General Council Meeting
October 31, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Lobo A&B, Student Union Building, University of New Mexico

I. Call to Order – **10:06 AM**
   a. Roll Call
      i. American Studies: Present
      ii. Anthropology: Present
      iii. Art: Present
      iv. Biology: Present
      v. Biomedical Sciences: Present
      vi. Chemistry: Present
      vii. Chicano Studies: Present
      viii. Computer Science: Present
      ix. Earth and Planetary Sciences: Present (Alternate)
      x. Economics: Present
      xi. Electrical and Computer Engineering (Majid): Present
      xii. Electrical and Computer Engineering (Anik): Present
      xiii. English: Present
      xiv. History: Present
      xv. Law (Reichsfeld): Present
      xvi. Law (Davis): Present
      xvii. Law (Garcia-Teran): Absent
      xviii. Law (Tsai): Present
      xix. Mathematics and Statistics: Present
      xx. Medicine (Sorto): Absent
      xxi. Medicine (Sanchez): Present
      xxii. Medicine (Alarid): Present
      xxiii. Medicine (Emeanuwa): Absent
      xxiv. Medicine (Parrales): Absent
      xxv. Native American Studies: Present (Alternate)
      xxvi. Nursing: Present
      xxvii. Occupational Therapy: Present
      xxviii. Pharmacy: Present
      xxix. Physics (Oyeniran): Present
      xxx. Physics (Deneris): Present
      xxxi. Political Science: Present
      xxxii. Psychology: Present

xxxiii. Public Administration: Absent
xxxiv. Public Health: Absent
xxxv. Sociology: Absent
xxxvi. Spanish and Portuguese: Present
xxxvii. Speech and Hearing Sciences: Present

b. Confirmation of Quorum
    i. The motion to open the agenda is advanced by Physics.
    ii. The motion to open the agenda is seconded by Mathematics and Statistics.
c. Approval of Agenda
    i. The motion to approve the agenda is advanced by Native American Studies.
    ii. The motion to approve the agenda is seconded by Economics.
    iii. The motion passes unanimously.
d. Indigenous People's Land and Territory Acknowledgement
    i. This statement is read by Legislative Steering Committee Chair Rafael Romero-Salas (gpsalsc@unm.edu).

II. Opening Business
a. Opening of last meeting's minutes (September 2026 Minutes)
    i. The motion to open last month's meeting minutes is advanced by Law.
    ii. The motion to open last month's meeting minutes is seconded by Physics.
    iii. The quorum votes to approve the minutes unanimously.
b. Approval of last meeting's minutes
    i. The motion to approve the minutes is advanced by Occupational Therapy.
    ii. The motion to second the minutes is advanced by Law.
    iii. The quorum votes to approve the minutes unanimously.
c. Media, Gallery, and Public Comment – **10:12 AM**
    i. There are no public comments.

III. Guest Speakers – **10:13 AM**
a. Joseph Conteh – GPSA Grants Director (gpsafunding@unm.edu).
    i. GPSA Grants Director Conteh presents an overview of the applications received and the awards given out for the Fall 2026 cycle.
        1. For the Graduate Scholarship fund, the GPSA received 45 applications, sending out 25 awards.
        2. For the Professional Development Grant, 14 awards were given out.
        3. For the Student Research Grant, there were a record number of applications and awards, with 69 applicants and 50 awards granted.

