hours before the hearing or the court will not allow them to testify.**
- b. Parties are responsible for gathering and presenting evidence and other testimony, including calling any relevant witnesses to support their case. A party may ask the court to share screen in order to show exhibits.
- c. Should a party be unable to find or to convince a witness to testify at the hearing, or should a party be unable to access evidence that is critical to its case after reasonable diligence in attempting to secure such witness or evidence, it may inform the Court. The Court may, in its discretion, postpone the hearing or take other remedial measures to allow the party to gather evidence necessary to its case in the interest of justice and fairness.

### Hearing Guidelines

- a. This hearing will be recorded on the Zoom Platform. Any non-party may turn off their video camera if they do not wish to be videotaped.
- b. The Court shall be allowed to recess at any time, for any reason.
- c. The Court may, in its discretion, admonish any Witness or party whose testimony or behavior is inconsistent or harmful to the process of justice.
- d. Consistent with these Procedures, the time allowed for Plaintiff(s), Defendant(s), and Witness Statements shall be decided by the Court at the beginning of the Hearing.
- e. Plaintiff(s) and/or Defendant(s) have the right to appear with an advisor at the Hearing.
- f. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. However, the Plaintiff(s) and Defendant(s) are responsible for presenting their cases in their entirety. Advisors are therefore not permitted to speak or participate directly in any Hearing.
- g. Circumstances not described above will be resolved at the discretion of the Court.

### Zoom

- a. Please keep yourself muted during the proceeding unless explicitly called upon by the Court of Review. Anyone who fails to comply will be muted once, and thereafter kicked off the zoom call.

## **Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

- b. Use of the chat is prohibited but for procedural questions. Any person who comments on the evidence in the chat will be given one warning, then thereafter kicked off the zoom call.
- c. A party may either e-mail their exhibits to the Court of Review and/or share screen them during their case. The Court will not share screen for either party.



# *Court of Review*

**In re:**

Petitioner/s (person/s who started this case):

Aaron Cowen

And Respondent/s (other party/parties):

David Saavedra (Current GPSA Chief of Staff),  
Mandela Bright Quashie (Current GPSA Elections  
Chair), and Nikhil Reddy (Current GPSA President)

**Notice of Decision**

The GPSA Court of Review has reached a decision regarding the complaint made by the Petitioner on April 5/6, 2021 regarding the Spring 2021 GPSA Presidential Election Dispute. The Court will publish its opinion by the close of business on April 23, 2021 but provides this notice of decision for the purpose of efficiency.

The Court of Review finds the GPSA Spring 2021 Presidential Election to be **VALID**.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COURT OF REVIEW

MR. AARON COWAN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MR. DAVID SAAVEDRA (Current GPSA Chief of Staff),  
MANDELA BRIGHT QUASHIE (Current GPSA Elections Chair),  
AND NIKIHIL REDDY (Current GPSA President),

Defendants.

**COURT OF REVIEW DECISION**

In the matter of Mr. Aaron Cowan (Plaintiff) vs. Mr. David Saavedra, Mandela Bright Quashie, and Nikihil Reddy (Defendants), the University of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Students Association (GPSA) Court of Review (Court) finds, by a majority (two-to-one), that the Plaintiff's consolidated complaint is not valid and orders the Election Committee (Committee) to certify the results of the 2021 GPSA Election.

**I. Jurisdiction**

Under the GPSA Constitution, Art. IV. § 1, the Court shall have jurisdiction over disputes arising under the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws. Election disputes are governed under the GPSA Bylaws, Art. X. § 12 states:

- A. An election may be challenged by any GPSA member to the Court of Review. Challenges include, but are not limited to, voter fraud, improper notification, improper conduct of members of the Election Committee, candidate misconduct, or an unsound voting system.
- B. Challenges must be formatted as Court of Review Complaints and submitted in writing

- within five (5) academic days of the reporting of the election results.
- C. The Court of Review may consolidate challenges as it deems appropriate.

The Court has jurisdiction to review the elections matters. The Court used its discretion to review the election matter, which was filed in the form of two (2) complaints and the Court held a hearing to verify the validity of the complaints.

## **II. Consolidated Complaints**

This matter came to the attention of the Court on April 6, 2021, after the Plaintiff's complaint was transmitted to the Chief Justice. The Plaintiff filed a second complaint on April 7, 2021, which was also transmitted to the Chief Justice. On April 8, 2021, and April 9, 2021, the Court received answers from the Defendants and the Court immediately deliberated.

In the complaint, the Plaintiff alleges several claims:

Access to the Ballot: “A new, complicated voting system was used this time, perhaps resulting in the lowest voter turnout in history. The new system of logging onto my.unm.edu, as opposed to the older email-based system, not only depressed turnout, but was plagued by technical glitches.”

“ I was promised a direct link option for getting people to the voting site, but when I attempted to link directly to the ballot and send these by email, those clicking on the link received an error that said, ‘direct linking prohibited’. Yet, on the very last day of the election, Nikhil sent out an email that had a direct link to access voting. How long did Nikhil have this direct link and did he share it with others, like his Chief of Staff before the last day of election.”

