



General Council Meeting
September 26, 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: Absent
- ii. Anthropology: Present
- iii. Art: Present
- iv. Biology: Present
- v. Biomedical Sciences: Present
- vi. Chemistry: Present
- vii. Earth and Planetary Sciences: Present
- viii. Economics: Present
- ix. Electrical and Computer Engineering: Absent
- x. English: Present
- xi. History: Present
- xii. Law (Reichsfeld): Present
- xiii. Law (Davis): Present
- xiv. Law (Garcia-Teran): Present
- xv. Law (Tsai): Present
- xvi. Mathematics and Statistics: Present
- xvii. Medicine (Parrales): Absent
- xviii. Medicine (Sanchez): Present
- xix. Medicine (Alarid): Present
- xx. Native American Studies: Present
- xxi. Nursing: (Present)
- xxii. Occupational Therapy: Present
- xxiii. Pharmacy: Present
- xxiv. Physics (Oyeniran): Present
- xxv. Physics (Deneris): Present
- xxvi. Political Science: Present
- xxvii. Psychology: Absent
- xxviii. Public Administration: Absent
- xxix. Public Health: Present
- xxx. Sociology: Absent
- xxxi. Spanish and Portuguese: Present



- b. Confirmation of Quorum
 - c. Approval of Agenda – **10:10 AM**
 - i. The motion to approve is made by Mathematics and Statistics.
 - ii. It is seconded by Chemistry.
 - iii. It is approved unanimously.
 - d. Indigenous People’s Land and Territory Acknowledgement -- **10:11 AM**
- II. Opening Business
- a. Approval of last meeting’s minutes (August 2026 Minutes)
 - i. This is motioned by Physics, seconded by Occupational Therapy, and approved unanimously.
 - b. Media, Gallery, and Public Comment -- 10:11
 - i. Ryan Lindquist, Director of Student Activities Center (depar@unm.edu):
 - 1. “In my 25 years, this is the largest council meeting I have seen. Kudos. I want to provide a congratulations.”
 - 2. Lindquist continues, “When we consider bills, we hold all organizations to the Standing Rules. If someone requests travel, they’ll allow up to six, for example, at 60%. The point is that we want to do things fairly.”
 - 3. GPSA has the discretion to increase and decrease funding, but per the Standing Rules, we treat applicants equally.
 - 4. Lindquist reasserts, “Every student organization could afford more money, and we want to have bigger events on campus, but we *must* follow the Standing Rules.”
 - 5. Lindquist yields.
 - ii. Sajib Chakraborty, President of the Bangladeshi Student Association (bsaunm@unm.edu).
 - 1. The Bangladeshi Student Association has come forward to ask for funds, despite filing appropriate paperwork ten days after the deadline. Direct quotes are as follows:
 - 1. “In our community and our group, Indian students and West Bengal students are a part of us and have participated in our different cultural programs. We asked for GPSA funding and there are rules to fund for special events, especially when we want to order traditional foods.”
 - 2. “For big events, we used to get more money. We need proper appropriation. I will ask to vote on this again.”



III. Officer Reports – **10:19 AM**

- a. President Report – Given by Chief of Staff Ebony Gonzalez (gpsacos@unm.edu)
 - i. Chief of Staff Gonzalez gives the report as Marisa Page (gpsapres@unm.edu) is in Rome for a conference. Direct quotes are as follows:
 - 1. “Good morning everyone, I’m Ebony Gonzalez. I have a report and update from our president. Thank you for your time and work as graduate students. We’ve been extremely with event planning to ensure that graduate students are represented.”
 - ii. Gonzalez presents on upcoming programs.
 - 1. Educational Resource Sessions
 - 2. Know Your Rights Sessions
 - 3. Smudging Circles
 - 1. This is a ceremonial smoke cleansing and healing circle.
- b. Council Chair Report – Charlotte Auh (gpsacouncil@unm.edu) – **10:21 AM**
 - 1. Council Chair Auh starts by wishing Rafael Romero-Salas a happy birthday, reminding all present that there is a birthday sign-up sheet in the GPSA office (SUB 1021).
 - ii. The Student Activities Center (sac@unm.edu; SUB 1018) oversees prorated benefit (PB) funds for student organizations. Council Chair Auh encourages organizations to reach out to the SAC and to submit a PB request form in a timely manner.
 - 1. The appropriation deadline is October 13. Please see website information [here](#).
 - iii. The GPSA (gpsa@unm.edu) is sponsoring the following events:
 - 1. Community smudge at Duck Pond
 - 2. Collaboration with El Centro
 - 3. Club 89 for Hispanic Heritage Month
 - 1. This will take place at Draft & Table.
 - 4. SHAC Health Fair, which will offer services and other mental health resources.
 - iv. Council Chair Auh concludes by announcing that the College of Nursing is now eligible for three delegates, while Medicine is eligible for five.

