



**General Council Meeting
September 28th, 2024**

Sub Lobo A&B

- I. Call to order at 10:05 am
 - a. Confirmation of Quorum
 1. Biology
 2. Economics
 3. Earth and Planetary Science
 4. History
 5. Law
 6. Mechanical Engineering
 7. Organization, Information and Learning Sciences
 8. Physics
 9. Psychology
 10. Public Administration/Public Policy (representative had to leave before voting on business)
 11. Sociology
 12. Communications
 - b. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. A motion to adopt the agenda is made and seconded, and the motion is adopted by the council.
 - ii. Gareth Ripol read out the indigenous peoples' land and territory acknowledgement and the statement acknowledging the labor and sacrifices of black Americans.
- II. Opening Business
 - a. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting
 - An amendment motion is moved to include Marie's name in the list of attendees. The motion passes unanimously.
 - b. Media, Gallery and Public Comments: no speaker, no comments.
 - Victor Reyes, introduced himself as the student regent for the University of New Mexico and emphasized his commitment to representing all students and being accessible to their concerns
 - c. GPSA Council Members: No comments
- III. Guest Speakers:
 - i. **Greg Golden, Associate Dean of Student Wellbeing:**
 - a. explained the eight dimensions of well-being and how they apply to students and discusses the importance of addressing financial stress and its impact on students'

well-being.

- b. mentioned the upcoming campus-wide well-being assessment survey for students and encourages students to take it. He highlights the anonymous nature of the data collected.
- c. introduced the Lobo Oasis, a new space for spiritual wellness funded by President Stokes.
- d. invited students to the Lobo Oasis grand opening and describes the space's features.
- e. raised concerns about the closure of family housing and its impact on students.
- f. acknowledged the need for family housing and the challenges of reopening it.
- g. mentioned the lack of housing for students in general and the need for more space.
- h. offered to connect students with the inter religious council and other resources for spiritual wellness.
- i. explained his role in advocating for student well-being and the resources available to him
- j. emphasized the importance of anecdotal feedback and student input in addressing well-being needs.
- k. invited students to share their concerns and suggestions for improving well-being initiatives.
- l. highlighted the importance of the upcoming well-being assessment survey in informing future strategies.

ii. Ryan Lindquist, Director, Student Activities Center.

- a. emphasized the importance of student government in addressing well-being issues.
- b. offered to help council members navigate the student-based conversation and refer them to appropriate resources.
- c. highlighted the role of the Student Activities Center in supporting student well-being initiatives.
- d. explained the importance of resolutions in expressing student sentiments on various issues like student housing, tuition costs, and the food pantry.
- e. mentions the need for students to use resolutions to voice their opinions as a council.
- f. acknowledged the lack of use of resolutions and highlights the need for students to engage more with GPSA
- g. apologized for missing the first meeting due to personal reasons and expresses commitment to attending future meetings.
- h. clarified that GPSA is a governmental body with the authority to distribute funding and create legislation, but any constitutional amendments must be ratified by the Board of Regents.
- i. explained that GPSA is not a department but is covered under the UNM risk liability insurance policy and subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA). OMA requires GPSA to post agendas 72 hours prior to meetings and prohibits adding items to the agenda after that time.
- j. introduced the term "clicker," the Inspection of Public Records Act, which mandates that GPSA can be requested to turn over records related to their business.
- k. emphasized the importance of parliamentary procedure in making meetings efficient, inclusive, and orderly.
- l. provided a cheat sheet on parliamentary procedure and explains the concept of

- quorum, which requires six RDSA members to be present at all times.
- m. explained the role of the council chair in interpreting and facilitating Robert's Rules and keeping track of the speaker's list.
 - n. Introduced the use of placards to indicate when a member wants to speak, making it easier for the council chair to manage the floor.

IV. Officer Reports:

- a. Council Chair Ashish Ravi Joshi: briefly discussed outreach efforts to get more departments to be part of the council. Talked about the process to the department of Native American Studies, recognized as an RDSA. Also invited names and suggestions from council members on guest speakers. Council chair encouraged members to volunteer themselves if they would like to head a subcommittee.
- b. President Michel Rivera Ramirez: reported on the establishment of a new food service on campus and ongoing efforts with the Graduate Scholarship Act