Conflict of Interest: ““All candidates shall refrain from using GPSA resources in pursuit of office (including, but not limited to funds, staff, email addresses, printing, electronic mailing lists, and office space.’ David sent out at least one email relating to the election in his capacity as Chief of Staff as a candidate.”

*Blind Draw and Ballot Position:* “President Reddy’s method for randomly selecting the

first person on the ballot was questionable at best. It is known that the person on the top of the ballot gets a slight advantage. Election code X.6.D.1, reads as follows, ‘Ballots and Polling: 1. Ballots shall have a randomly ordered list of candidates decided through a blind draw and clear instructions for marking and submitting one’s vote.’” Nikhil records a video of himself selecting paper slips. But the slips are not drawn via a blind draw. The slips are not even all of the same size, and election code states that the candidates’ names should be on there not numbers for ballot order. In point of fact, he shows my name coming up first, which should mean that I am the first person on the ballot. He doesn’t shuffle to any significant degree and seems to have them so neatly organized that he can tell the difference between a number and a name. Without even realizing it, he may have been able to identify which was which, or perhaps could have seen through the paper. A blind draw could have been depicted on the camera, but what is depicted does not seem good enough to truly satisfy what the code requires.”

Delays: “My next objection is to the fact that the presidential debate forums were supposed to be done on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, but instead were delayed until March 26<sup>th</sup>. This delay is completely unjustifiable, as Nikihil admitted by email. My Daily Lobo ads had to be in by Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. So, I had no opportunity to modify my ads to include anything said in the forum, which did not take place until the next day. I would have had this opportunity if the forum had been held on the required date. This delay irreparably harmed me, since the Daily Lobo could not modify its publication dates.”

“Also, on the Monday after the election the results were not published by 12:00 pm as required. What is the legitimate reason for not doing this?”

Other (Glitches, qualifications and certification of ballots): “In addition to these issues, I

believe we need to investigate whether all people who voted were indeed qualified

graduate students because the present system cannot determine this automatically.”

“The amount of ballots for which a vote was not counted is greater than the difference between the candidates. Specifically, there is a 13-vote difference between the candidates but there are 19 “not answered”. These “not answered” could be technical glitches where people thought they voted but the vote was not recorded, or they were disconnected, etc.”

“Therefore, I formally request that the election results be set aside and not certified pending a hearing. I request that the results be taken off the website, as this could bias voters in the case that a new, special election has to be held.”

### **III. Election Dispute Procedure**

When an election dispute arises, the Court must first determine that the challenge is valid. GPSA Bylaws Art. X §11(D). The Court is bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the GPSA and must apply the GPSA Constitution and its Bylaws as written by the council. GPSA Bylaws Art. VI § 4 (A). The Court has the discretion to decline to hear cases that it deems are not appropriate under the GPSA Bylaws Art. VI § 4 (D).

Upon deliberation and at the discretion of the Court, the Court deemed the allegations to be serious matters that merited a hearing to determine the validity of the complaints. The complaints and answers were filed under the proper time limits. The Court used its discretion to consolidate both complaints for review during a hearing. GPSA Bylaws Art. X. §12 (C).

**IV. Court of Review Majority Opinion (Chief Justice Martinez and Justice Mains)**

A hearing was held on April 16, 2021, to determine the validity of the consolidated complaint made by Mr. Aaron Cowan, which challenged the election results of the 2021 GPSA Presidential Election. The Court determines that the elections challenge was brought in good faith but does not find any of the alleged violations to rise to the level to warrant the election to be deemed invalid.

The position of the GPSA President is one that comes with great responsibility and reasonable compensation. The Court takes allegations of this nature seriously. The Court would like to note that although the majority did not find enough evidence to determine the election invalid, the Court was disappointed to see certain informalities that present room for improvement in the election process moving forward. The GPSA moving forward should prioritize training, clarity of instructions, and refine the bylaws to address conflicts that may arise in the future.

*A. Access to the Ballot*

The Plaintiff's most substantial claim was with respect to access to the election ballot. Eligible graduate and professional students in previous years were sent direct links to the ballot via email. This year, the Committee modified the voting system to be conducted through the "Student Life" tab through the "MyUNM" portal.

Testimony during the hearing expressed and corroborated that the intent behind the modification was to increase security in the election, to prevent fraud, and to provide a better system that was in ASUNM elections. This system supposedly would be better due to the secure system and because there were issues with direct links sent via email in the past. Testimony by the Defendants expressed that in the 2018 GPSA Election, a widget similar to the one used in this

election was used. Plaintiff contended that the difference between the 2018 GPSA Election and this year was that the widget and a direct link was sent via email, created wider access than was given during this election. Plaintiff also expressed in testimony that students had difficulty voting with the new system.

The Court believes that secure elections are important, but they must be balanced with reasonable and uncomplicated access. The issue with the voting system was that the voting “widget” was supposed to automatically display after a student logs into their “MyUNM” portal. The concern is that due to lack of evidence, it is unknown how many students did not have “student life” tabs automatically displayed in the portal. If a student customized their tabs in “MyUNM” to remove their student life tab, then they would have to navigate their settings to add their student tab in order to vote. This presented several concerns with respect to access to the ballot.