IV. Committee Reports – **10:25 AM**

- a. Legislative Steering Committee – Rafael Romero-Salas (gpsalsc@unm.edu) speaks next, with direct quotes as follows:



- i. “This last meeting was focused primarily on our Standing Rules and vice-chair election. These are the main items for discussion. If you’ve read the constitution, and you don’t agree, I’m always available to have that conversation. We’ll get into more substantive bills.”
 - b. Finance Committee – Soumyodipta Karmakar (gpsafin@unm.edu) –**10:26 AM**
 - i. Finance Director Karmakar speaks, with direct quotes as follows:
 - 1. “As I said in our [first meeting](#), we are strictly following the Standing Rules. I will recap because we have a lot of applications today. In the beginning of the semester, we estimate what we’ll allocate for the whole semester. We tried our best to not go beyond that number.”
 - 2. “We always try our best, whatever we allocate. There are a huge number of applications, but when we allocate the funds, we have to follow the Standing Rules: How is the money helping graduate students? “
 - ii. Finance Director Karmakar emphasizes that they consider the relatedness of student associations in the allocation of GPSA funds.
- V. Action Items – **10:30 AM**
 - a. Mandated Items
 - i. Legislative Steering Committee
 - 1. Approval of [26-27 Legislative Steering Committee Standing Rules](#)
 - 1. Note that the Standing Rules had not been updated since 2021.
 - ii. Vice Chair Appointment
 - 1. LSC Vice Chair: Rafael Colón
 - i. The Standing Rules that Colón helped revise were based on similar rules at Arizona State University.
 - ii. The Standing Rules outline how quorum, absences, agendas, minute, and other chair responsibilities function.
 - 2. Motion to pass the Standing Rules is forwarded by Law and seconded by Physics. There are no questions and the quorum votes unanimously to approve.
 - 3. Per Legislative Committee Chair Romero-Salas, “We had our Rafael Colón elected as Vice Chair. He is a law student and understands the nuances of rules and regulations; with that being said, he is very passionate, and he was approved unanimously.”



1. The motion to approve Vice Chair Colón is forwarded by Law, seconded by Economics, and approved unanimously.

iii. Finance Committee – **10:35**

1. Earth and Planetary Sciences forwards a sweeping motion to open all Appropriations 8F through 29F.
2. Economics seconds the motion.
3. The quorum votes, but there is an abstention by Mathematics and Statistics, citing, “An issue with 14F.”
4. Appropriation#8F – Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Interest
 1. Per Finance Director Karmakar, “The first appropriation is for a new organization. They requested for food for three events. We allocated for second and third events per our Standing Rules.”
 2. A question emerges from the gallery, “What is your expected attendance rate?”
 - i. Finance Director Karmakar states that any event under one hundred persons is regarded as a small event, though the key is how many graduate students will be in attendance.
5. Appropriation#9F – Graduate Association of Students of Psychology (GASP)
 1. Per Finance Director Karmakar, “They requested funds for a specific event fund they are planning. They requested 834 for food and supply costs; we allocated 728 per our Standing Rules.”
 2. Karmakar reiterates that the Standing Rules will not cover subscriptions, such as Canva, as it is impossible to monitor to see that only graduate students are utilizing the subscription.
6. Appropriation#10F – Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association (PANDA GSA)
 1. Per Karmakar, “They are planning to organize two specific events, and they requested money for food.”
7. Appropriation#11F – Women in Physics, Astro, Optics (WiPAO)
 1. Karmakar notes that this organization was requesting both event funds and office materials.

