3-26-2011

GPSA Council Meeting, 3/26/2011

Graduate and Professional Student Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/gpsa_meetings

Recommended Citation

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate and Professional Student Association at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in GPSA Meeting Agendas and Minutes by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.
I. Roll Call
Meeting is called to order at 9:08 am. Council Chair calls the roll.

II. Approval of Agenda
Corbin- I motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to add 7.c.3., the Tuition Resolution and 7.c.4., the Office of Equity and Inclusion resolution as emergency items.
Second-Patricia

Japji – I motion to amend the agenda to include the GPSA Budget as a discussion item.
Second-Patricia

The motion to move the budget items to discussion passes with a voice vote.

The motion to place the graduate tuition and the office of equity and inclusion to the agenda passes with a voice vote.

Japji-I motion to amend the agenda to add the legal council draft discussion of the constitution.
Second-Megan O

Motion to amend the agenda to add the legal council draft discussion of the constitution passes.

Corbin- I motion to amend the agenda to include time for president candidate debates
Second-Megan O

The motion to amend the agenda to include time for president candidate debates passes.

Matt Rush (elections chair) explains the GPSA Presidential candidate statements and the GPSA Council Chair candidate debate process.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended passes with a voice vote.

III. Upcoming Meeting Dates (April 23, May 7)
Discussion about meeting dates. April 23 meeting is on Easter weekend. Any reps not able to attend should plan to send their department’s alternate, or a proxy.

IV. Approval of the Minutes (Feb 26, 2011)
Brittany- I motion to approve the February meeting minutes.
Second-Stacy

The motion to approve the minutes passes with a voice vote.

V. Gallery & Media
Christopher Ramirez updates the council on many upcoming events and current issues facing students.

Deputy CIO Moira Gerety for UNM (contact: Kvwaseta@unm.edu) updates the council on communication technology upgrades happening at the university.

VI. Council Chair Candidates (GPSA Elections Committee)

*Council will hear platform states of Council Chair candidates and will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates*

The candidates for GPSA Council Chair are:

- Sarah Coffey - Law School
- Victor Lopez – Anderson School of Management
- Megan O’Laughlin- Anderson School of Management
- Shannon Crowley- Law School

Full video of the Council Chair candidates’ debate are available on the GPSA website: http://gpsa.unm.edu/elections

The candidates for GPSA President make a presentation regarding their candidacy. This is followed by a debate between the Presidential candidates, the questions were submitted by Council representatives at the beginning of the meeting. To view the video of the GPSA presidential candidates please go to http://gpsa.unm.edu/elections

The candidates are:

- Joseph Dworak- Law School
- Patricia Roybal-Caballero- Public Administration, Community and Regional Planning
- Katie Richardson- Physics and Astronomy
- Jacob Candelaria – Public Administration

Joseph- I motion for a five-minute recess
Second- Michael
The motion for a five-minute recess passes with a voice vote.

VII. Action Items

a. GPSA Constitution

*The Council may vote on whether or not to place a new GPSA Constitution on the April general election ballot*

Meeting is called back to order at 11:11

The GPSA Council reviews suggested changes to the GPSA constitution. The changes are being suggested based on recommendations from a constitutional review committee which was comprised of GPSA Council representatives. A draft of the GPSA constitution that is up for a vote was presented at the February 24 GPSA Council meeting.

Council Chair introduces the draft of the constitution and the process for approving the constitution, including general house keeping and a review of the standing rules.
Council member asks which draft is to be reviewed by council at this meeting.
Chair-That is council’s decision, a March 10 draft was included in the agenda packet, as well as the original February draft.
[General Point-the constitution drafts are in the agenda packet for the March 26th meeting]

Corbin- I motion to substitute the March 10th draft for the February draft.
Second-Brittany

The motion to substitute the March 10th draft passes with a voice vote.
The Council will now work from the March 10th draft of the constitution.

Council members ask questions about procedures.

Corbin- I motion to approve article one and the preamble of the March 10th draft.
Second-Brittany

Council member asks for minor/punctuation changes to be made after the meeting by the constitutional committee.

Council member yields time to the GPSA President.

President Knudsen suggests an amendment that would add language which was removed back into the preamble.

Council member asks for clarification of the removal of the language referenced by the President.

Corbin- The constitution committee was not comfortable with the language and wanted to stick to things that we could guarantee.

Council members ask questions about where to find the language being suggested by the President. Council member asks for the language to be projected on one of the screens in the room.

The GPSA President reiterates the importance of the language to be added.

Council member asks for more clarification as to why the language was taken out in the first place.

Patricia- I motion to amend and include this language and approve the preamble and article 1.
Second-Brittany

Brittany- I motion to remove the numbers and bullets (numeral 1 and 2) from the preamble to make full sentences.
Second-David

Council members now discuss the format of the preamble.
Alex- I call the question
Second-Corbin

Calling the question passes with a two-thirds voice vote.

The motion to remove the numerals 1 and 2 from the preamble passes with a voice vote.

Council member speaks in favor of keeping the language as recommended. Council member asks for clarification on why the language suggested by the President is not enforceable.

Council member continue to discuss the preamble and its purpose and style.

The motion to amend the preamble as suggested by the President passes with a voice vote.

Council members discuss the process of the constitutional committee and the process for implementing the preamble and the constitution in general.

The motion to approve article one organization as is and the preamble as amended by the President passes with a voice vote.

David O- I motion to extend the meeting to 1pm.
Second-Brittany

The motion to extend the meeting till 1pm passes with a voice vote.