The GPSA Election email updates did mention that the ballot would be located on the student tab and the General Election website also mentioned that the ballot would be located on the student tab. However, the election emails were not detailed with instructions on how to add the student life tab to access the widget if a student had disabled the tab previously. It is of the Court’s belief that if a student has to login to their student portal, change their settings of their student portal to include the student life tab, access the widget that takes a student to the ballot, this may be considered burdensome to a student. However, there is no evidence of students who attempted to vote but could not vote, no evidence of voter fraud, and no evidence of a student being unable to vote. Testimony and evidence submitted to the Court showed that four people that reached out to GPSA for assisted with a ballot issue, but it was quickly resolved, and all four students were able to cast their vote. The Court was not presented with any witnesses that testified that they could not vote, no evidence or testimony showing that students did not have

access to the student life tab, and no evidence or testimony that any of the alleged violations happened to them.

The access to the ballot issue could have potentially been dispositive to invalidate the election, if a direct link to the ballot was not emailed three times to the student body the last three days of the election. It is our understanding that a direct link to the ballot that bypassed the student portal login, was discouraged from use because it bypassed an extra layer of security. However, in light of no evidence of voter fraud in previous elections, this extra step may be unnecessary. Based on the evidence and testimony, it appears that the Elections Committee acted in good faith to try and remedy potential access issues by sending the direct link to the ballot via email. Direct links were sent to both candidates and the student body. After balancing the concerns, evidence, and testimony, the Court found that there was insufficient evidence to prove this allegation.

Evidence was submitted to the Court and testimony from the GPSA Advisor explained that the new process was used consistently by ASUNM in their elections. According to testimony that ASUNM elections had less issues and the extra layer of security was added to prevent fraud. It was also recommended by IT as a better process. However, again, the Court was not convinced that the extra layer of protection was needed since there was no evidence of fraud in previous elections. Other evidence such as the increase in voter turnout during this election was considered when analyzing the access to the ballot issue. Had there been evidence of a decrease in voter turnout, coupled with evidence that direct links to the ballot were not sent, this could have changed our analysis and ruling on the matter.

The Court recommends that in future elections, the widget needs to be coded to be accessible to all students upon login to their “MyUNM” portal, or that detailed instructions be

provided for students on how to reinstall a student life tab if it was disabled. If GPSA decides to

continue the use of the widget, the Court recommends that a direct link to the ballot be sent as well to avoid any confusion. The mere perception of inaccessible ballots raises concerns, and the Court did not take this lightly. Access to the GPSA ballot is a graduate and professional student's right and one that should not be compromised. The direct links to the election ballot sent via email coupled with evidence of an increase in voter turnout from the previous election showed that sufficient efforts were made to provide students an opportunity to vote in the election.

Upon scrutiny of the evidence, testimony, and consideration of the factors associated with the pandemic, the Court does not find sufficient evidence to invalidate the election on these grounds.

*B. Conflict of Interest*

The next claim in the complaint alleges a conflict of interests based on an email sent to the GPSA student listserv by the current GPSA Chief of Staff, David Saavedra (Defendant), which advertised the presidential public forum on March 26, 2021, using his GPSA Chief of Staff e-mail address. The GPSA Bylaws, under Art. X. §5 (E), states that “[a]ll candidates shall refrain from using GPSA resources in pursuit of office (including . . . . email addresses. . . .” The Court determines that this email was not made in pursuit of office. The language in the email is limited to general information with a link to the candidate forum, which includes all candidates running for the position of GPSA President. Nothing in the e-mail specifically campaigns for a particular candidate. Thus, the Court is unpersuaded that this was a conflict of interest and does not find that misconduct occurred. While the Court agrees that this e-mail is bad form and not ideal, the e-mail was not in pursuit of office.

Furthermore, if potential misconduct could have been found on this claim, it would have been attributed to the current GPSA President Reddy (Defendant). David Saavedra (Defendant),

in his capacity as Chief of Staff, was directed to send the e-mail by GPSA President Reddy. Mr.

Saavedra then asked the president over a text message if it was okay to send the e-mail since he was also a candidate. President Reddy replied that it was fine and directed him to do so. During the hearing, President Reddy testified that at the time he was too busy to send the e-mail himself and that he directed Mr. Saavedra in his capacity as Chief of Staff due to other staff members not working on that particular day. Elections Committee Chair Bright Quashie (Defendant) testified that he could not send the email because he did not have access to the listserv. Based on leadership having limited access to the listserv and based on the general language used in the email, Mr. Saavedra did not intend to send the email in pursuit of office and therefore this allegation is not upheld.

The Court recommends that access to the GPSA listserv be granted to the Elections Committee Chair and other GPSA leadership that would need access to fulfill aspects of their duties and to avoid any perceptions of impropriety in the future.

*C. Blind Draw and Ballot Position*

Another claim within the complaint alleges that the method for randomly selecting the ballot placement for candidates was questionable and not done by a proper blind draw. Per GPSA Bylaws, Art. X. § 6 (D)(1), ballots and polling “. . . shall have a randomly ordered list of candidates decided through a blind draw and clear instructions for marking and submitting one’s vote.” The plaintiff submitted the video of the draw, argued alleged flaws with process, and included evidence of ballot positioning statistics and information related to candidates that are first on the ballot having an advantage. The Court found that there was insufficient evidence to show that the method violated the bylaws.

