



## Feb 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Minutes

- I. Roll Call and Acknowledgement
  - a. Roll Call
    1. Von Haas (HGSA)
    2. Karmakar (Physics)
    3. Block (Physics)
    4. Hamid (Biology)
    5. Gridley (COEHS)
    6. Reyna (Psych)
    7. Fadul (COEHS)
    8. Oshuoa (COEHS)
    9. Pena-Parr (Span-Port)
    10. Shultz (COEHS)
    11. Olofinsao (Econ)
    12. Henkel (COEHS)
    13. Cowan (OILS)
  - b. Confirmation of Quorum  
Confirmed that more than 6 RDSAs are present as of 10:02am
  - c. Indigenous People's Land and Territory Acknowledgment
  - d. Black History Acknowledgement
  - e. Introduction of new members
  
- II. Opening Business
  - a. Approval of Agenda
    1. Motion by Henkel to amend agenda with word "agenda" added  
Vote: 12 y 0 n, 0 a
  - b. Approval of previous Meeting Minutes  
Motion by Block and seconded by Karmakar to table with amendments to include discussion items and LSC updates.  
Vote: 10 y 0 n, 0 a
  - c. Media & Gallery - *comments related to agenda items (3 minutes per)*  
Henkel: Inquiry about minutes recorder  
Cowan: Candidate did not accept and only 2 months remain so it is unlikely
  
- III. Officer Reports
  - a. President's Report

Graduate scholarship act (SB 180) was introduced to legislature but died in committee.

SB48 for grants funding was passed but has not yet been signed by governor

Discussed veto of bill 2021-004

Club 89 March 10 Black History and Women's history, Asian & Pacific Islanders April 7<sup>th</sup>

Questions:

Pena-Parr: What is current funding level in general fund and how would this be impacted by Bill 2021-004

Pena-Parr: What is president's office balance forward fund.

Saavedra: Can obtain it. Condensing accounts so they don't just contain single items.

Karmakar: Constraints for Bill 2021-004 were not mentioned until after veto

Saavedra: Feel that there was not enough discussion

Block: Question on \$2600 figure. If RDSA doesn't use money then wouldn't they need less money next time.

Saavedra: There is not a safeguard to prevent stacking of new PB fund requests.

Linguist: PB funds are allocated fully based upon number of people in the RDSAs

Saavedra: Also see my survey that was sent out

Olofinsao: I will yield because my question was about survey

Henkel: Thank you to Pena-Parr for question about balance in general fund. Can look at finance minutes. Thanks to President for looking at this carefully. We appreciate that he is open to override of veto.

b. Council Chair's Report

Happy to acknowledge federally recognized Black History Month. I use [www.blackhistoryin2minutes.com](http://www.blackhistoryin2minutes.com).

We will need to consider whether it would be more beneficial to sustain veto or to let RDSAs keep more money.

Will also have build your own lunch available

Election for council chair on April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Reaching out to RDSAs that are credentialed but not attending

Will be proposing making some funding contingent upon RDSAs attending meetings.

Questions:

Henkel: In order to vote for council chair you have to attend the April meeting. Thanks to Council chair for posting updated rules.

Karmakar: How will food monies be reallocated

Cowan: We will be providing food items that are shelf stable for you to be able to pick those up.

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### a. LSC Report

LSC had no new bills for February. To recap on bills, Bill 004 was vetoed. Bill 001 failed. Bill 002 was a better written version of 001 and was passed and signed by president. Bill 003 was also passed and signed by president.

Want to encourage all council member to attend the LSC for Friday meetings.

Cowan: Do you believe you need more members.

Henkel: We are having issues with people coming. Now we have \$100 stipends.

Cowan: But you do have to show up for all the meetings to get those stipends.

##### b. Finance Committee Report

Gearing up for annual budget review. Received 23 budget requests. As vice-chair Henkel reported they have \$261,000 available for disbursement.

No questions

#### V. Discussion item

##### a. Use of meeting food budget proposals

###### i. Build your own lunch

Block: Does all food need to be purchased through UNM catering

Cowan: I believe our advisor has told us that we only have to cater through Charwell's

Linquist: It is correct that this does not need to be catered through Chartwells

Block: Do we know how many people are interested in returning to in-person meetings.