2. Per the Standing Rules, they received full allocation.
8. [Appropriation#12F](#) – Latiné American Law Student Association (LALSA)
 1. Per Karmakar: “This organization requested many items and received some funds for general purposes. They wanted money for general body meeting; as per the Standing Rules, we gave them the full amount. They are also planning an event, which we paid 70% of the estimate for tabling. We didn’t approve parking passes, either.”
 2. The quorum opens for discussion now as Finance Director Karmakar states, “They requested money for stoles and printed t-shirts, but we do not allocate this because it’s a donation.” Regarding the stoles, Karmakar elaborated, “We can’t track them, to see if they’re returned, so that is why we cannot fund them.”
 3. Law raises a question, asking that if the students could not keep the stoles, but rather rented them, could this be funded?
 - i. Karmakar reiterates that the stoles cannot be tracked.
 - ii. Mathematics and Statistics asks, “Shouldn’t that obligation fall on the club to make sure that their items are collected?”
 - iii. From the gallery, Lindquist states, “Technically, this is made by the Student Government Accounting Office (sgao@unm.edu), and those types of personal items disappear too easily.”
 4. Law raises another question, stating: “I want to go back to anti-donation clause. So, the concern with paying for stoles is that this public money may benefit a private person. Is this correct?”
 - i. Karmakar responds affirmatively.
 - ii. Law yields.
9. [Appropriation#13F](#) – History of Medicine Interest Group (HoMIG)
 1. The HoMIG is a new organization, and requested finances for their general meetings.
 - i. Mathematics and Statistics takes the floor to ask about a calculation of funds.

- ii. Karmakar explains the addition of various funds.
 - iii. Mathematics and Statistics yields.
10. [Appropriation#14F](#) – Bangladesh Student Association at University of New Mexico (BSAUNM)
- 1. President of the Bangladesh Student Association, Sajib Chakraborty, has already spoken.
 - 2. Finance Director Karmakar reads their list of requests: Funds for the monthly general body meetings; educational supplies such as books (they intended to print and bind their own materials); food items for events; allocation was a portion of the requested amount.
 - 3. Karmakar notes that the BSAUNM did not include a completed budget proposal, so funds were not fully allocated.
 - i. Council Chair Auh adds, “This was submitted after our meeting and after the deadline.”
 - 4. Economics requests talking rights, asking about the estimated attendance of the propose BSAUNM event: “Are these all graduate students?”
 - i. Karmakar expresses that the organization is among the largest and oldest on campus, and attendance is open to all students.
 - 5. Economics requests talking rights again, asking the BSAUNM for a list of names of attendees.
 - i. Finance Director Karmakar responds. Direct quote is as follows: “Sometimes, we have no choice but to believe what they’re saying. They presented us with RSVP forms, which is something we can request. These are not mandatory.”
 - ii. Council Chair Auh adds, “The SGAO has its own rules. I’m going to assume that this is reasonable. I think we have the funding to grant them this. I motion that we amend the bill to approve this funding.”
 - 6. From the gallery, Lindquist states to Council Chair Auh that this is a question period, not a voting period.

7. Earth and Planetary Sciences fields a question. Direct quote is as follows: “I believe some of their materials are for rentals. Is this included in the allocated amount?”
 - i. Finance Director Karmakar states that the BSAUNM was allocated \$280 for these materials.
 - ii. Earth and Planetary Sciences yields.
8. Mathematics and Statistics asks to see Finance Director Karmakar’s slides again.
 - i. Mathematics and Statistics yields.
11. [Appropriation#15F](#) – American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
 1. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers is a mixture of graduate and undergraduate students. In their field, there is an upcoming conference in Cananda.
 2. The group was allocated \$1384 for a single graduate student’s airfare and conference fees.
12. [Appropriation#16F](#) – Intellectual Property (IP) Society
 1. TABLED
13. [Appropriation#17F](#) – Nepali Students Association (NSA)
 1. This organization requested funds for the general body meeting, receiving the full amount requested. They also presented plans to go bowling for a social event, as well as printing. The latter request was not allocated.
 2. Going further, they requested funds for two events, asking for food and supplies for decoration. This even is considered a small event. Per Karmakar, “We didn’t know how many graduate students were going to be there.”
14. [Appropriation#18F](#) – Gender and Reproductive Rights Law Student Society (GRRLSS)
 1. The organization requested funds for general body meetings, printing, and copying fees. They were allocated the full requested amount.
 2. However, their request for parking passes was denied.
15. [Appropriation#19F](#) – American Civil Liberties Union - University of New Mexico School Of Law Chapter (ACLU-UNM)
 1. Note that the ACLU-UNM and the GRRLSS organization from #18F materials were submitted by the same individuals.

