



GPSA President's Cabinet Meeting

Friday, September 20th | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM MST

AGENDA

I. Check-In

- a. Present
 - i President – Present – Michel Rivera
 - ii Chief of Staff – Present – Stephanie Flores
 - iii Council Chair – Present – Ashish Ravi Joshi
 - iv Finance Director – Present – Mauriano Fernandez
 - v Grants Director – Present – Joseph Conteh
 - vi Boards, Committees and Elections Director – Present – Travis Broadhurst
 - vii Political Director – Absent
 - viii Public Relations and Development Director – Vacant
 - ix Sustainability Director – Rae Bennu
 - x Attorney General – Present – Sophie Carillo
 - xi Chief Justice – Absent

II. Council Chair Update

- a. Council Chair Joshi | “First council meeting was on August 31st, we updated standing rules and we are prepping for the next meeting. I am working on a bill to update the bylaws, changing the bylaws to let RDSAs charter whenever they wanted to as opposed to having an end date. This would allow for students to charter a vacant RDSA on a rolling basis.”

III. President's Update

- a. President Riviera Ramirez | “[...] Big effort going towards meeting with various peoples regarding the Graduate Scholarship Act, we met with the cabinet secretary of higher education. Willing to back up the Graduate Scholarship Act [...] What we're trying to do is amend it to cover full tuition

for recipients. Heath, Stephanie and I are working on getting this complete. Victor has been a huge help as well.”

- b. President Riviera Ramirez | “Today is the last day for PR interviews, we should have that position filled very soon. Interviews for Student Regent are also happening and sending those names to President Stokes as soon as possible.”
- c. We got 50,000 from HSC to fund the HSC grant. Victor went to HSC to lobby for this funding. HSC said that if we can spend all of the money, we can make it a reoccurring scholarship if we are able to give all of the money away.

IV. Chief of Staff Update

- a. Chief of Staff Flores | “Appropriation was submitted to - increase director stipends by 25% at the end of this semester when stipends are disbursed. We don’t have to lobby at the legislature for director stipends anymore.”
- b. Chief of Staff Flores | “[...] I also found out that UNM Catering is a monopoly – doing more research on that. Aramark only agreed to sign the contract to be our food service provider if they are the only people that can cater within the SUB. Looking into seeing if we can make any changes to that.”
- c. Chief of Staff Flores | “[...] Have a few partnerships coming up – PR interviews, should get us a PR person who will be able to do collaborations. Request from the Grad Union to do a Grad Student Appreciation Night – sometime this semester whenever PR is hired. We have plans to collaboration with El Centro but not this semester – kickoff to Hispanic Heritage Month or something similar.”
- d. Chief of Staff Flores | “We received some communication via law students that the Law School is a food desert – what places on the university are lacking food or funding for food? Conversations between the law school and us to see what other departments are lacking food options.”
- e. Chief of Staff Flores | “Regarding the survey we talked about at our last meeting – Ashish gave good input, waiting for ASUNM to decide what pieces they will also survey on – will be released at the same time. What should the University do on the Israel-Palestine issue?”
 - i. Wants to do other surveys, what other issues are plaguing graduate students
 - ii. First of a series of surveys.

V. Committee Updates

- a. Chief of Staff Flores | “For our committee updates, name one GPSA initiative you’ve been working on? One personal project that you’re excited about?”

b. Director | “We’re getting ready for Board of Regents committee meetings. We’ve been trying to set research goals – we want to set a specific amount. Everyone is going to be okay with a 500,000 research goal.”

i Resident internships, rural internship grants

ii Legislative-finance committee met in the SUB, we’ll be coming to the legislature more about the GSA.

President Riviera Ramirez | “Do we have to do any additional lobbying to make the GSA a priority?”

1 Director “We feel confident that they will make it an agency priority”

Director Broadhurst | “Have we met the threshold for R1 consideration?”

2 Director “We have surpassed it”

c. Joseph – Having the Grants Workshop be mandatory in the Fall and then making it optional in the Spring.

d. Director has discretion to provide funding, but Joseph wants it to be in consultation with the Grants Committee – is already done implicitly but wants it to be explicit so that Grant discretion is not on a personal basis. Reaching out to SGAO prior to the beginning of the Grant cycle to ensure we are not awarding too much money.

e. Deadline is on the 27th for the grant cycle, afterwards is the review process. 2 week review process. We have returning grant reviewers which will support us.

f. Trying to find a proper channel of communication so that people are less frustrated about the Grants cycle.

g. Stephanie – HSC Grant, it is currently 50,000 dollars. Could we increase the individual amounts given out in each award?

i Joseph – if we want to change the increments, the current maximum is \$750, we need to figure out to what extent can we increase it. It is in the grants code so we would need to adjust.

h. Sustainability – Spending workshop, Met with Eva Stricker, got a food waste grant. Going to collaborate to see how we can spend that grant. Got invited to the Food Cycle Sustainability Summit. Met with ASUNM Environmental Director, she’s doing a sustainability tracking system with UNM. Tracking how UNM utilizes their energy. Greenhouse evaluation of what we’re putting out. Oct 7. No False Solutions, we’ll bring in an outside presenter to talk about environmentally friendly issues and how it isn’t always a net positive – corporations are the biggest problem.

VI. Travis - I spoke as a representative for GPSA – made a template for GPSA presentations that Kaya has. You can use it for whatever you are specifically doing

- VII. Making a big list of all of the boards and commissions that we have served on in the past. Questionable about whether or not they are active. Biggest thing is ensuring that these roles can be filled. If you are interested in serving on a committee, let me know and we can disperse internally. Some boards that we're not on that we could be on.
- VIII. We had our first finance committee meeting on Tuesday. We were able to give out 4 student organization requests and 2 GPSA requests. Increasing the budget from what it was formerly. We are looking to change the standing rules to make it more equitable – making students feel more supported.
- IX. Particularly, updating our standing rules for professional services. We have a lot more money to play around with because of the Graduate Student Fee increase. We have given close to 25000 in the last Finance meeting – with 90,000 still being able to be given away without error.
- X. Sofie – updating the lawbook etc. (add this in)
- XI. Stephanie – What do you need support in?
- XII. Sofie - Updating the OneDrive so that its shared
- XIII. Michel – Make yourself known
- XIV. Ashish – Get people to join council and let them know that chartering deadlines have been extended :)