



## **GPSA Council Meeting Agenda**

September 24, 2022 10:00 am - General Meeting

SUB Lobo A & B and Zoom: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/97749112900>

### **I. Call to Order at 10:13 am**

#### **a. Confirmation of Quorum**

##### **i. 14 credentialed members**

1. Kodiak Ly - Sociology and Asian American Pacific Islander Center
2. Grant Block- Physics and Astronomy
3. Misha Lockamy- AGSP and Chemistry
4. Andrea Benites: Chief of Staff
5. Rebecca Owopetu- Chemistry GSA
6. Suraj Ghimire- Economics
7. Tosin Olofinsao: Economics
8. Eric Eke- Chemistry GSA
9. Joy Osuoha- College of Education Graduate Student Alliance
10. Benjamin Garcia- Biology
11. Hounyoung Kim: COEHS
12. Yan Zhao- Communication & Journalism
13. Marie Von Haas- History GSA
14. Ryan Lindquist- Director of Student Activities
15. Celine Ayala- AASS Sociology (exempt)
16. Md Rafiqul Islam Rupam- Chemistry (exempt)

#### **b. Approval of Agenda**

- i. Motioned by Council Member Garcia
- ii. Seconded by all Council Members
- 14: yay 0: nay 0: abstain

#### **c. Indigenous People's Land and Territory Acknowledgment**

- i. Read by Council Member Von Haas

### **II. Opening Business**

#### **a. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

#### **b. Media, Gallery, And Public Comment - *comments related to agenda and nonagenda items***

- i. Council Member Garcia updates GPSA members on graduate union proceedings. In recent negotiations between the university and graduate workers, we make up a relatively large portion of the total number of graduate students at UNM. So we

have and the union has entered negotiations with the university on economic issues.

### III. Officer Reports

#### a. Council Chair's Report

- i. Funding discussion entailing potentially raising GPSA student fees by 10 dollars because the 3-year supplemental funds provided by the president terminates next year.
  1. Council Member Lockamy asks about funding as it relates to health insurance coverage for dependents.
    - a. Council member Garcia replies that part of the package that the graduate union is economic negotiations to put forward all of these issues surrounding vision, and dental health care for dependents.
  2. Council member Eke asks how we can start saving money before students have to increase student fees and if there has been an analysis of the budget.
    - a. Council Chair Jarrod Ronquillo replies that we should find places to save funds before even considering raising the student fee.
  3. Council member Olofinsao poses the question: What if the university does not like approve this economic package? Do you have any plans to do?
    - a. Council member Garcia states that the graduate union is currently working with lawyers to enact an economic plan by putting pressure on the university.
    - b. Council Chair Jarrod Ronquillo clarifies that the \$50,000 funding per year for the last three years will terminate next year (2023). Therefore, the GPSA administration brought up the idea of raising GPSA student fees by \$10; however, since it does not seem to be a popular idea, GPSA is planning to save where they can.
  4. Council member Garcia asks what is our current student fee.
    - a. Council Chair Jarrod Ronquillo states that it is \$25. However, ASUNM fees will increase every year.
  5. Ryan the director of student activities on the Advisory Council goes over this year's budget and cautions that funds may decrease over the next couple of years.

6. Council member Garcia asks if the GPSA spring fees are a conservative estimate of what those spring fees will be.
  - a. Ryan Director of Student Activities replies that these are not very conservative estimates. We did some calculations, and we believe that the universities probably giving GPSA a little more money than actually should be. Based on enrollment figures, we've seen that just multiplying times 25 our projection came in less, so that is probably a little bit higher than what it actually should be.
  
7. Council member Eke asks if the GPSA operating budget is included in that current balance.
  - a. Ryan Director of Student Activities replies that GPSA's budgets are in the spring 2022 approved budgets.
8. Council member Ly asks what other funds for appropriation go towards besides student organizations.
  - a. Ryan Director of Student Activities states student organizations and GPSA entities are the only ones that can request appropriations.
  
9. Council member Osuoha asks what's the new GPSA fee going forward.
  - a. Council Chair Jarrod Ronquillo states nothing is set in stone, but the GPSA administration is looking to increase the fee from \$25 to \$35.
  - b. Ryan Director of Student Activities states if these talks start to get more serious the accounting office will provide you calculations to where the figures will go from here so you can make a more informed decision about whether you choose to increase student fees.
  