First, the Court does agree with the Plaintiff that the Elections Committee Chair would have been the ideal choice to conduct the blind draw. We found Plaintiff’s arguments to be very articulate

and compelling with respect to separation of powers, perception of bias, and that the

role of the Elections Committee Chair is to conduct these duties. However, during the hearing, testimony from the Defendants and the GPSA Council Chair explained that the Elections Committee Chair was new to the position and needed assistance due to technical issues surrounding the remote circumstances surrounding the draw. The GPSA President was not running for any position and had experience that was needed to assist the Elections Committee Chair. As described in testimony, the Elections Committee Chair should have been trained and given more direction about expectations of the role. With respect to the technical difficulties surrounding the remote circumstances, the Court believes flexibility was needed to properly conduct this process. Had the Elections Committee Chair conducted the blind draw, the recording would not have been as clear and may not have been perceived as transparent based on technical difficulties.

The blind draw process was described as the names of candidates were grouped in one pile and the ballot positions were grouped in another pile. Each slip was matched with a slip from the other pile. The process was recorded and made available to all the candidates with a request to let the GPSA President know if there were any issues. Upon review of the evidence and the corroboration of testimony, the blind draw process meets the standard based on the language in the bylaws. The bylaws do not outline the specific process that must be used, the bylaws just say that a blind draw should be used. The blind draw under normal circumstances would have been conducted in person in front of the candidates. The fact that the process was recorded and a request to submit concerns was offered, the Court did not find the method used for ballot position selection done in bad faith or rising to the level of misconduct.

The Plaintiff's arguments regarding the advantage of being positioned first on the ballot were considered and evidence of studies with respect to this argument were interesting and persuasive to an extent. The Court upon deliberation could not weigh this argument heavily due

to the fact that the blind draw was not conducted unfairly and was consistent with the bylaws. Moreover, although there may be some validity to the first position on the ballot giving a candidate an advantage, there is no data on ballot positions specific to GPSA elections to fully analyze this argument. Evidence submitted to the Court of previous GPSA elections show ballot positioning did not have an effect. Therefore, the Court does not find that the blind draw and ballot position to be improper.

*D. Delays*

The last claim that the Court weighed was regarding delays in the election process, specific to the delay in the presidential forum, which was delayed by four days. Any delays in the election process did not rise to the level of negligence. The Court understands the importance of deadlines, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a grace period must be given to allow for the pursuit of justice, when reasonable. The presidential forum was delayed four days, but the Court did not find this delay irreparably harmed the Plaintiff. Because of this delay, he was not able to include anything said in the presidential forum in his election advertisements that were due to the Daily Lobo the previous day. The circumstances are unfortunate, but they were unfortunate to all candidates and did not prove to have an effect on the election results. Nothing was referenced in the hearing pointed to something said in the forum specifically that would have persuaded voters in election advertisements. Candidates know their experience, platform, and can articulate why students should vote for them in advertisements, whether it be before or after a forum is held. Therefore, the Court does not find the delays to be unreasonable.

Another claim regarding delays in the election was regarding the election results being sent out an hour and three minutes late. The elections results were supposed to be sent out on 12 pm on Monday after the close of elections but they were sent at 1:03 pm. According to the evidence

and testimony, the delay resulted from administration having a meeting that conflicted

with the projected time. When the meeting was over at 1 pm, the results were immediately sent out to both candidates at the same time. Again, the Court believes procedure and rules are important. However, similar to the rationale above, a reasonable grace period should be given under the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Court finds the grace period of one hour to be reasonable under the circumstances.

*E. Other claims*

Other claims and arguments made by the Plaintiff were either collapsed in the claims above or the were quickly dismissed due to immediate clarification from UNM IT. Claims regarding glitches, ballot certification, eligible and qualified student voters were quickly dismissed based on responses from IT and were unfounded. Specifically, IT verified that all students that voted in the election qualified, and the ballots had a verification process built into the system. With respect to the “not answered” responses on the ballot, IT mentioned that students had the right to not vote for candidates and just vote on amendments and vis versa. This accounts for this glitch. If other glitches occurred, students’ internet would have been the issue and it was a matter of refreshing the page to correct this error. Lastly, IT and witness testimony mentioned that students that submit a ballot received a screen that said the ballot was submitted before they closed out the ballot. Lastly, technical glitches affected both candidates and students that had issues reported the issues, and they were resolved. Therefore, the Court dismissed these claims.

**V. Court of Review Dissenting Opinion (Justice Moore)**

*A. Access to the Ballot*

The problem is access to the ballot was a problem remedied by two emails sent by GPSA to students, one the day before elections closed and one the day before. Although this provided a work around to the issue, it was untimely and incomplete. The issue of widget access was raised

by David Saavedra on March 29, 2021 but was not dealt with at this time. The response from President Reddy at that time was to provide a direct link to the ballot only to students who took the step of reaching out to someone again, saying they were having trouble. It is impossible to say how many people may have had problems reaching the ballot who did not reach out to GPSA. The burden should not be on a voter to recognize and pursue extra steps to remedy access issues. Any potential access issue should be resolved for all who may encounter the issue as soon as it is known there is a problem. Failure to provide immediate relief to a known voting issue is a failure to provide timely access to potential voters and enough to invalidate an election.