ii. Conteh notes, “Every application is reviewed by a team of three. Applicants have the option to appeal. The committee will meet and communicate this meeting to the students who are appealing. Once the decision is made, we will sent out an email notification.”
iii. Time is given over for questions.
    1. Native American Studies asks, “Do you have a written report that we may have to distribute to our membership?”
        a. Conteh states, “Yes, after the appeals are settled, we will release it.”
    2. Physics, asks, “Do you have a certain number of awards given out every year or does that change based on applicants?”
        a. Conteh responds, “It depends on the endowment. The endowment may say, ‘There is a maximum of 35 awards.’ I meet with an accountant, who provides the recommendation. The Professional Development Grant, for example, has constraints depending on the funding.”
    3. Chemistry, asks, “You mentioned that there is more funding for the Student Research Grant. How does this work?
        a. Conteh responds, “Our source of funding often derives from student fees. This is why we give provisions for appeal. Due to funding, we cannot give more than this. If your appeal is suitable, however, we’ll look at what’s available.”
    4. Art asks, “Have appeals always been possible or is this new? What is the language in the email regarding what they can appeal?”
        a. Conteh responds, “I always send out a notification. We don’t like the word ‘rejected.’ Everyone has the option to appeal, and the email itself has the timeline.”
iv. Conteh readdresses the quorum, asking, “What, in your experience, is the best way to approve the grant cycle?”
    1. Earth and Planetary Sciences asks about the eligibility for international conferences. Conteh responds that such conferences are permissible, but that the application must be tailored.

b. Edrea Mendoza Quintero – SAC Graduate Project Assistant – **10:27**

i. Direct quotes from Ms. Mendoza Quintero: “I’m here in my capacity for SAC, where I create programming for graduate and professional students. I plan events and activities. I’m here to talk about the SAC events coming up for the rest of the semester. We can talk about event funding. If we have time, I would like to brainstorm ideas together.”
ii. The upcoming events are as follows:
    1. On November 8th, 2026, there will be a hike at Petroglyph National Monument through the Outdoor Adventure Center. This free, and non-UNM associates may attend, though they may not take the shuttle. Registration closes on November 3rd.

2. On November 10th, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, the SAC is hosting November study hours, cohosted by the University Library System. There will be coffee and snacks.
3. On November 19th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, there will be a paint and sip night, with the Dean in attendance.
4. On December 2nd, there will be professional headshots taken from 11:00 to 12:00 and then again from 3:00 to 4:00. Depending on the weather, this may occur inside Travelstead Hall.
5. On December 8th, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, there will be a final study hours, this time in the graduate commons of Zimmerman Library. Writing consultants will be available.
6. On December 11th, there will be an end of semester meetup at Flock of Moons Brewing Company from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

iii. Mendoza Quintero concludes, "If your departments want to team up for any of these events, just let us know at gradevents@unm.edu. Feel free to fill out an event survey or sign up for our mailing list."

iv. The quorum is open for questions and comments.
1. Law states, "I appreciate the shuttle for students without cars, but I do want to encourage SAC to think about how to include our non-UNM loved ones with no access to cars."
2. Law speaks again, asking "Is insurance required for the hike?"
    a. Mendoza Quintero confirms that this is required.
3. Native American Studies states, "I want to give some feedback. The sacred nature of the petroglyphs is important. Please have the proper nomenclature of the petroglyphs. There is a land acknowledgment and calling them properly is a way to stand behind the acknowledgment."
4. Art asks, "Building on this, is there anybody who will provide education about the sacred nature of the hike?"
    a. Mendoza Quintero responds, "Yes, there will be a trail guide."

IV. Officer Reports – **10:41 AM**

a. President Report – Marisa Page (gpsapres@unm.edu)

i. Direct quotes from President Page are as follows: "I would like to thank Joseph [Conteh] and Edrea [Mendoza Quintero] for their presentations. Your continued engagement this semester is welcome. On October 16th, we held our graduate health fair, and it was larger than the previous one by significant margins. We've now done three know-your-rights sessions, working alongside Dreamers and El Centro [elcentro@unm.edu]. There will be

more in the future. Also, a tax workshop is coming up with Nusenda that will explore both domestic and international taxes. Finally, Indigenous Week is coming. There will be a Zuni dancing group on November 11th, and on the 12th, we will be screening *Gather*, a film about food sovereignty."

ii. President Page discusses grants, calling them, "Our number one priority this year.'
iii. I want to talk about grants. This is our number one priority this year.
    1. The Student Regent is looking to acquire rural research grants.
    2. President Page announces that the GPSA is looking for a new Student Regent to represent students at the Board of Regents. They will be in charge of budgets and policy. The Regent will receive a private office in the SUB, parking privileges, and a stipend of $2,000 per month.

