



David C. Saavedra
President

February 11, 2022

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 1

Aaron Cowan, Council Chair and
Members of the GPSA Council

Dear Chair Cowan and Members of the GPSA Council:

I have decided to veto BILL FA 2021-004, which would remove the practice of reverting Pro-Rated Benefit (PB) Funds from the Recognized Departmental Student Associations (RDSAs) to the GPSA General Fund after their assignment to the RDSA. This Bill would allow RDSAs to keep funds that are not used at the end of each semester. The allocation of PB Funds works on a semesterly basis to encourage RDSAs to utilize funding in the same semester for current students paying the GPSA fee. The GPSA fee is assessed to all degree seeking graduate and professional students on a semesterly basis; this funding goes to support the general GPSA government and to benefit chartered student organizations.

This funding is crucial in allowing GPSA to provide resources to students (Grant/Scholarship Cycles, Appropriations to Student Organizations, Annual Budgets, Operation of Government, etc.). This Bill would be detrimental to the General Fund in that GPSA would be losing out on an average of \$2,600 annually. This Bill would put constraints on the resources that GPSA is able to provide to students in the future and complicate the organizations financial posture. As we make decisions, it is important that we ensure the future of GPSA is considered.

My decision to veto this bill was made only after consultation with the Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO), GPSA's Advisor, and the GPSA Finance Chair and Vice-Chair. The impacts of legislation must be weighed and dialogue surrounding these decisions should be well informed. I encourage thoughtful and informed conversation around this subject that will result in the progress of GPSA without compromising its financial posture.

For these reasons, and pursuant to my authority under Article II, Section 1, 4 of the Constitution of the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico, I have vetoed BILL FA 2021-004, enacted by the 2021 – 2022 Council, Spring Session.

Respectfully yours,

David C. Saavedra
President