

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 2:00pm – 2:30pm

ROLL CALL:

Executive Board

Surbhi Sharma, President _____
Meghan Pierce, Vice President _____
Terri Thomas, Treasurer _____
Ariel Rosen, Secretary _____

In attendance: President Surbhi Sharma, Vice President Meghan Pierce and Treasurer Terri Thomas

Absent: Secretary Ariel Rosen

Other(s) in attendance: GPSA Manager Becky Boulton

The meeting was called to order by President Sharma at 2:05pm.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - none INFORMATION ONLY

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
President Sharma tabled the approval of the July 22, 2015 minutes and then called for a motion to approve the June 24, 2015 Executive Board meeting minutes. Vice President Pierce motioned to approve the meetings minutes. Treasurer Thomas seconded the motion. President Sharma asked for discussion. There was no discussion. The June 24th 2015 E-Board minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **SPEAKER(S)** INFORMATION ONLY

4. **COMMITTEE REPORT** - none FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

4. **OLD BUSINESS** - none FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

5. **NEW BUSINESS** FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
Dean Korgan asked that the E-Board offer their views on the Graduate Student Stipend Increase Proposal with the understanding that the goal of UNLV is to be a Top Tier university. There were a few comments and suggestions that emerged during the discussion: what is the goal of the increase in graduate assistant stipends; will the increase in stipend be awarded exclusively to new students or will it be awarded to both new and returning students? The E-board expressed concern that if it is only awarded to incoming students then it will decrease the morale of the returning students and also questioned whether incoming and returning students be funded differently? If so, what will the criteria be for determining how the funds are allocated? Specifically, how will the funds be distributed under the following situations: i) recruitment, The E-Board realizes that the departments that fall under STEM may be the only departments that get the stipend increase. In this case, it should be made absolutely clear to the campus community that i) how STEM is defined and how NSHE makes that decision and ii) which departments on campus are considered STEM. For example, the National Science Foundation includes neuroscience and biopsychology as STEM fields. Both programs are housed in the psychology department, which is then housed in the College of Liberal Arts. How will the university make distinctions within departments? Students enrolled in terminal M.S./M.A. degrees should not be penalized because their programs do not progress to a Ph.D. UNLV has several M.A./M.S. programs that terminate at the masters level; however, other universities offer a Ph.D. track for those same degrees. If our master level programs are not awarded a stipend increase we might end up losing these students to other universities. The students should not be penalized just because those programs do not terminate into PhD. The E-Board concluded their discussion in the hopes that everyone should at least get a base pay increase followed by a differential increase to the programs that will help UNLV reach at its Top Tier goal faster.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION ONLY

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

8. ADJOURNMENT

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President Sharma called for a motion to adjourn the E-board meeting. Treasurer Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Pierce seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to adjourn was unanimous. The E-board meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.