The second issue is the incompleteness of the ballot instructions in all instances of election information provided to students in GPSA communications. The ballot widget was contained on the “Student Life” tab within the my.unm.edu portal. If a student did not have the Student Life tab activated, they could not find the widget. A student is allowed to customize the tabs displayed to them when they open my.unm.edu. Instructions sent to students with elections information told them to open my.unm.edu and they would have found the ballot. There appears to have been a lack of knowledge from GPSA staff of the fact that students may have customized their tab configuration and the importance of including information related to this in election instructions. Instructions should have said “the widget is located on the Student Life tab. If you do not see the Student Life tab you need to add this tab to your homepage by following these instructions” (and provided said instructions. Lack of complete understanding and information about how to vote from GPSA is enough to invalidate the election. Even in the emails that went out a day before the end of the election and the last day of voting, these instructions were not given. The closest they came, was when in their election emails they said that the ballot was accessed through the “students” tab. I’m not sure

what the “students” tab is, as there is no tab named “students”. There

is a tab named Student Life, and another named Student Employee, but these are both capitalized and they both draw their significance from the second word in their title.

With a lack of complete understanding of how their own voting process worked , it is hard to expect students to more understanding than the GPSA. GPSA should have had another election in which they fully understood the process to vote and provided that information to students.

*B. Conflict of Interest*

I disagree with the Court Majority that this was not a conflict of interest. It is important to note here, the importance of Mr. Saavedra in asserting what he knows to be a potential conflict of interest and acting more firmly in upholding the ethics of his office. Having confirmation from President Reddy that it was “ok” for him to send this email is not enough to overcome the issue. Mr. Saavedra himself was aware of and, rightly, asked about. Mr. Saavedra should have refused to send this email as he judged rightly that it was against election rules. Mr. Saavedra needs to rely on his own understanding of issues and take responsibility for his own actions. Though this issue does not rise to the level of election invalidation, for the reasons stipulated in the majority opinion, Mr. Saavedra cannot expect to safeguard the rightness or wrongness of his actions based on someone else’s reading of the law and must hold firm to his own understanding, which I find to have been right in the first case. President Reddy telling him it is ok to break the rules does not make it ok.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

A hearing was held on April 16, 2021, to determine the validity of the consolidated complaint made by Mr. Aaron Cowan, which challenged the election results of the 2021 GPSA Presidential Election. The Court determines that the elections challenge was brought in good faith

but does not find any of the alleged violations to rise to the level to warrant the election to be deemed invalid.

## Annual Report 2020 - 2021

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED**, that the results from the 2021 GPSA Election be certified.

**SO ORDERED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

### GPSA Court of Review



4/26/21

Jessica I. Martinez  
Chief Justice



4/26/21

McKenna M. Mains  
Associate Justice



4/26/2021

Aaron N. Moore  
Associate Justice

## CONTACT GPSA

### Main Contact Information

**Office Phone:** (505) 277-3803

**Email:** [gpsa@unm.edu](mailto:gpsa@unm.edu)

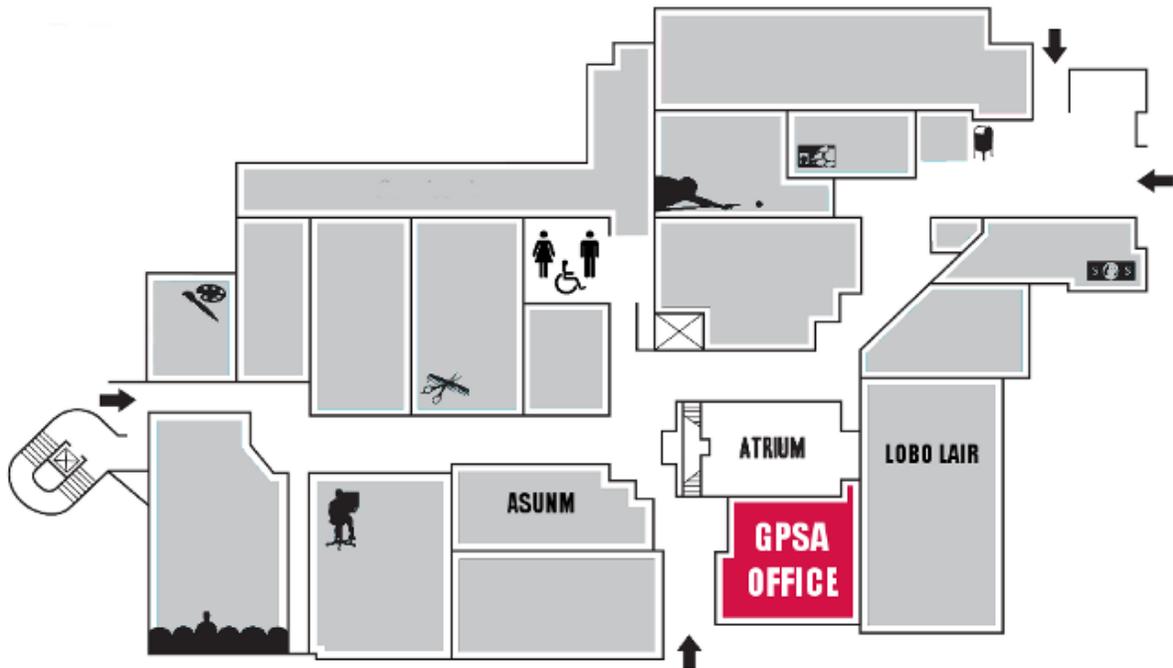
**Listserv:** [Join our LISTSERV](#)