b. Council Chair Report – Charlotte Auh (gpsacouncil@unm.edu)
    i. 29 out of 49 departments with graduate students are currently represented in the GPSA, meaning that the quorum is 59% filled.
    ii. The December 5th meeting of the quorum will feature President Goldstein (president@unm.edu) and Provost Rodriguez.
    iii. Regarding Pro-rated Benefit (PB) funds: Any member of the RDSA can apply for these funds. The semester deadline has now passed, but they are issued twice yearly. Remaining funds roll over.
    iv. PB Funds: Any member of the RDSA can apply for PB funds. These are issues twice a year. If you did not apply, Charlotte will make sure you apply next year (the semester deadline is passed). If you have more questions about these, know that they roll over.
    v. Council stipend: If representatives attend 3/5 council meetings, they will receive a $200.00 stipend at the end of the semester.
    vi. Council stipend: If you receive 3/5 council meetings, you will receive a 200 stipend.
    vii. Council representative position: This is up to the specific RDSA as to how the representative is selected. Bear in mind that there is no need to resubmit paperwork next semester unless a new representative is chosen.
    viii. IndigiWeek 2026 is, as a reminder, November 10th through the 13th, 2026.
    ix. Revisiting the stoles: The Student Government Accounting Office (sgao@unm.edu) has declined to fund these, but RDSAs may consult with them in private.

V. Committee Reports – **10:54AM**

a. Legislative Steering Committee – Rafael Romero-Salas (gpsalsc@unm.edu)
    i. Direct quotes from Romero-Salas are as follows: "We had one piece of legislation this month; it was an amendment relating that insuring that non-council representatives can serve on the committee. Because of numbers and engagement with the community, we've taken this initiative to open it up to graduate students who are not members of the

council. We received feedback on the bill. Certain language in particular had to be looked at, and there were some small grammatical changes as well."

b. Finance Committee – Soumyodipta Karmakar (gpsafin@unm.edu)
    i. Karmakar states that he is present to explain the current status of funds.
        1. At present, the GPSA is experiencing depleted funds.
        2. The GPSA does not receive funding in a single amount; rather, it comes in phases.
    ii. Direct quotes are as follows: "When I first became chair, we found out that there was a huge chunk of unspent money on the GPSA general fund [$290.000]. We reserved $50,000 for emergency services. We received a record 92 requests and we allocated $206,000. This fiscal year has $297,227 to allocate. We strive for fairness and neutrality across all departments."
    iii. The current state of GPSA finances.
        1. More than 50 applications for the next fiscal year have been advanced, another record.
        2. Over $100,000 has already been allocated.
        3. The Committee is undergoing talks as to what to do in the coming years, as the rate of spending is not sustainable. The current plan is to reduce 2027 allocation funds.
    iv. The current state of student funding.
        1. The Committee is engaged in checking as to whether student applicants for funding receive support from the GPSA *and* departments. However, grants and appropriations do meet at the same time. Thus, the Committee has assessed every student on a case-by-case basis.
        2. The Committee has the authority to reject applicants based on funding from other departments.
    v. Questions and comments from the quorum.
        1. Physics asks, "You have had the highest amount of appropriations so far [92]. Do you have a cap on the amount each organization receives?"
            a. Karmakar responds, "Our standing rules were not updated for a long time. Then, the last point is that there are a lot of new charters started recently, but at the same time this is pressure on our funds. There is no limitation. There are individual caps but not RDSA caps."
        2. From the galley, Ryan Lindquist (depar@unm.edu) states, "There was more than 60 more allocations than in the previous year. The budget will be bigger this year, but it is not sustainable."
        3. Native American Studies asks, "Is there the possibility of a raise in student fees?"
            a. Karmakar responds, "No, not in this upcoming academic year."
            b. Lindquist adds, "There may be summer fees."

