



General Council Meeting Minutes
26 October, 2024
Sub Lobo A&B

- 1) Call to order at 10.05 am.
 - a) Roll call

All the representatives except those from psychology, Electrical GSA, and public policy were present.
 - a) Adoption of agenda
 - The motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting is proposed, seconded, and passed unanimously.
 - A representative from the School of Law reads out the indigenous peoples' land and territory acknowledgement. The representative from OILS read out the statement acknowledging the labor and sacrifices of Black Americans.

- 2) Opening business
 - a) The Chair opens the minutes of the previous meeting to discussion. There are no questions or discussion points, and the minutes are approved unanimously.
 - b) Ryan Lindquist applauds the council's movement towards parliamentary procedure and encourages continued growth.
 - c) A representative from Law School (Parker) reminds the council to register and vote in the early election.
 - d) The Chair moves on to the media and guest speakers' section of the agenda.

- 3) Guest Speakers
 - a) The Chair introduced the guest speaker, Angela De Avila from SGAO (Student Government Accounting Office), who discussed SGAO's role and how to work better with them. Angela made the following points:
 - SGAO acts as an intermediary between different campus departments to facilitate processes for student organizations.
 - the importance of timing in processing paperwork and the role of various departments like the purchasing office, P Card office, and unrestricted accounting.
 - SGAO's role in funding and fundraising:
 - the role of the UNM Foundation in helping student organizations with fundraising and creating self-generating funds.

- the importance of timing in processing stipends and scholarships with deadlines for payments being ideally the last day of the semester.
 - the challenges of professional services and the need for ample time to process payments for vendors.
 - the importance of working with vendors like UNM Catering and adhering to their deadlines is stressed.
 - Prorated benefits and workshop requirements
 - the prorated benefits for student organizations and the importance of utilizing PB funds effectively were explained.
 - an analysis of PB funds from the previous year is presented, showing that only 40% of the distributed funds were spent.
 - the need for student organizations to be more active in utilizing their allocated funds was emphasized.
 - workshop requirements for student organizations, including attending workshops and passing associated quizzes, were discussed.
 - the importance of having authorized signers for purchases and the process for internal requisitions was explained.
 - Q&A session and closing remarks
 - The workshops run through March, providing ample time for new organizations to complete the necessary requirements.
 - The session concluded with a five-minute Q&A, allowing attendees to ask questions and clarify any points.
 - Contact information for SGAO and the respective contents was provided for further questions and concerns.
- 4) Officer Reports
- a) The Chair introduced new members Sarah Miller and Milad from the physics department and Gabriel from political science.
 - b) The Chair acknowledged the presence of a chemistry representative for the first time this semester.
 - c) President Michel is at the SFRB meeting and would send updates later.
- 5) Committee Reports – nothing reported
- 6) Council Member Reports
- a) Department of Biology is hiring two faculty members
 - b) EPS mentions a fund-raising to create exterior signs to draw attention to the museum under renovation
 - c) Law School is hiring for ETP (Evidence Trial Practice)
 - d) Department of Communication is hiring a new administrative officer
 - e) Dr. Victor Law is the Chair of the Information Technology Committee
- 7) Action items

- a) Appropriations
 - The Chair explained the process of voting on appropriations and the concept of a sweeping motion.
 - Mariano presented the funding recommendation for the American Society for Photography and Remote Sensing, explaining the discrepancy between requested and awarded amounts.
 - The funding recommendation for the Electrical and Computing GSA was discussed, highlighting the reasons for the funding decision.
 - The distinction between promotional items and recruitment was clarified, emphasizing the need to avoid violating the anti-donation law.

- b) Additional Appropriations and Clarifications
 - The funding recommendation for the Electoral Chemical Society was presented, emphasizing that it was a new club and this was their first request.
 - The funding recommendation for the GPSA legislation, including the request for food, stipends, and a 360-degree camera were discussed.
 - The stipend for council members and the budget allocation for the semester was discussed.

- c) New Organization and Budget Workshop
 - The funding recommendation for the WiPAO was discussed, noting that it is a brand new organization.
 - The constraints on the first appropriation and the recommendation for food and supplies was explained.

- d) Voting Record and Roll Call
 - The Chair instructed the council members on the voting record sheet and the process for roll call voting.
 - The Chair called out the representatives for a roll call vote on the sweeping motion for appropriations.
 - The motion was passed with a majority vote.