### Mailing Address

Graduate and Professional Student Association  
Student Activities Center Box 103  
MSC03 2210  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

### Physical Location

Student Union Building, Room 1021



## GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### BRIAN COLÓN EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

Mirella Galvan-De La Cruz

M.D. Program  
UNM School of Medicine



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP

Hirbod Norouziانpour

Urban Innovation  
School of Architecture and Planning



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING GPSA COMMITTEE CHAIR AWARD

*Anu Khadka*

Master of Accounting

Master of Science in Information System and Assurance  
with a focus in Cyber Security

Anderson School of Management



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## COUNCIL CHAIR'S SERVICE AWARD

*Ben Gerstner*

Ph.D. Biology

UNM Biology Department



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## DISTINGUISHED LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Jenna Price*

Master of Business Administration  
Anderson School of Management



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION TO GPSA STUDENTS AWARD

*Melissa C. Henry*

Ph.D. Counselor Education  
College of Education



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

GLENDAL LEWIS AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT &  
ADVOCACY

*Rick Rockett*

M.A. History

M.S. Global & National Security



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN  
ETHICS AWARD

*Feliz M. Baca*

Master of Public Administration

UNM School of Public Administration



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

EXCEPTIONAL  
VOLUNTEER  
AWARD

*Thien Dang Vu*

M.D. Program  
UNM School of Medicine



2020 – 2021 GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**APPENDIX**



# **EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP**

**APPLY TODAY FOR THE AASS & GPSA  
EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS**

DEADLINE: MAY 22, 2020

APPLY ONLINE AT [AFRO.UNM.EDU](http://AFRO.UNM.EDU)



This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Women's Resource Center at 505.277.3716



# EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIPS

*for Graduate Student Parents!*

The Women's Resource Center is partnering with GPSA to provide emergency scholarships for graduate student parents affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Due Friday May 22nd, 2020**

**E-mail applications to [women@unm.edu](mailto:women@unm.edu)**

*Applications can be found at [women.unm.edu](http://women.unm.edu)!*

All graduate student parents are encouraged to apply!





SPRING 2021



# GPSA GRANT CYCLE

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GPSA IS PLEASED TO OFFER THE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT (SRG), PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PDG) AND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (GSF) AS PART OF THE SPRING 2021 CYCLE.

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GPSA will accept applications between Friday, January 29th and Friday, February 26th (11:59 p.m. Midnight).

All the applications will be accepted via UNM GPSA grant website i.e. <https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/>

For more infos on grants, visit :  
<https://gpsa.unm.edu/funding/graduate-grants-and-scholarships.html>



GRANT APPLICATION  
WORKSHOP:

2/1 MON, 2/8 MON,  
2/15 FRI



GRANT READERS  
WORKSHOP:

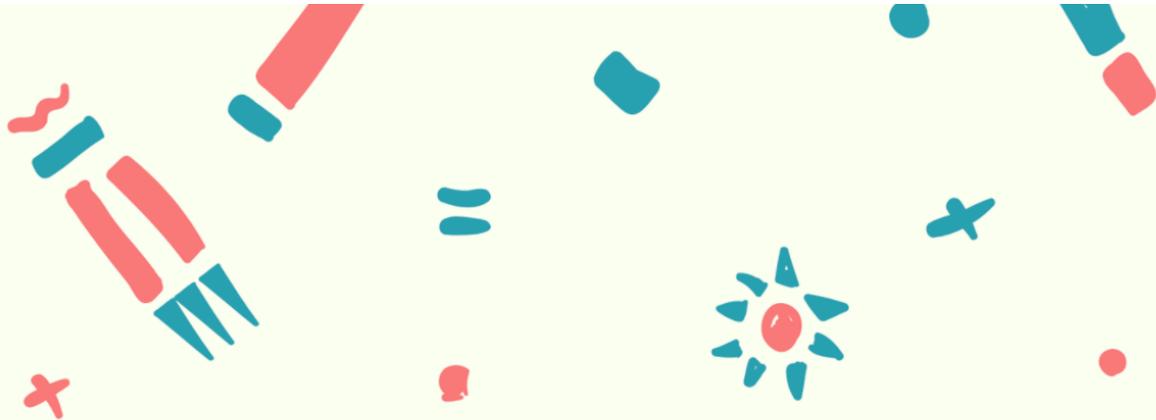
2/22 MON, 2/26 FRI, 3/1  
MON



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**WORKSHOP TIME : 1 PM - 2:30 PM  
(MST)**





# SPRING 2021 GPSA GRANTS CYCLE

PDG, SRG AND GSF

We are back again with Professional Development (PDG), Student Research Grant (SRG) and Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF) for the Spring 2021.

All the scholarships will be going live on January 29th, 11:59 PM (midnight) Friday.