VI. Action Items – **11:24 AM**

a. Mandated Items

i. Approval of President Appointment

1. Chief Justice: **Jeffrey (Buddy) Wren** (gpsacor@unm.edu)
2. The motion to open the appointment is advanced by Law.
3. The motion to second the appointment is seconded by Physics.
4. The motion to approve the appointment is advanced by Law.
5. The motion to approve the appointment is seconded by History.
6. The quorum unanimously approves the appointment.

ii. As Wren is sworn in, the quorum has a five minute recess.

1. The motion to return is advanced by American Studies.
2. The motion to return is seconded by Native American Studies.

iii. Approval of Council Chair Appointment

1. Finance Members: **Tzetza Rosas-Perez**
    a. The motion to open the appointment is advanced by Mathematics and Statistics.
    b. The motion to open the appointment is seconded by Physics.
    c. The motion to approve the appointment is advanced by Law.
    d. The motion to approve the appointment is seconded by History.
    e. The quorum unanimously approves the appointment.

iv. Legislative Steering Committee – **11:38 AM**

1. Bill #1F – Discussion Only
    a. The motion to open Bill #1F is advanced by Mathematics and Statistics.
    b. The motion to open Bill #1F is seconded by Physics.
    c. Mathematics and Statistics asks, "Why is this verbiage used in line 34? What is the difference between graduate students who meet necessary qualifications for the GPSA membership and the GPSA?"
        i. LSC Chair Romero-Salas responds, "This keeps in mind that graduate students must maintain GPA requirements."
        ii. Council Chair Auh responds, "Not all graduates knew that they were GPSA members, and we want to push that knowledge."
    d. Mathematics and Statistics asks, "If you fail to meet good academic standing, are you removed?"
        i. Council Chair Auh responds, "Yes."
    e. Native American Studies Asks, "What is the minimum qualification?"
        i. Council Chair Auh responds, "This is in our constitution."

v. Finance Committee – **11:39 AM**

1. A sweeping motion to open all bills is advanced by Law.
2. A sweeping motion to open all bills is seconded by Art.
3. The quorum passes the sweeping motion unanimously.
4. Appropriation#16F – Intellectual Property Society
    a. They requested money for general body meetings. The council approved $300.00 for food and refreshments.
    b. The Society also requested $500.00 for event. This was not allocated
5. Appropriation#26F – Business Law Society
    a. They Business Law Society requested $400 to be awarded twice for two separate events. The GPSA allocated $385.00 per event.
6. Appropriation#31F – Historical Law Society
    a. Similarly, the Historical Law Society requested a total of $1,477.00 to be payable for: Food and refreshments, copy materials, equipment rentals, promotional items, and events. The GPSA allocated $1,060.00. This was due to declining to fund the first event.
7. Appropriation#32F – Political Science Graduate Students' Association
    a. Note that this is an RDSA.
    b. This organization requested $7,438.00 to attend a conference in 2027 in Atlanta. Travel expenses of $4,245.00 were approved and allocated.
8. Appropriation#33F – African Students' Association
    a. This organization requested $3,240.00 for an event. The GPSA allocated $1,000 for food and refreshments.
9. Appropriation#34F – Medical Students For Choice
    a. Two students will be attending an upcoming family planning conference in December 2026. Medical Students for Choice requested funding for such an expense. The GPSA allocated $1,225.00 for travel and an additional $618.00 for events.
10. Appropriation#35F – Surgery Interest Group
    a. The organization requested $2,061.00 for three items – an event, refreshments, and office supplies. The GPSA allocated $1,855.00.
11. Appropriation#36F – Computer Science Graduate Student Association
    a. Note that this is an RDSA.
    b. The RDSA requested funds for a general body meeting; the GPSA instructed them to use PB funds. Nonetheless, the GPSA allocated $140.00 for miscellaneous expenses.
12. Appropriation#37F – Higher Education Art Group
    a. The group requested $2,513.00 for food and refreshments, as well as an end-of-the-year showcase. The GPSA funded $2,214.00.