2. Law requests the floor to discuss the anti-donation clause.

Direct quotes are as follows:

- i. “We [LALSA] have promotional items. How do these violate the clause regarding the stoles? How do stoles violate the anti-donation clause but not stickers? This would be benefitting and promoting an outside organization, correct?”
- ii. Karmakar responds, “Promotional items must be thoroughly checked. We consider items like stickers and badges are the exception. When it comes to the t-shirts and stoles, those are more expensive.”
- iii. From the gallery, Lindquist states, “The anti-donation clauses are extremely specific. Considering promotional items that are recruitment are beneficial to UNM, but the stole is given to someone who is already in the organization. Both the SGAO and the SAC for this reason permit recruitments to move forward. This is a state law. We thank the legal world for their questions.”

3. Law requests the floor again. Direct quotes are as follows:

- i. “The anti-donation clause traces its roots back to the state constitution. I do not understand how stoles are considered a promotional item, as they are an important part of the student organization. We have a disagreement.”
- ii. Law yields.

16. [Appropriation#20F](#) – First In Medicine (FIM)

1. Finance Director Karmakar states that this new organization received \$200 quickly and without issue.

17. [Appropriation#21F](#) – Public Administration Graduate Student Association (PAGSA)

1. PAGSA requested funds for their general body meeting. Because they receive PB funds, they were encouraged to utilize these for that purpose. Nonetheless, they were allocated \$500 for a speaker.

18. [Appropriation#23F](#) – Chicanx Studies Graduate Student Association (X-GSA)

1. Similar to PAGSA in #21F, this organization receives PB funds, which the Financial Office encouraged them to apply towards their general body meetings. The same was stated about office supplies.
 2. However, the GPSA allocated food.
19. [Appropriation#24F](#) – Anthropology Graduate Student Union (AGSU)
1. The AGSU is an organization that is being rebuilt following a dormancy.
 2. An [upcoming conference](#) at UNM is expecting to draw more than 100 graduate students, and thus they were allocated \$1000 for food and refreshments.
20. [Appropriation#25F](#) – Badminton Club at UNM (Feather Flyers)
1. This organization is not to be confused with other sporting clubs.
 2. Feather Flyers requested funds for their monthly games. They allocated less than requested, with funds especially going to a tournament.
21. [Appropriation#27F](#) – Hispanic Engineering and Science Organization (HESO)
1. This is among the largest graduate organizations throughout UNM.
 2. They requested funds for general body meetings, tabling, and promotional items. Because they specifically requested funds for a speaker, they were allocated 70% of their budget.
 3. The organization intended to purchase a printer; this request was rejected because there is no manner to appropriately estimate how many graduate students will use the printer.
 4. For an upcoming conference, three graduate students were allocated \$1093 each.
22. [Appropriation#28F](#) – Animal Legal Defense Fund University of New Mexico Student Chapter (ALDF UNM)
1. There are two upcoming, relevant conferences, both in Washington DC. Finance Director Karmakar notes that, “We can approve for one association to attend up to two conferences.”