V. Committee Reports:

- a. **Grants Director, Joseph Conteh:** Wilfred Padmore (substituting for Joseph Conteh) provided an update about the recently concluded grants cycle. The grant review will happen between September 30th 2024 to October 14th 2024. Grants committee is working with SGAO to expedite summer grant awards.
- b. **Finance Director, Mariano Fernandez:** Update the council on the proposed changes of the Finance Committee Standing rules viz. The Finance Committee proposed increasing event funding to \$500 and clarifying professional service funding limits; Appropriations for student events and collaborations were also discussed, with a focus on ensuring transparency and efficient use of funds
- c. **Director of Boards, Committees and Elections – Travis Broadhurst:** Travis Broadhurst introduced himself as the Civil Engineering Council Representative and GPSA Director of Boards, Committees, and Elections. He is currently focused on staffing 36 GPSA committees across various university administrative areas, including some that have been inactive for several years. There are several vacancies on these committees, which Travis is offering first to Council members before opening them up to the general GPSA graduate student body. An email with committee descriptions and vacancies will be sent out by Ashish. Council members are encouraged to express interest in serving or recommend other graduate students to Travis.

VI. Council Member Reports

- a. GPSA Council members: Representatives of all departments present introduced themselves. Biology and Earth and Planetary Sciences informed the council of faculty hiring in process in their respective departments.

VII. Action Items

- a. Approval of Finance Committee Standing rules:
 - A motion to open the standing rules for discussion is made and seconded, and the standing rules are opened for debate.
 - The main changes discussed are as follows: 1) increasing maximum funding

for food to \$450 from \$350 per event. 2) In case of collaborative event between two or more student organizations, each organization will be granted \$450. 3) Professional services will be funded at a 60% of the total for each event up to a limit of \$1500

- 9 members vote in favor of approving the standing rules, and 3 vote against.
- The standing rules pass.

b. Appropriations requests:

- A sweeping motion was made to block group all appropriation requests namely – Nepali Student Association, High Desert Linguistics Society, Hindu YUVA, GPSA Grants, Indian Student Association, GPSA Executive.
- All appropriation requests as approved by the finance committee were passed unanimously.

❖ **A motion to break for recess and reconvene was made, seconded and passed**

Confirmation of quorum after recess:

1. Biology
2. Economics
3. Earth and Planetary Science
4. History
5. Law
6. Mechanical Engineering
7. Organization, Information and Learning Sciences
8. Physics
9. Sociology

c. Approval of Bill F 2024-001:

- This bill was authored by Council Chair Ashish Ravi Joshi. This bill was proposed to amend the RDSA certification deadline from 5th Friday of the Fall semester to Friday before the last council meeting of the fall or spring semester whichever is applicable.
- The proposed by law change would allow RDSA to charter throughout the year.
- The amendment was passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Bill F 2024—2

- This bill was authored by Grants Director Joseph Conteh. The bill proposed to make the following changes: 1) Replace “Grant Reader” to “Grant Reviewer”. 2) Provide a new definition of the minimum and maximum words limits for application and disqualification requirements. 3) Provide an additional criterion for “Unacceptable PDG costs” to include payment of online certifications programs. 4) Added a line to include applicants' requirement to attend at least one workshop in the Fall Grant Cycle to be eligible for a grant award. 5) These changes will be effected in the Spring 2024 Semester.
- An amendment motion was moved by Benjamin Garcia (Biology) to clarify the language about workshop requirements for grant award eligibility. There were

- multiple seconds to this amendment
- A friendly amendment was made by Cloe Knutson to clarify the language further. The final line reads: “Applicants are required to attend at least one workshop in the grant cycle to be eligible for a grant award in that cycle, unless applicant has attended one workshop already in the academic year.”
- The amendment was approved unanimously.
- The bill was approved unanimously.

- VIII. Upcoming meetings:
 a. October 26th, 2024, at 10 am in SUB Lobo A & B

VIII. Informal Brainstorming session

IX. Adjourn at 12.50 pm

Attendance Record

Member	Department	Credentialed/Alternate/Proxy	Council Comments	Chair
Benjamin Garcia	Biology	Credentialed		
Wilfred Padmore Osei	Economics	Credentialed		
Marie Von Haas	History	Credentialed		
David Lonergan	Law	Credentialed		
Patrick Murphy	Law	Credentialed		
Hanumesh Sai Pamisetty	Mechanical Engineering	Credentialed		
Grace Faustino	Organization, Information and Learning Sciences	Credentialed		
Srinidhi Pawar	Physics	Credentialed		
Gareth Ripol	Public Policy	Credentialed	Left before any voting business	
Kodiak Ly	Sociology	Credentialed		
Cloe Knutson	Earth and Planetary Science	Credentialed		
Max Segal	Psychology	Certified Alternate		
Saiqa Shahzadi	Communication and Journalism	Credentialed		
Ashish Joshi				
Michel Rivera Ramirez				
Joseph Conteh				
Sofie Carillo				
Mariano Fernandez				
Jacob Griego				
Victor Reyes				