For more information on grants, email us at [gpsagrants@unm.edu](mailto:gpsagrants@unm.edu).



# Hey Lobos! Get Grants for Research and Professional Development!



## Did you Know?

- All the applicants who apply for the grants receive grants in Spring & Summer 2020
- If you apply, there is **50%** probability that you will be getting funds
- If you don't apply, there is **0%** probability that you will get the funds

## Who can apply?

- All graduate & professional students enrolled at UNM can apply
- One application for each grant per year i.e. June 1- May 31



## When to apply?

- Fall Grant Cycle Deadline: **9/18 September 2020 12:00 PM MST**
- **Deadline is approaching! So, Act Fast and Apply!**



**APPLY AT :**  
**[UNMGPSAGRANTS.AWARDSRING.COM](http://UNMGPSAGRANTS.AWARDSRING.COM)**

# GRADUATE *Coffee* BREAK



Join us for our first Fall 2020  
meet-up to chat with other  
UNM Grad students

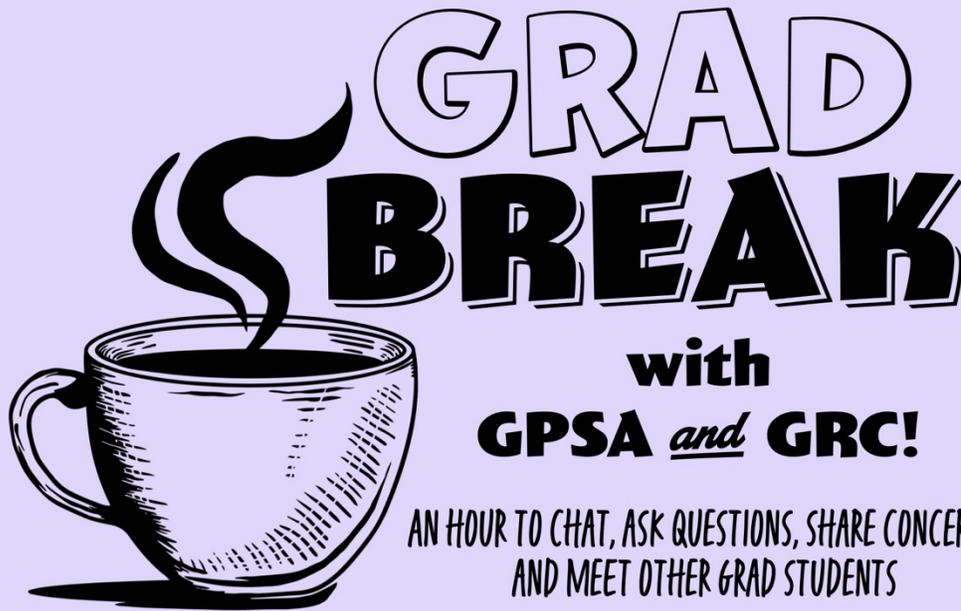
**September 23rd**  
**9 - 10 AM**

**ZOOM MEETING ID:**  
**98706575132**

**THE FIRST  
STUDENTS TO  
JOIN WILL BE  
ENTERED INTO A  
RAFFLE FOR A  
GIFT CARD  
FROM SATELLITE  
COFFEE!**



GRADUATE  
RESOURCE  
CENTER



AN HOUR TO CHAT, ASK QUESTIONS, SHARE CONCERNS,  
AND MEET OTHER GRAD STUDENTS

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY.. 1-2 PM

**02/16**

**03/02**

**03/23**

**04/06**

**04/20**

WEEKLY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

HOW ARE ONLINE CLASSES GOING FOR YOU?

WHAT IS YOUR SELF-CARE ROUTINE?

HOW IS YOUR RESEARCH GOING?

SHOW OFF YOUR PLANTS! :)

STUDY GROUPS FOR FINALS!

**Zoom Meeting ID: 937 3035 3579**



[GPSAPROGRAMS@UNM.EDU](mailto:GPSAPROGRAMS@UNM.EDU)



[@UNMGPSA](https://www.instagram.com/@UNMGPSA)



[@UNMGRC](https://www.twitter.com/@UNMGRC)

A TALK WITH  THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO.  
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
DR. JULIE COONROD



**Tuesday, 03/09**  
**3:00-4:00 PM**

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE  
STUDENTS TO CHAT WITH THE DEAN,  
ASK QUESTIONS & SHARE CONCERNS.

DR. COONROD HAS BEEN ON UNM  
FACULTY FOR 25 YEARS AND TEACHES A  
GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE THAT  
EMPHASIZES THE MODELING  
CAPABILITIES OF GIS.

HOSTED BY THE GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

**Zoom Meeting ID: 923-5353-1830**

PLEASE CONTACT [GPSAPROGRAMS@UNM.EDU](mailto:GPSAPROGRAMS@UNM.EDU) FOR MORE INFORMATION  
& FEEL FREE TO SEND US ANY PROSPECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DR. JULIE COONROD  
BY MARCH 5TH, 2021.