23. [Appropriation#29F](#) – Economic Graduate Student Organization (EGSO)

1. To discuss the request, Economics holds the floor and presents the appropriation personally.
2. The request is for an upcoming conference in November, in Texas, for thirteen graduate students.
3. Per Finance Director Karmakar, there are safeguards in place to prevent “overlap” of funds from different funders throughout the GPSA.
4. Anthropology holds the floor to ask of Finance Director Karmakar, quote, “Can you clarify why appropriation funds were allocated for this amount?”
 - i. In response, Karmakar states that students were covered per diem and for lodging.
 - ii. When funds are allocated, it is up to \$800 per graduate student. In the Standing Rules, each graduate student must submit one quotation, and the review will be based on what was requested.
 - iii. Anthropology yields.
5. Physics holds the floor, asking if there is a limit on the number of graduate students the GPSA Finance Department will support.
 - i. The answer is that there is no maximum on graduate support, but there is for events and food. Conferences as well have specific caps.
6. Physics holds the floor again. Direct quotes are as follows:
 - i. “If you get other scholarships and the money is more than we give to each student, it doesn’t make sense. You have professors who have a large portion of money. The students can independently apply to other places and get the money. If money is coming in from two different sources, I feel that we need to make formal sense of this.”
 1. Karmakar states that, “At the end of the day, there are loopholes.” However, grants committees and directors share information about how many graduate students they are giving to.

2. From the gallery, Lindquist states that, “The SGAO has to purchase the full ticket. For example, if a group applies for four people to travel and two drop out of the trip, we deny some of their funds. We notify the Finance Committee of requests like that. There are departmental monies and or SCAP, but that has to be paid personally.”
 3. From the gallery, someone speaks out of turn.
7. Economics holds the floor. She argues that this funding is essential to encourage first-year PhD candidates, who often do not yet have formal advisors.
8. Finance Director Karmakar states that, “We can always encourage that they take public transportation.”
24. The quorum returns to discuss #14F – **12:03 PM**
 1. Mathematics and Statistics opens the floor, asking for a revisit to line item six in #14F.
 2. There is a motion from Mathematics and Statistics to amend to add \$445 dollars to the targeted line item.
 3. Physics seconds the motion.
 4. From the gallery, Lindquist asks, “What would the committee have funded had the BSAUNM gotten the quote and budget in on time? 70%?”
 - i. Council Chair Auh responds affirmatively.
 5. Law holds the floor to ask how this committee tells organizations that they will not receive funds.
 - i. Mathematics and Statistics, in a direct quote, states, “It’s up to us. We have the rules. A representative [Sajib Chakraborty] came here on a weekend, and I think we can strongly urge that things are turned in on time, but we can also be benevolent.”
 6. Public Health asks how late the materials were submitted.
 - i. Council Chair Auh states that it was three days late [items were turned in on a Friday but due the Tuesday beforehand – Council Recorder notes].
 7. Public Health asks who is responsible for the delay.

- i. From the gallery, Lindquist states, “These things are usually instantaneously.”
8. Spanish and Portuguese holds the floor to ask if this was the first time the BSAUNM had submitted a request for allocations.
 - i. The response is negative; this is a large and stories group, per Finance Director Karmakar.
 - ii. Economics holds the floor to ask if the BSAUNM can submit a second application for appropriations.
 1. The GPSA will fund allocation request per semester.
 2. Spanish and Portuguese yields.
9. History holds the floor to ask for an explanation as to why the BSAUNM submitted their appropriation materials late.
 - i. Sajib Chakraborty cannot speak again, as the gallery comment period has passed.
 - ii. History yields.
10. Public Health holds the floor to ask how many graduate students would attend the proposed event.
 - i. The BSAUNM anticipates 150 attendees.
 - ii. Public Health yields.
11. Physics holds the floor to state his concern that this amendment to line six will set a precedent.
12. Occupational Therapy holds to floor to ask if the BSAUNM knew that their materials were incomplete.
 - i. Council Chair Auh responds, “Yes.”
 - ii. Occupational Therapy yields.
13. Earth and Planetary Sciences holds the floor to ask about the fact that there were two payments allocated to the BSAUNM under supply costs.
 - i. Finance Director Karmakar states, “Sometimes people request separately for decorations, and, say, utensils. We allocated for promotional items under stickers.”
 - ii. Earth and Planetary Sciences yields.
14. English holds the floor to ask if this event will be open to the public.
 - i. Yes.