Article 2 is now being discussed.

David O- I motion to approve article 2.
Second- Brittany

(Main motion) David O- I amend my motion to include the language “branch” in the title and with legal council’s language.
Second- Brittany

Council member brings up the language suggested by the President. Council members now discuss the “executive” section of the draft constitution. Council member asks question about language in the section 1, a, 9.

Japji- I motion to amend section 1, a, 9 to strike all language following the word Chairs, to read that only Standing Committee Chairs require approval from Council.
Second- Brittany

Corbin- I motion to amend the amendment to delete the sentence all appointees require council approval.
Second-Japji

The motion to amend to the amendment passes with a voice vote.
Council members discuss the motion to amend the amendment and the motion to strike the language from 1, a, 9.

The motion to amend section 1, a, 9 of Article 2 (as amended) passes with a voice vote.

Alex- I motion section 1, a, 2 to read serves as chair person of the SFRB in accordance with its governing document
Second-Corbin

The motion to amend the language of Article 2, section 1, a, 2 passes with a voice vote.

Council members discuss the powers of the executive in the draft constitution.
Council Chair now goes though each section of article 2 to see if there are motions to amend any of the sections.

David- I motion to amend to remove c, 1, the stipend, for the president.
Second- (motion dies with no second)

Council member asks for clarification of the stipends as stated by OGS.

Joseph- I motion to amend the stipend language to the maximum stipend (need OGS language)
Second-David O

Council members discuss the stipend for the GPSA executive and stipends in generals.

Erin- I motion to suspend the rules to allow non-council members to participate in the discussion
Second- Annette

The motion to suspend the rules fails with a voice vote.

Council members ask for clarification of the OGS rules regarding the amount of stipends based on the level of the President’s degree. There is a pre masters and a post masters rate for stipends.

Council members discuss the time allotted for this item.

Brittany- I call the question
Second- David

Calling the question passes with a two-thirds voice vote.

The motion to amend the language to the presidential stipend passes with a voice vote.

Corbin- I move to amend d, 1 impeachment to insert the language from legal counsel.
Second-David
Motion to amend the d, 1 impeachment language passes with a voice vote.

David O- I motion to add the number “2/3” and “at least” in the section about removing the president. Second-David

Motion to amend the removal and recall section passes with a voice vote.

David- I call the question on the main motion.
Second- David O

Calling the question fails with a voice vote.

Council members discuss the process for impeachment and removal of the GPSA President and the fairness of removing a democratically elected president.

David O- I call the question on Article 2.
Second-David

Brittany- I motion to extend the meeting till 2pm.
Second- Patricia

The motion to extend the meeting till 2pm passes with a voice vote.

(note- the vote on the called question will take place after a 10 minute recess to count the number of proxy votes)

Council Chair updates council on procedure. The roll is called again to determine the total number of votes available and who is holding proxy votes before the motion to call the question can be taken. (note-calling the question must pass with a two-thirds vote)

Calling the question on Article 2 fails.

David O- I motion to amend the motion to strike section 2, A, 7.
Second- Patrick

Brandi- I amend the amendment to move the language from Article 3, section 4, B, 2 A, to the executive finance committee so that it would read: “Make recommendations regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations that come before Council.”
Second-Japji

Council member states the reasoning for amending the amendment and there is general discussion on amending the amendment. Council discusses the issue around executive and legislative branch responsibility regarding the budget. Council members and a member of media and gallery speak for and/or against changing the way the budget is approved and the role of Council in the budget process.
Brittany- I motion to extend the meeting till 3 pm.
Second- Rachael

The motion to extend the meeting until 3 pm passes with a voice vote.

The discussion around the best process for approving the GPSA budget continues. Council members continue to debate the best process for, and the need for or creation of, the legislative finance committee suggested by the constitutional review committee. Council members and members of the constitution committee speak about the intent of the proposed constitutional change. GPSA President speaks to the issue regarding how funds are accessed. The debate continues and includes many statements for and against adding a legislative finance committee. Council members speak in favor of adding a legislative finance committee. Council members speak against creating a legislative finance committee. Many procedural issues are debated regarding how best to handle the appropriations and budgeting process.

Brandi- I call the question
Calling the question fails

Patricia- I motion to break for ten minutes
Second-Japji

Motion to take a ten-minute break passes with a voice vote.

Meeting is called to order at 2:40 pm

Council Chair summarizes the motions currently on the floor.

Council member David O updates Council about a compromise made between the parties who are on different sides of the issue.

The motion to amend the amendment (Brandi’s-need language) passes with a voice vote.

David O- I motion to strike A, through D.
Second-

Corbin- I motion to preserve A and D, and strike B & C which currently read:

  b. Propose an Executive budget in accordance with budget process.
  c. Provide GPSA budgetary recommendations through budget process.

Second - David O

The motion to amend the amendment passes with a voice vote.

The motion to approve the amendment passes with a voice vote.
Matt- I motion to remove article 2, section 1, D and replace the word “remove” with “recall”.
Second- Patricia

There is discussion about how the removal process of the President is intended to function.

Brittany- I motion to extend the meeting until 4 pm.
Second- Megan O

Matt- I amend the amendment to read “impeachment” in place of recall.
Second- Corbin

The motion to amend the amendment fails by a voice vote.

The motion to amend the constitution proposal fails by voice vote.