Cowan: I think we can purchase a safe amount to cover every representative for at least one meeting.

Henkel: When will be put it on action items.

Cowan: I wanted to act as well, I think the normal procedure is to discuss first. We can take this action at the next meeting. Wanted feedback and discussion

#### VI. Action Items

Motion to open council appointments by Block and seconded (Henkel)

Vote: 9 y, 0 n, 0 a

##### a. Council Appointment

i. Andrea Benites, Elections Committee  
Olofinsao: What do you think you will be adding to the elections committee?  
Benites: Recently I have studied elections with other governments. My family is from Peru, and in Peru they fine people who do not vote. I am open to reforming code if things are not working out or keeping things as is if they do work

Block: Do you have any ideas for reformations for elections?

Benites: I am still studying this. Would like to look at statistics. This is the best way to measure.

Cowan: I'm sure that our election chair has some data and can share it

Motion by Henkel and second by Hamid

Vote: 10 y, 0 n, 0 a

ii. Ganiyu Azeez, Finance Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> year mechanical engineering student.  
Joined finance committee in 2021.

Work experience in sales and finance

Henkel: Want to encourage people to  
`accept Azeez.

Motion to approve by Marie and  
seconded by Karmakar

Vote: 11 y, 0n, 0a

Motion to open reconsideration bill

Vote: 10 y, 0 n, 0a

b. LSC bills

i. Reconsideration of Bill FA 2021-004

Discussion:

Block: Pros of Bill outweigh cons. I'm in favor of empowering our RDSAs. Keep money closer to students

Pena-Parr: \$2000 will not make big impact to GPSA. This money will further student engagement. You're closer to your department than the GPSA. Will not make a big hit to budget.

Don't see benefit to veto and recommend we override

Henkel: I agree that we should override. Groups can keep money close to them and get it more easily with less red tape and less jumping through hoops. Can fund conferences and departmental grants, etc. Easier access. Groups will be able to respond more quickly. If executive controls this then it could

take too long and president may not know the details about budget. We can also reconsider funding to groups at later date.

Olofinsao: Consider what benefit this would have to each RDSA. Others have pointed out the benefits to student groups.

Hamid: Reiterate other sentiments. One point is that it is more quickly accessible. When money is needed for emergencies, it can benefit students in a quicker way.

Pena-Parr: This funding will go a long way for an RDSA but will not make big impact on GPSA

Motion to override by Pena-Parr and seconded by Block

Vote: 10 y 0 n, 0a

c. Finance appropriations

Motion to open appropriations made by Block and seconded by Karmakar in block.

Vote: 10 y 0 n 0a

i. Appropriation 2C – Biology Graduate Student Association – DEI

ii. Appropriation 2D – Communication and Journalism Graduate

iii. Appropriation 2E – Minorities and Philosophy

iv. Appropriation 2F – UNM Trumpet Guild

Vote to approve all items by Karmakar and seconded by Olofinsao

Vote: 8 y 0 n 1a

VII. Council Announcements

a. Public Comment – *Comments not related to items on the agenda*

VIII. Upcoming Meeting

a. Upcoming meeting – Saturday, March 26, 2022 10:00am via zoom

Hamid: Will there be a link for training and more training?

Cowan: We will have a link to old training.

Linquist: Commend president Saavedra and Chief of Staff Vallejo did great work at legislative session. Hopefully we will get lottery scholarship style funding for all graduate students. Should start examining the raising of the GPSA fee. General fund is fine now because UNM President has provided supplemental funding which will run out at the end of next year. GPSA should create a committee to analyze need for increase of GPSA fee.

Henkel: Thank you to Council chair for running such a smooth meeting and getting us done before noon.

Karmakar: Question to finance chair. What will student groups need to do for budget hearing.

Rodarte: One student from organization will have 3 minutes to present

Olofinsao: FC will be making decisions right away after the hearing.

Karmakar: Will next meeting be in person?

Cowan: Question will be about level of interest.

IX. Adjourn at 12:05pm