**FREE  
STREAMING  
MOVIE!**  
AVAILABLE ALL DAY ON  
MOVIES.UNM.EDU

**11/28/20**

Sponsored By

**GP**SA  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Association

**BIRDS OF PREY** 

*AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION  
OF ONE HARLEY QUINN*

MEMORIAL EVENT  
IN HONOR OF

*Glenda Lewis*  
"THE JOYFUL GIRL"

4/1/1967-3/28/2021

PHD CANDIDATE IN LLSS  
(LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND SOCIOCULTURAL STUDIES)

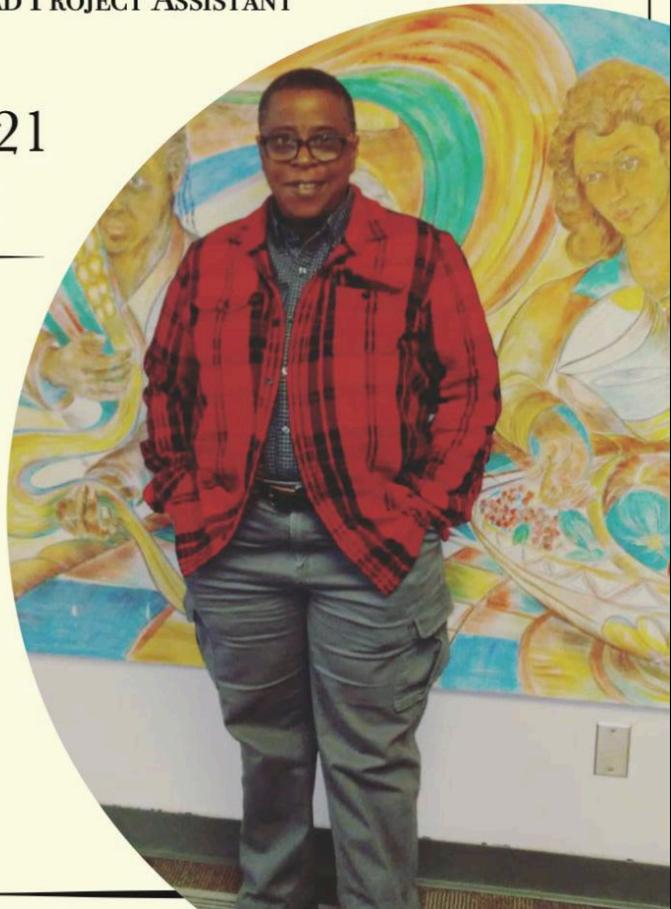
GPSA PRESIDENT  
BGPSA PRESIDENT  
PNMGC LEAD PROJECT ASSISTANT

PLEASE JOIN US  
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021  
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM

ZOOM ID:  
708 901 6622

"SHE WAS A CHAMPION FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES HERE AT UNM. GLENDA HAD A WONDERFUL LEADERSHIP STYLE AND ALWAYS HAD A WAY OF MAKING PEOPLE FEEL VERY IMPORTANT AND A PART OF SOMETHING LARGER. HER EFFORTS TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR EVERYONE DID NOT END WITH HER TERM AS GPSA PRESIDENT. SHE CONTINUED DOING GREAT WORK WITH OTHER STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. HER SMILE AND PERSONALITY WOULD ALWAYS LIGHT UP A ROOM.

GLENDA LEWIS WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, GREATLY REMEMBERED AND VALUED FOR HER IMPACT AT UNM." -STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR  
TUITION AND UNM FINANCES?

**PUBLIC FORUM**  
**WITH PROVOST AND VICE  
PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**

University of New Mexico

**OCTOBER 30**  
**12-1:30PM**

ZOOM MEETING ID: 95482258779



2020-2021 Annual



# GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

.....

**Recognizing outstanding Graduate &  
Professional students at UNM**

Applications & Nominations due April 4, 2021 at 11:59 PM.  
Complete Applications & Nominations should be sent to  
GPSA for consideration ([gpsacos@unm.edu](mailto:gpsacos@unm.edu)).

2020-2021 Annual

## GPSA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- Brian Colon Exemplary Service Award
- Distinguished Leader of the Year Award
- Exceptional Dedication to GPSA Students Award
- Excellence in Community Engagement & Advocacy Award
- Excellence in Ethics Award
- Outstanding Committee Chair of the Year Award
- President's Award for Innovative Leadership
- Council Chair's Service Award
- Exceptional Volunteer Award





# Better Together

Send us picture of you wearing a mask!

send your photo to [gpsamedia@unm.edu](mailto:gpsamedia@unm.edu)



## GIVEAWAY ALERT!

TAKE A CHANCE TO WIN GIFT CARDS GIVEAWAY!  
HOW TO ENTER? JUST SEND US YOUR PHOTO WITH A MASK!



PLEASE REFER THIS SAMPLE AND SEND YOURS TO  
[gpsamedia@unm.edu](mailto:gpsamedia@unm.edu)

By November 22nd



# The **Winners** of "Better Together" giveaway event!



- SOUMYAJIT CHAKRABORTY
- CASSANDRA MILLER
- LAUREN E. PERRY
- CHARLOTTE H. CARRUTH
- SAVANNAH J. REYES
- MOONSUN CHOI
- SAMANTHA SALAZAR
- MARIANA VINES MARCHESI
- NICHOLAS MAESTAS
- DAVID CHRISTOPHER SAAVEDRA



# Better Together

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