Jessica- I motion to replace the word “special” with the word “recall”.
Second- Joseph

The motion to amend the proposed constitution to replace the word “recall” with “special” passes by a voice vote.

David O- I motion the replace the word “removal” with “recall election”.
Second- Joseph

The motion to replace the word “removal” with “recall election” passes with a voice vote.

The technicality of how to impeach/remove/recall would work is reviewed by Council.

Patricia- I motion to postpone this meeting (the constitution) till Saturday, April 9th.
Second- Matt

Council members discuss when to reconvene the meeting. Council members speak in favor of finishing the constitution debate at this meeting. To get it on the ballot for the April general election the item must be approved at the March meeting.

Council members speak in favor of approving the constitution at this meeting and many council members don’t want the work of the constitutional convention to go to waste. Council members speak in favor of extending the review of the constitution to honor the work.

Brittany- I call the question
The call to question passes with a two-thirds voice vote.

The GPSA President reminds council of Roberts Rules of Order allowing for a continuation of the current meeting at a later date.
The motion to postpone the meeting fails.

David O- I call to question
Second-Joseph

Calling the question passes

The motion to approve article 2 with the word branch in the title passes with a voice vote

David O- I motion to approve article 3
Second- Brittany

Brittany- I motion to add the language “Review recommendations from the Executive Branch regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations and make subsequent recommendations to Council” to become Article 3, Section 4. B. 2. a.

Second- David O
The motion passes with a voice vote

Corbin- I motion to add the word branch to the title.
Joseph-second

The motion to add the word Branch to the title passes with a voice vote.

The motion to approve article 3 with branch in the title passes

David O- I motion to approve article 4 with the word branch in the title
Second-Shannon

The motion to approve article 4 with the term “branch” in the title passes with a voice vote.

Corbin- I move that we discuss article 5 after all other articles.
Second- Brittany

The motion to discuss article 5 after all other articles passes with a voice vote.

Joseph- I motion to approve article 6 election.
Second- Brittany

The motion to approve article 6 elections passes with a voice vote.

Mike- I motion to approve article 7.
Second- Brittany
The motion to approve article 7 passes with a voice vote.

Brittany- I motion to approve article 8
Second-Rachael
David- I motion to amend article 8 referenda to read, with majority approval of council.
Second-David O

Brittany- I motion to amend the language to read a majority vote of council instead of just council
Second-David O

The motion to amend the language to read with a majority vote of council passes with a voice vote.

The motion to amend article 8-referenda-as amended to read with a majority approval of council passes with a voice vote.

Mike- I motion to approve article 9.
Second- Brittany

Joseph- I motion to amend article 9 to add the definitions from legal counsel to the definitions in article 9.
Second-Corbin

Corbin- I motion to amend the amendment article 9 to add the definition of financial review to the definitions section of article 9.
Second- Nick

The motion to amend the amendment passes with a voice vote.

The motion to app the amendment as amended passes with a voice vote.

The motion to approve article 9 as amended passes with a voice vote.

Council now goes back to article 5.

Corbin- I motion to approve article 5
Second- Brittany

Corbin- I motion to amend article 5 to add language so that it would read, “The Executive Finance Committee will administer the GPSA budget and the Legislative Finance Committee will have oversight of the GPSA budget in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws with the Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO) acting as the agent of all GPSA financial transactions.”

Second- Brandi

The motion to amend the amendment of Article 5 fails.

David O- I motion to amendment to include “in accordance with the GPSA constitution and
The motion to add “in accordance with the GPSA constitution and bylaws” passes with a voice vote.

The motion to amend article 5 passes with a voice vote.

Corbin- I motion to amend to replace legislative with the term executive.
Second- Brittany

The motion passes with a voice vote.

Several motions were made around Article 5. After Council votes, the final language reads as follows:

Section 3. A. now reads: “The Executive Finance Committee shall draft a budget to be submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee before the March Council Meeting for a vote by the Council and approval by the President. If the President does not take action within ten (10) academic days, the budget shall be considered approved.”

Section 3. B. now reads: “The Legislative Finance Committee shall set out procedures in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws, to include a budget process, appropriation requests, and a summary of recommendations for each Council meeting.”

Section 3. D. now reads: “The Legislative Finance Committee Chair and Executive Finance Committee Chair shall have all necessary authority to approve budget revisions. All budget revisions must be reported at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.”

The motion to amend article 5 (Corbin’s amendment) passes with a voice vote.

David O- I motion to extend the meeting until 4:30
Second- Brittany

Motion to extend the meeting until 4:30 pm passes with a voice vote.

Council member discusses the

Section 3, A, amendment passes with a voice vote

Corbin- I move to strike section 3, B.
Second- Brandi
The motion to strike 3, B, passes with a voice vote.

Council members discuss how best to administer the executive and legislative finance committees. Council members

Joseph- I move to amend the amendment to read the legislative finance committee will set up procedures.
Second-Theresa

Council members speak for and against this amendment. Some council members feel the bylaws are a better way to deal with this issue.

The amendment -14 in favor-13 opposed-passes.

The motion to strike the language in section 3, B, as amended (Corbin’s amendment)-9 in favor-17 opposed- fails.

Corbin- I move to amend section 3, D to delete “finance committee chair” and replace with the word “council”.
Second-Brittany

Corbin- I move to amend the amendment to state the legislative finance committee instead of “finance committee chair” or “council”.
Second-David

The amendment to the amend fails.