13. Appropriation#38F – Law Students Against Imperialism
    a. Law Students Against Imperialism requested $2,799.00 for events, refreshments, and promotional items. They were allocated $1,650.00.
14. Appropriation#39F – Tau Beta Pi
    a. This is an engineering society, and they estimated a need of $4,343.00 for two events. They were allocated $1,785.00.
15. Appropriation#40F – Communities in Health
    a. The organization sought $732.00 for two rural healthcare events, and were awarded the full amount.
16. Appropriation#41F – Street Medicine Addiction and Harm Reduction Team
    a. SMAHRT sought funds for three events, including refreshments. They were allocated $898.00 out of $989.00 requested.
17. Appropriation#42F – Healthcare Advocacy Initiative of New Mexico
    a. The organization requested $477.00 for two events, and were given the full amount.
18. Appropriation#43F – American Studies Graduate Student Association
    a. Note that this is an RDSA.
    b. The association requested travel funds for seven graduate students to attend a conference in Chicago. They sought $6,383.00 and were allocated $4,618.00.
19. Appropriation#44F – Graduate Students in Math and Statistics
    a. Note that this is an RDSA.
    b. The organization sought $503.00 for lunch expenses related to an event. They were awarded the full amount.
20. Appropriation#45F – Emergency Medicine Interest Group
    a. The organization requested funds for a talk on emergency medicine, totaling $637.00, and they were awarded the full amount.
21. Appropriation#46F – Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Society
    a. Note that this is an RDSA.
    b. Having requested funds for events and promotional items, they were instructed to use their PB funds, but were otherwise awarded $1,171.00 out of the $2,093.00 sought.
22. Appropriation#48F – Music Is Medicine
    a. For events, as well as promotional and advertising items related to the event, they requested $5,432.00 and were awarded $2,907.00.
23. Appropriation#49F – Women's Law Caucus
    a. This organization sought funds for three events, as well as refreshments for those events. They were awarded the full amount of $387.00.

24. Appropriation#50F – BioOptics Student Society
    a. This organization sought funds for a conference for four students, adding to $6,585.00. They were awarded $899.00 per student at $5,058.
25. Appropriation#51F – Bengal United Sports Club
    a. The Bengal United Sports Club sought funds for athletic gear, as well as advertising and the rental of Louie's Lounge. They asked for $16,258.00 and the GPSA allocated$3,833.00.

vi. A block vote to approve the appropriations is advanced by Mathematics and Statistics.
vii. A block vote to approve the appropriations is seconded by Law.
viii. The quorum unanimously approves the appropriations.

b. Emergency Items
c. Unfinished Business
d. New Business

VII. Council Announcements –**12:10 PM**

a. 3 minutes each
    i. American Studies: A lecturer will be visiting the department on Wednesday, November 4th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
    ii. Anthropology: GPSA funding went to the 20th Annual Graduate Student Union Conference. Next year, the conference will be open to those from outside anthropology.
    iii. English: MFA students have an upcoming performance to read their theses in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry.
    iv. Law: The School of Law is hosting a festival for all to come on November 5th at 4:30 PM.
    v. Mathematics and Statistics: Immediately following this meeting, there will be the GS Swam Conference for all to attend.
    vi. Medicine: The annual Malpractice Cup will be held between students at the School of Medicine and School of Law.
    vii. Native American Studies: The department literary journal, the Wicazao Sa Review, is hosting a symposium in SUB Ballroom C on November 6th.
    viii. Pharmacy: The recent community outreach was successful.
    ix. Spanish and Portuguese: Members of the department were finalists for LoboBites.
    x. All other departments declined to provide an update.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings – **12:16 PM**

a. Full Council
    i. November 21, 2026 at 10am, SUB Lobo A&B
b. Finance Committee

i. November 17, 2026 at 6pm, SUB Trail/Spirit

c. Legislative Steering Committee

i. November 10, 2026 at 6pm, SUB Mirage/Thunderbird

IX. Adjourn – **12:16 PM**