10. Council member Eke asks do we have any sources of funding outside of direct student fees or any ability to request to levy funding from other sources.
  - a. Ryan Director of Student Activities replies that we could always request funding, but it might be a futile venture because in his 21 years at the university he has never seen a president or officer provide additional funding. So the fact that the president was able to provide supplemental funding for the last 3 years was pretty different.

11. Council member Eke asks where we were three years ago, did we have reserves, or has our budget gone up since then.

- a. Ryan Director of Student Activities states that the budget was fine going into the pandemic even if enrollment of graduate students decreased; however, requests for student organizations have increased which will mean that we would have to account for that.

12. Council member Olofinsao asks if are there any plans to renew the presidential support for the next three years again.

- a. Ryan Director of Student Activities replies there is no commitment for renewal yet.

13. Council member Ly asks because the 50,000 per year supplement will not be renewed, will the graduate union do something about that?

- a. Council member Garcia responds I think that trying to get \$50,000 for GSA might be beyond what we were able to or what would necessarily be the focus.
- b. Ryan Director of Student Activities replies that the grad union wants to keep its priorities, but the GPSA administration will keep on trying to convince the president

14. Council member Lockamy asks do we have an estimate of how we would increase our fall and spring budget if we increased student fees by \$5 or \$10.

- a. Ryan Director of Student Activities states I'll provide you with those calculations at the end of the meeting.
- b. Council member Olofinsao states I think they'll be good because you'd like to know how much you're going to increase it to total amounts.
- c. Ryan Director of Student Activities states if you're going to make cuts to the spring budget you'd probably have to save 10 to 20 thousand dollars before you start hurting GPSA services or student organizations. Truly if you're going to do something it starts by rallying people like what the grad union is doing.

15. Council member Eke asks do we have the option to levy these on only certain areas rather than an across-the-board fee levying, looking at like increasing fees for certain subsets or for certain areas as opposed to others. Why are we limited in our ability to just increase the Activity Fee rather than setting sort of tiers for activity fees?

- a. Ryan Director of Student Activities states the only tiers that I've ever seen based on annexations fees formerly structured on a per credit hour fee days so it was \$1.66 per credit hour enrolled.

#### IV. President Report by Andrea Benites

- I. We've actually been meeting with government relations to get some more insight on how to go about pushing the NFGAS, which is the Graduate Assistantship scholarship. We will go to Santa Fe and try to get them to pass before 4 years.
- II. We have a full cabinet now
  - a. We've hired specific positions, such as the two ad hoc positions, those are the two positions that we hired are sustainability and HSC liaison (a person who has a connection between the main campus and the north campus).
- III. PR announcements
  - a. Hispanic Heritage Month at Draft & Table.
  - b. Last week we partnered with UNM PD to have a bagel and coffee meeting where students can ask them any questions about safety.
  - c. Haunted campus tour on October 20th
- IV. SFRC applications are open now
  - a. Please advertise to anyone who may be interested as we already have received a few applications. Also, members of the committee can apply as well.
- V. There is a delay in grant disbursement and we are getting that addressed
  - a. Ryan Director of Student Activities states there was some difficulty because most of our students enrolled in summer grants were not enrolled in summer classes and the scholarship office does not like to distribute scholarships to students who are not enrolled at the time. Hopefully, in the next week or two, they should be distributed to students.

#### V. Action Items by Council Chair Jarrod Ronquillo

- i. Motion passes to do two block votes by all committee members
  1. Andrea Benites: Chief of Staff introduces the titles and roles of other GPSA cabinet members and other staff that we do not typically see at meetings.
  2. Introduction of the executive committee members
- ii. Motion passes to block vote the executive cabinet
  - a. Council member Eke motions to block vote the executive cabinet
  - b. Council member Von Haas seconds the motion
  - c. All committee members agree unanimously to block the vote the executive cabinet

3. Introduction of the Legislative Steering Committee

iii. Motion passes to block vote the Legislative Steering Committee

- a. Council member Von Haas motions to block the vote the Legislative Steering Committee
- b. All committee members agree unanimously to block the vote the Legislative Steering Committee

VI. Council Announcements

1. Volunteers will be needed for the Hispanic Heritage event at Draft & Table
2. The upcoming meeting will be held Saturday at 10 am, Oct. 29th SUB Ballroom A.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am