- 8) PB Funds Bill Discussion
 - a) The Chair presented the PB funds bill, explaining the amendments related to COVID and the conversion of remaining PB funds to the general fund.
 - b) There was a clarification on the balance of RSA remaining unbalanced funds.
 - c) The Chair explains that the balance would not go below 500 and that the remaining funds would go back to the general fund.

- 9) Final Clarifications and Voting
 - a) The Chair clarified that the funds distributed to student orgs would still go back to the general fund if not used.
 - b) There was an inquiry about the allocation of funds for new RDSAs joining mid-semester.

- c) The Chair explained the deadline for requesting PB funds and the process for new RDSAs.
- d) Representatives from Biology, Earth and Planetary Science, School of Law, OILS spoke against the bill in the current, citing previous discussions and the current lack of budget constraints. The important though was that in the current situation, the percentage reduction seems too steep of only \$500 could be retained.

10) Discussion on Funding Allocation and Policy Justification

- a) Concerns about the group's plan for allocating funds and questions the policy justification were raised.
- b) The Chair suggested that if 75% of the funds are diverted to the general fund, the general fund could grow, allowing for increased funding later.
- c) The idea that funds should be used rather than sitting idle is supported by a council member, emphasizing the need to allocate funds effectively.

11) Clarifications and Oppositions

- a) Clarification on whether the policy would take money away from RDSAs without guaranteeing its return was sought.
- b) The Chair discussed the need for a progression plan to deal with growth in funding and the impact on the general fund.
- c) The SFRB's decision to raise fees does not affect the amount allocated to each RDSA, as it is a constitutional amendment.

12) Concerns About Funding Utilization and Policy Impact

- a) Concerns about the 75% reversion being too high and its impact on student organizations' ability to plan events were expressed.
- b) It was suggested that funds not used by the end of the academic year should be returned to the general fund for broader use.
- c) The issue of inactive RDSAs holding funds and the need for a balance between RDSAs and non-RDSAs was highlighted.
- d) Adjusting the policy to a 50% reversion instead of completely removing it was suggested.

13) Discussion on Policy Amendments and Tabling the Motion

- a) The timeline for spending funds and the impact on spring funding was questioned.
- b) It is suggested that the policy should focus on maximizing fund use and addressing inactive RDSAs, but the current bill may not be the best approach.
- c) The process of tabling the motion and the possibility of amending it in the future was suggested.

14) Final Vote and Clarifications

- a) The council was reminded about the two-speaking limit per discussion point and the need to vote on the motion to table the piece.
- b) It was questioned whether tabling the motion would still include the 2021 clause, and Speaker 6 confirms it would.

- c) Tabling the motion to have a longer discussion and develop precise amendments for the next meeting was suggested.
- d) A motion to table the bill was moved and seconded. The council votes to table the motion, with a roll call vote confirming the decision.
- e) Departments of Economics and Political Science abstained from voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 and informal discussions on the amendment of the bill took place. The council chair, Benjamin Garcia and Parker murphy sat down and discussed possible amendments.

Attendance Record

Member	Department		Credentialed/Alternate/Proxy	Council Chair Comments
Benjamin Garcia	Biology		Credentialed	
Seyi Adekoya	Chemistry		Credentialed	First meeting
Ankit Aryal	Civil Engineering		Alternate	
Saiqa	Communication		Credentialed	
Aidan Dunne	Earth and Planetary Science		Credentialed	
Wilfred Padmore Osei	Economics		Credentialed	
Marie Von Haas	History		Credentialed	
Parker Murphy	Law		Credentialed	
David Lonergan	Law		Credentialed	
Aleksia Minetos	Law		Credentialed	Newly elected
Hanumesh Sai Pamisetty	Mechanical Engineering		Credentialed	
Arlin Bustillos	Medicine		Credentialed	
Grace Faustino	Organization, Information and Learning Sciences		Credentialed	
Sarah Stamer	Physics		Credentialed	
Milad	Physics		Credentialed	

Houshmand Charmkhoran				
Gabriel	Political Science		Credentialed	
Kodiak Ly	Sociology		Credentialed	
Ashish Joshi				
Sofie Carillo				
Soumyodipta Karmakar				
Mariano Fernandez				
Ryan Lindquist				