I motion to amend section 3, D, the council chair will have the authority to amend budgets.
Second-David

6 in favor-19 opposed the council chair amendment fails

The amendment to replace the “finance committee chair” with “council” fails.

David O- I amend to say finance committee chair
Second-Japji

Brandi- I amend the amendment to say and executive finance committee chair.
Second- Brittany

Japji- I motion to extend the meeting to 4:45 pm
Second-Brittany

Motion to extend the meeting passes
The motion to add “and the executive finance committee chair”-17 yes votes-passes

Nick- I motion to say or instead of and.
Second- Brittany

Council members speak to solving some of these details in the bylaws.

The motion to replace the word “and” with the word “or” fails with a voice vote.

The motion to amend the word legislative before the finance committee chair passes with a voice vote.

Corbin- section 5, b add the word legislative in front of finance committee
Second-Brittany

The motion passes with a voice vote

The motion to approve Article 5 as amended passes with a voice vote.

All the Articles of the new GPSA constitution have been passed.

The full text of the GPSA Constitution, as approved by Council, is available in full at the end of this document.

Joseph- I move to put the constitution on the ballot.
Second-David O.

The motion to place the new constitution on the April general election ballot passes with a voice vote.

Megan O- I motion to take a 5-minute recess and adjourn at 5:05pm
Second-Japji

Meeting will resume at 4:50pm
Corbin- I move to allow the constitution committee to write the rational for the ballot
Second-Japji

I motion to allow the constitutional committee to write the rational for the ballot passes with a voice vote.

David O- I motion to include the OEI and the tuition SB 582 in a block and table all other items.
Second- Japji

Brandi- I move to suspend the rules to allow a vote on the OEI and tuition resolution.
Second-Megan O

The motion to approve the resolutions on Office of equity and inclusion and SB 582 tuition resolution passes with a voice vote.
i. Presidential Notes

*The GPSA President has submitted notes about several of the Constitutional Articles proposed by the Constitutional Committee*

ii. Constitutional Committee Amendments

*The Constitutional Committee has submitted recommended amendments to the draft that was submitted to Council in Feb*

iii. Original Constitutional Committee Draft

*This is the draft of the new Constitution that was presented by the Constitutional Committee in Feb*

b. Appropriations

i. ASUNM/GPSA Joint NYTimes Sponsorship ($3350)

*Funding requested for joint ASUNM/GPSA sponsorship of free NYTimes on campus*

ii. College of Education Colloquium ($2500)

*The College of Education is requesting funds to support their 14th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium*

c. Resolutions

i. SB 582 (RGSA)

*A resolution stating GPSA support for NM Senate Bill 582 regarding NM in-state tuition and financial aid*

ii. ASUNM/GPSA

*A joint resolution of ASUNM Senate and GPSA Council stating the importance of collaboration between the two entities*

VIII. Discussion Items

a. Bylaws and Status of Constitutional Committee

b. Amended Elections Code

IX. Representative Announcements/New Business

Meeting is adjourned at 5:02 PM
The Constitution of the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico

PREAMBLE

Draft March 2011
We, the graduate and professional students of the University of New Mexico hereby establish the Graduate and Professional Student Association, in order to acknowledge and secure the right to pursue continuing education in a diverse community and to ensure fair and just access to resources provided by public institutions or available in the commons. As students with valuable experiences and unique pursuits, as well as common interests and concerns, we are united in our concern for the quality of our academic environment and recognize and affirm our right to organize for the purposes of protecting student welfare and expression. The establishment of this association provides for greater cooperation and influence to preserve and protect the rights of the students at this university including but not limited to the right to freely express ideas and thoughts, the right to have equitable access to a high quality education, and the right to participate in the processes and institutions that will ensure this education remains worthy and acceptable, and to advance the interests of the graduate and professional student community.

ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Name
The name of the organization is the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico, hereafter referred to as GPSA.

Section 2. Objective
To represent and serve graduate and professional students by promoting their rights and interests as students within the University community through advocacy, education, and financial support.

Section 3. Membership
A. Any graduate or professional student enrolled in a degree granting department or school at The University of New Mexico (the University) and who has paid the GPSA fee for that semester, as approved by the University of New Mexico Board of Regents (Board of Regents).

B. A student may voluntarily resign their membership, but is not exempt from obligation to pay GPSA fees.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE
The Executive Branch is composed of the President, Executive Committees, presidential appointees, and staff.

Section 1. President
The President is head of the Executive Branch. Any GPSA member is eligible to run for the position.

A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
1. Serve as the official representative of GPSA to the Board of Regents and the public.
2. Serve as Chairperson of the Student Fee review Board in accordance with its governing documents.
3. Have a working knowledge of the GPSA Constitution, Bylaws, policies, and the duties of positions within GPSA.
4. Shall have the authority to approve or veto all GPSA legislation, excluding resolutions. The President shall have the authority to sign on to joint resolutions with the legislative branch.
5. Oversee the finances of the Executive Branch, including the executive budget.
6. Coordinate with the Executive Committee Chairs and executive staff to prepare and submit a budget for the Executive Branch to the Council in accordance budget procedures.
7. Supervise the administration of the GPSA office.
8. Chair and coordinate the Executive Board.
9. Appoint Executive Standing Committee chairs, with approval from Council, and appoint representatives to joint Student-Faculty Senate and University committees.
10. Ensure delivery of Executive committee reports at least once per semester to Council.
11. Produce a public annual GPSA report, to be held on file in the GPSA Office, the Student Activities Center, and Zimmerman Library.
12. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Term of Office
1. The term is one year, beginning at noon of the last day of the Spring semester and ending at noon of the last day of the following Spring semester.
2. An individual may serve a maximum of two terms as GPSA President.