- ii. English yields.
- iv. Discussion continues around Appropriation #14F.
 - 1. Physics holds the floor to reiterate his concern over a precedent.
 - 1. Mathematics and Statistics raises his hand to respond.
Direct quote is as follows: “On the one hand, we don’t want to start this precedent. But on the other hand, even if people feel aggrieved, they’re still going to come to us. Part of this will help encourage or discourage it. I think it’s reasonable for us to pay some, as they made a mistake, and we can strongly encourage them not to do this again. This is a small change.”
 - 2. Physics responds to Mathematics and Statistics, and a direct quote is as follows: “I completely agree, but the point of contention is that they were given the notification that they had to correct their document before the deadline, and they did not. This is why we talk about precedent. This case is looking less genuine to me. They were notified ahead of time.”
 - 3. Pharmacy holds the floor to state that, precedent or not, organizations may use this meeting time to come, to share grievances, to petition one-on-one.
 - 4. Spanish and Portuguese states her concern that the Council put into place a policy today to carry forth.
 - i. English concurs with this suggestion, stating, however, this is body should approach amendments on a case-by-case basis.
 - 5. Occupational Therapy holds the floor to assert that the BSAUNM did not provide a reason for the delinquency of their documents.
 - 2. Physics holds the floor to ask if the galley can speak again. This is denied.
 - 3. Mathematics and Statistics proposes that the Council change the amount payable to \$209.50, rounding this to \$210.00.
 - 1. Anthropology proposes a friendly amendment to allocate \$210.00 to the BSAUNM.
 - i. Mathematics and Statistics accepts.
 - ii. Physics second the friendly amendment.
 - 2. It passes with 14 ayes, 9 nays, 2 abstains.



- v. Law next holds the floor. Direct quotes are as follows: “We talked about the stoles being an accountability problem, but we would ensure the return of the money to the public fund. I also want to underscore the idea that the stoles contribute to the student organization and honors their time at UNM and contributes to graduation. We can work on a policy for the future.”
 - 1. Public Health holds the floor to state that self-generated funds can be used to purchase stoles.
 - 2. Lindquist states, “GPSA will let you purchase your own stoles for serving here.”
 - 3. Law continues, asserting that the purchase of a stole can be financially impossible for some students. She states, “This is a matter of being equitable.”
- vi. Economics abstains from voting for a conflict of interest.
- vii. Mathematics and Statistics redirects the conversation to appropriations. He proposes a future committee to review the case of BSAUNM and a special interest group for the stoles and their funding.
- b. Rafae Romero-Salas: I move to block the vote so that the quorum can consider in unison all appropriations.
 - i. Anthropology moves to block the votes.
 - ii. Law seconds the vote.

Emergency Items – **12:46 PM**

- c. Unfinished Business
- d. New Business

VI. Council Announcements

- a. 3 minutes each
 - i. English: Wednesdays and Thursdays are for coffee and tea in the department.
 - ii. Biomedical Sciences: There will be a coffee hour on north campus
 - iii. Chemistry: None
 - iv. Earth and Planetary Sciences: Every Wednesday and Friday are reserved for social hours.
 - v. Economics: The department hosts coffee every Friday.
 - vi. History: The department hosts happy hours every Friday at 4:30.
 - vii. Law: The Fall Open House will be held soon; see [their website](#) for more information.
 - viii. Mathematics and Statistics: There is a regular arts and crafts meeting.
 - ix. Medicine: None
 - x. Native American Studies: None



- xi. Nursing: None
- xii. Occupational Therapy: The department is hosting (September 29) a fundraiser at Chipotle.
- xiii. Pharmacy: A planned outreach day to the streets of Albuquerque is in the works.
- xiv. Physics (Deneris): The department is hosting an upcoming Halloween party.
- xv. Physics (Oyeniran): None
- xvi. Public Health: The department is hosting a mixed graduate/undergraduate panel.
- xvii. Spanish and Portuguese: On October 29th, the department will host a speaker.
- xviii. Biology: None.
- xix. Anthropology: The department will host a conference on October 16th beginning at 8:30 AM.

VII. Upcoming Meetings – **12:55 PM**

- a. Full Council
 - i. October 31st, 2026, 10am, SUB Lobo A&B
- b. Finance Committee
 - i. October 20, 2026 at 6pm, SUB Trail/Spirit
- c. Legislative Steering Committee
 - i. October 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM, SUB Mirage/Thunderbird

VIII. Adjourn