C. Stipend
1. The President shall receive financial compensation. The maximum limit shall be in accordance with the GA monthly stipend at the .5 FTE rate as determined by University policy.
2. Compensation shall also include the President’s Education Grant.

D. Removal
1. Removal by Council
   d. Impeachment
      The President may be impeached for willful neglect of office, gross misconduct, or malfeasance by a majority vote of Council Representatives at a regular Council meeting.
   e. Removal
      i. Removal of the President requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council Representatives at a special meeting called by the Council Chair no less than five (5) academic days and no
more than ten (10) academic days from the date of impeachment.

ii. Upon removal, the Elections Committee will initiate a recall election by the GPSA membership.

2. Recall Election by GPSA Membership
   a. Recall
      i. Recall requires the presentation at a regular Council meeting of a petition with GPSA members’ signatures numbering at least thirty percent (30%) of the total number of votes counted in the most recent general election. Council shall have the authority to verify the validity of petition signatures. Upon verification of the petition signatures, the Elections Committee will initiate a special election by the GPSA membership.
      ii. The recall election shall be publicized and shall occur within fifteen (15) academic days of the meeting at which the petition was presented.
      iii. A majority of votes in the recall election is required for removal of the President.

3. The President shall be relinquished of all powers and privileges immediately upon a vote of removal or recall.

4. The Council Chair will serve as Interim President until a special election can be scheduled within twenty (20) academic days following removal or recall.

Section 2. Executive Committees

Executive Committees shall be established for the purposes of effective governance and will report directly to the GPSA President. All committee members must be members of GPSA. All Executive Committee Chairs will be appointed by the President.

A. Executive Standing Committees

1. For all Executive Standing Committees, quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.

2. Grants Committee
   a. Student Research Allocation Committee (SRAC)/Specialized Travel (ST) Sub-Committee
      i. Grants Committee may include Student Research Allocation Committee (SRAC)/Specialized Travel (ST) and Graduate Research and Development (GRD).
      ii. Allocate SRAC and ST funds according to the GPSA Bylaws.
      iii. Provide a written report to the President and Council Chair each semester.
      iv. May have two (2) co-chairs.
      v. Will have two (2) votes on the Executive Board.
   f. Graduate Research and Development (GRD) Sub-Committee
i. Allocate GRD funds according to GPSA Bylaws.
ii. Provide a written report to the President and Council Chair each semester.

3. Elections Committee
   a. Administer GPSA elections according to the GPSA Bylaws.
   g. Conduct themselves in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election process and will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate.
   h. Presidentially appointed Committee Chair must be presented to the GPSA Council for approval no later than the December meeting.
   i. Distribute a written public report after every election.
   j. Provide a written annual report to the GPSA President.

4. Lobby Committee
   a. Coordinate long term research and study of legislative issues as directed by the President.
   b. Produce the annual proposed legislative platform.
   c. Recommend to the President the appointment of student lobbyists during the annual New Mexico Legislative Session.
   d. Provide an annual written report to the President.

5. Programs Committee
   a. Implement programs that serve and facilitate interaction between graduate and professional students and the University.
   b. Foster positive relationships with the University and with the local community through service programs.
   c. Provide an annual written report to the President.

6. Student Support and Advocacy Committee
   a. Assist and advocate for students requesting the support of GPSA.
   b. Act as a GPSA liaison for students and respond to student inquiries about GPSA.
   c. Conduct on-campus outreach and education about services and resources available through GPSA and the University. Collaborate with graduate and professional student organizations.
   d. Provide an annual written report to the President.

7. Executive Finance Committee
   a. Administer Executive finances, including the Executive budget.
   k. Make recommendations regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations that come before Council.
   l. Provide an annual written report to the President.

B. Executive Standing Committee Chairs
1. Duties, Power, Responsibilities
   a. Assemble and administer committees according to the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
   b. Monitor committee budget and prepare annual budget request.
c. Provide annual written public report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.

2. Term
   Term of office is from the date of appointment until noon on the last day of the academic year or when letter of resignation is submitted to the President.

3. Removal
   The President can remove a committee chair at any time and the president must appoint a replacement within twenty (20) academic days of the date of removal.

4. Stipend
   Stipend for the Executive Standing Committee Chairs shall be determined by the President and approved by Council.

C. Executive Ad Hoc Committees
   1. May be created by the President as deemed necessary.
   2. All Executive Ad Hoc Committees shall be dissolved at the end of the term of office of the president who created them.
   3. Committee shall submit an annual written report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.

D. Other Committees
   1. May include, but is not limited to, Joint Student-Faculty, University Committees and other policy making bodies.
      a. Representatives, as appointed by the President, shall maintain communication with the Executive Board of GPSA.
      m. Appointed representatives shall attend meetings of their respective committees.
      n. Committee shall submit an annual written report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.

Section 3. Executive Board

An Executive Board consisting of the President, Council Chair, and the Chairs of the Executive Standing Committees shall be established for the purposes of effective governance by the Executive Branch.

A. Representation
   1. Any school or college not represented on the Executive Board may petition to have a representative added from that school or college.
   2. Voting members of the Executive Board shall include the chairs of the Executive Standing Committees.
   3. The President shall oversee the Executive Board and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.

B. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
   1. Meet at least one (1) time per month that Council is in session.
   2. Recommend agenda items for Council meetings.
3. Draft and maintain the GPSA annual calendar with deadlines for Executive committees.
4. Review all executive committee activities.
5. All meetings shall be open to the public with advance notice of the date, time, meeting location, and agenda provided at least one (1) calendar week in advance of each meeting. This notice shall be made available by means including, but not limited to, the GPSA website and listserv.

C. Quorum
Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.

D. Term of Office
Executive Board members shall serve from the time of their appointment until noon on the last day of the academic year, or until written resignation is given to the President.

ARTICLE III. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch is composed of the Council Chair, Council, Legislative Committees, and staff.

Section 1. Council
All legislative powers in GPSA shall be vested in a Council.

A. Composition
1. The Council shall consist of GPSA Representatives selected through each Recognized Departmental Student Association (RDSA).
2. Each graduate and professional RDSA will be entitled to a minimum of one (1) Representative. Each RDSA representing a degree-granting department or school with more than one hundred (100) graduate or professional students are entitled to one (1) additional Representative for each one hundred (100) or part of one hundred (1-99) graduate and professional students enrolled in the department.

B. Council Procedures
1. Regular Meetings: Must be held at least one (1) time per month during the fall and spring academic semesters. The date and time are to be determined by the Council Chair.
2. Special meetings: Called by the Council Chair, or by a petition of Council Representatives from a minimum of six (6) separate RDSAs.
3. Quorum: Consists of Council Representatives from at least six (6) RDSAs physically present at a Council meeting.
4. Notice: The Council Chair shall post notice of the date, time, meeting location, and agenda at least one (1) calendar week in advance of each regular and special Council Meetings. This notice shall be made available to the Council Representatives, GPSA members, campus media, and
general public by means including, but not limited to, the GPSA website and electronic mailing list.

C. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
   1. The Council shall make all laws that it deems appropriate and necessary for GPSA.
   2. The Council shall approve appointments and removals in accordance with the Constitution.
   3. Shall have the authority to override a presidential veto with a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a meeting.
   4. Shall consider budgetary recommendations and vote on the GPSA budget at the March Council meeting.
   5. Other duties including, but not limited to, the appropriation of the General Fund and endowments, approval of GPSA resolutions, impeachment of specified GPSA officials, and any other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Representatives

Representatives must be members of GPSA that are selected at will by the RDSA in the department or school in which they are enrolled.

A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
   1. Attend and participate in Council meetings.
   2. Represent respective constituents' concerns and interests to the Council.
   3. Regularly communicate Council business and decisions with constituents.
   4. Representatives are eligible to participate in designated Legislative Committees.
   5. All representatives must have the proper credentials on file with the Council Chair.

B. Term

   Representatives will serve at the discretion of their respective RDSAs.

Section 3. Council Chair

The Council Chair must be a member of GPSA and shall be elected by the Council at the regular April Council meeting in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
   1. Call and preside over Council meetings.
   2. Serve as the official representative of the Council to the public.
   3. Fulfill the duties of the President in the event of a leave of absence.
   4. Serve as an ex officio member on the Executive Board, Executive Committees, and Legislative Committees.
   5. Administer and oversee the Council budget.
   6. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Term
1. The term is one year, beginning at noon of the last day of the Spring semester and ending at noon of the last day of the following Spring semester.
2. An individual may serve a maximum of two (2) terms as the Council Chair.

C. Stipend

The Council Chair shall receive financial compensation equivalent to the minimum GA/TA stipend, as determined by University policy.

D. Removal

1. Impeachment of the Council Chair requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council Representatives present at a scheduled Council meeting.
2. Upon an affirmative vote of impeachment, the Council shall consider a vote of removal to be held at a special meeting within eleven (11) academic days. The Council Chair shall be relinquished of all powers and privileges immediately upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of removal by the Council.
3. The Legislative Steering Committee Chair shall serve as interim Council Chair until an election by Council can be scheduled within twenty (20) academic days following removal.

Section 4. Legislative Committees

Legislative Committees shall consist of Council Representatives.

A. Composition

1. The Council Chair shall appoint all chairs and members of the Legislative Committees with approval by Council.
2. Council Representatives may recommend nominations for committee positions for Council consideration.

B. Legislative Standing Committees

1. Must meet minimum composition requirements by the September Council meeting.
2. Finance Committee
   o. Review recommendations from the Executive Branch regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations and make subsequent recommendations to Council. Shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) and no more than twelve (12) Representatives representing a minimum of three (3) RDSAs.
   p. The Finance Committee Chair shall oversee the committee and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.
   q. Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.
   r. Other duties as defined by GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Steering Committee
a. Make recommendations regarding legislation and appointments sent to the Council.
s. The committee shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) and no more than twelve (12) Representatives representing a minimum of three (3) RDSAs.
t. The Steering Committee Chair shall oversee the committee and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.
u. Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.
v. Other duties as defined by GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

C. Legislative Standing Committee Chairs
   1. Duties, Power, Responsibilities
      a. Administer committees according to the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
      b. Provide annual report to the Council Chair, to be included in annual GPSA report.
   2. Removal
      The Council Chair can remove a committee chair in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws. A replacement must be presented to Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
   3. Stipend
      Stipend for the Legislative Standing Committee Chairs shall be determined through the budget process.

D. Legislative Ad Hoc Committees
   1. May be created by the Council Chair with a majority vote of approval from the Council or by the Council with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
   2. All Legislative Ad Hoc Committees will be dissolved by the end of the session.

ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch is composed of the GPSA Court of Review

Section 1. Court of Review

A. Jurisdiction
   The Court of Review shall have jurisdiction over disputes arising under this Constitution. The Court may also have appellate jurisdiction as defined in the GPSA Bylaws.

B. Composition
   1. The Court shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Justices, of which no more than two shall be appointed from the same department or school.
   2. There will be one Chief Justice and no less than two Associate Justices.
   3. The President and Council Representatives will have the authority to recommend Justices. All recommendations must be considered.
4. All Justices must be approved by the Council.
5. Members of the Court of Review shall not serve in any other position within GPSA.

C. Duties Powers Responsibilities
   1. Hear complaints brought forth by a GPSA member regarding:
      a. Matters arising under the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
      w. Acts of the President, Council Chair, GPSA staff or other GPSA official when acting under the authority of GPSA.
   2. Determine questions of constitutionality and adherence to GPSA law as a result of official complaints.
   3. Create a written record of all decisions and actions of the court to be maintained in the GPSA Office.
   4. Create an annual written report of the court to be included in the annual GPSA report.
   5. The court may, at its discretion, decline to hear cases that it deems are not appropriate under the Bylaws.
   6. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Justices
   A. Term of Office
      1. The term of office for the Chief Justice shall be two years, from noon of the last day of the Spring semester until noon of the last day of the Spring semester two years later.
      2. The term of office for the Associate Justices shall be for one year. The term shall begin after appointment and upon confirmation of the Council and shall terminate on the last day of the Spring semester.
      3. Justices shall be appointed at the first Council Meeting of the legislative session.
      4. No Justice shall serve more than two terms.

   B. Stipend
      Stipends for the Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall be determined through the budget process.

   C. Removal
      1. Impeachment
         A Justice may be impeached by a majority vote of Council Representatives at a regular Council meeting. A motion to consider removal must pass with a simple majority.
      2. Removal
         Removal of a Justice requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council Representatives at a special meeting called by the Council Chair.

ARTICLE V. FINANCE

Section 1. Fees
Subject to authorization by the Board of Regents, a nonrefundable fee, henceforth referred to as the GPSA fee, shall be levied on all graduate and professional students. The University shall collect these fees and forward them immediately to the GPSA.

A. The GPSA fee shall not exceed twenty-five dollars ($25) per student per semester and any increase in fee must be approved through a referendum and by the Board of Regents.

B. Five percent (5%) of the total GPSA budget is taken by the University in the form of an accounting fee payable to the Student Government Accounting Office. The total GPSA budget is herein defined as the total fees collected minus this five percent (5%) fee.

Section 2. Purpose
Collected fees shall be allocated by the GPSA Council to fund the general GPSA government and to benefit chartered student organizations and graduate and professional students through GPSA Committees.

Section 3. Oversight and Distribution
The Executive Finance Committee will administer the GPSA budget and the Legislative Finance Committee will have oversight of the GPSA budget in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws with the Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO) acting as the agent of all GPSA financial transactions.

A. The Executive Finance Committee shall draft a budget to be submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee before the March Council Meeting for a vote by the Council and approval by the President. If the President does not take action within ten (10) academic days, the budget shall be considered approved.

1. This budget shall be established based upon the anticipated revenue for the upcoming fiscal year as determined by SGAO.
2. The proposed budget shall not exceed ninety-five percent (95%) of said revenue to allow for appropriation funds and any decrease in projected enrollment.

B. The Legislative Finance Committee shall set out procedures in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws, to include a budget process, appropriation requests, and a summary of recommendations for each Council meeting.

C. All branches of the GPSA government must follow budget processes as defined by the GPSA Constitution, Bylaws, and applicable standing rules to be eligible for funding.

D. The Legislative Finance Committee Chair and Executive Finance Committee Chair shall have all necessary authority to approve budget revisions. All budget revisions must be reported at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

1. When Council is not in session, the President, Grants Chair, and Council Chair must jointly review and approve budget revisions.

E. Forty percent (40%) of the total GPSA budget shall be reserved for the Pro-Rated Benefits Fund.
F. No less than ten percent (10%) of the total GPSA budget shall be allocated to SRAC/ST.

G. Funds not appropriated through the budget process shall be placed in the GPSA General Fund.

H. All funds distributed through GPSA budget and appropriations and not used by the end of the fiscal year in which they were allocated shall revert to the General Fund.

Section 4. Fiscal Accountability

The GPSA financial records including, but not limited to, the GPSA budget and appropriations may be subject to a financial review as requested by a Council Representative, President, or through a complaint filed with the Court of Review.

Section 5. Budget Compliance

A. GPSA shall be in accordance with all necessary local, state, federal and University of New Mexico accounting requirements as determined by SGAO.

B. Compliance with proposal guidelines of funded organizations for the fiscal year shall be determined by the Legislative Finance Committee in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

C. Misuse of GPSA funds may result in Council recourse, including financial enjoinment.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

The Elections Committee shall administer annual GPSA elections and provide public notice of elections, as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 1. General Election

A. A general election of the President shall occur in the Spring semester of each academic year.

B. The ballot shall include the opportunity to vote for GPSA President, and may include amendments, referenda, and any other items approved by Council.

C. A plurality of votes shall decide all items presented on the ballot.

D. All members of the GPSA are entitled to vote in general elections.

Section 2. Council Chair Election

A. Administered by the Elections Committee at the April Council meeting.

B. The Council Chair is elected by a majority of votes of eligible representatives at the April meeting.

Section 3. Special Elections

A. Special elections may be held as called by the Council, the President, or by a referendum petition.
B. If a special election is called for by a referendum petition it must occur within thirty (30) academic days.

ARTICLE VII . AMENDMENTS

Proceedings to introduce a Constitutional amendment may be initiated by any GPSA member.

Section 1. Amendments

Requires a two-thirds (2/3) approval by Council Representatives present at a regular Council meeting, plurality approval by GPSA members voting in the General Election, and approval by the Board of Regents.

Section 2. Regent Control

This Constitution, including all Constitutional amendments, shall be subject to modification by and under the control of the Board of Regents.

ARTICLE VIII. REFERENDA

A referendum is a ballot initiative put to a popular vote of the GPSA membership in a general election.

A. Referenda may be submitted by the President with majority approval of Council, majority vote by Council, or a petition signed by at least fifty (50) GPSA members and will be placed on the general election ballot. The Elections Committee will have the authority to verify the signatures.

B. In order to be placed on the general election ballot, referenda must be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than thirty (30) academic days prior to the general election, in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. DEFINITIONS

These definitions shall apply throughout this document.

*Academic Day* - any day in which the University has regularly scheduled classes during the Fall or Spring semesters, unless specifically noted otherwise. This excludes weekends, holidays, and days which the University is closed.

*Academic Year* - starting the last day of the Spring semester through the day preceding the last day of the subsequent Spring semester.

*Amendment* - a change to the GPSA Constitution or Bylaws.

*Anticipated Revenue* - anticipated aggregate sum of GPSA fees to be collected in the following fiscal year as determined by SGAO.
Audit - evaluation of financial records.

Ballot - the list of candidates and issues to be voted on in an election.

Board of Regents – governor appointed board of community members and students who are responsible for the assets and programs of the University, establishment of goals and policies and guide the University and oversight of the functioning of the University.

Budget Revisions - a request to re-define funding previously allocated through the GPSA budget process or allocations. Budget revisions must be approved before GPSA funding may be spent on purposes other than originally approved or directed through Council.

Bylaws - active legislative supplement to the GPSA Constitution, composed of all codes which must not violate the Constitution but may further elaborate GPSA law.

Chair - the administrative head of a particular body.

Chartered Student Organization - any group which meets the chartering requirements of The University of New Mexico.

Committee - a group vested with powers, subordinate to the appropriate branch of government, composed and accountable according to the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Constituents – GPSA members which a particular Council Representative represents.

Constitution - the instituting document of GPSA, and the organization’s ultimate legislative authority.

Complaint - official grievance presented to the GPSA Court of Review that initiates action within the Court.

Council - the primary legislative body of GPSA.

Council Budget – funding allocated for the administration of the legislative branch.

Credentials – A form that verifies representative authority from a RDSA to serve as a Council Representative.

Elections Code - the GPSA Bylaws particularly concerning GPSA election law.

Enrollment report – a report distributed by the University indicating enrollment of graduate and professional students within degree granting departments and schools.
Ex officio- a non-voting participant of a given body who is part of it by holding another office.

Executive Budget - funding allocated for the administration of the executive branch.

Financial Enjoinment - a legislative action issued that prohibits a student group from engaging in any financial activities with the use of GPSA funds.

Financial Review – legal counsel language

General Election - the annual election of the GPSA President, during which other ballot issues may be presented to the voting members.

General Fund - the fund in which all fees collected on behalf of GPSA are deposited as well as all monies which revert back to GPSA.

GPSA fee - a fee levied upon all graduate and professional students that is forwarded to GPSA.

GPSA Member (Member) - any graduate or professional student enrolled in a degree granting department or school at the University of New Mexico main campus and who has paid the GPSA fee for the current semester.

Graduate Research Development (GRD) Grant – set up to assist larger projects that require substantial funding, as provided by the New Mexico State Legislature.

Gross Misconduct – an intentional act forbidden or unlawful performed with indifference to known obvious or harmful consequences

Impeachment – presentation of formal charges against a GPSA official by Council.

Leave of absence – an approved absence from duties of office as communicated in writing.

Malfeasance – legal counsel language

Majority - more than fifty percent (50%).

Neglect of Office – legal counsel language

Plurality vote - a vote in which candidate or issue is decided by receiving the greatest number of votes.

President’s Education Grant - a tuition grant, equal to up to twelve (12) resident, graduate tuition hours per semester at the rates published by the Bursar’s office.

Pro-Rated Benefits Fund (PB Funds) - grants of pro-rated benefits based on student enrollment as requested by Recognized Departmental Student Associations.
Recognized Departmental Student Association (RDSA) - the primary student association of each department and school as recognized by GPSA.

Referendum - a legislative initiative put to popular vote in a general or special election (pl. Referenda).

Semester - the Fall or Spring academic term as determined by the academic calendar of the University.

Session - the first day of the fall semester to the last day of the spring semester.

Specialized Travel (ST) Grant – a grant to fund student travel relevant to the applicant’s field.

Student Research Allocation Committee (SRAC) Grant – a grant to fund expenses related to student research relevant to the applicant’s field.

Student Fee Review Board (SFRB) – advisory board that recommends the distribution of the student activity fee in the University budget.

Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO) - a service department of UNM that processes all funds allocated by GPSA.

Term – a term of office as stipulated, or part there of.

University (UNM) - the University of New Mexico, not including branch campuses.