

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
(GPSA) COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 1, 2013, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. - Student Union Room 208 B & C

Elayna Hocking, Chair of the GPSA Elections Committee, introduced each of the candidates for the E-board 2013 – 2014. Each were provided a couple of minutes to speak: Eshani Ghandi, candidate for Treasurer, Sharon Young candidate for VP and Michael Gordon, candidate for President. Eshani Ghandi, Sharon Young, and Michael Gordon all gave short speeches.

I. Call to Order

President Michael Gordon called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Colleges with representatives in **attendance** were:

College / School	Representative
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH	Athena Gallardo (Health Physics)
	Sarah Horsch (Kinesiology)
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	Ryan La Pier (Accounting)
	Randal Rosman (Business Administration)
	Matthew Kinzer (Economics)
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES	Jeremiah Todd (Health Care Administration & Policy)
	Erin Sheehy (Public Health)
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	Lidia Sedano (Educational & Clinical Studies)
	Elayna J. Hocking (Educational Psychology and Higher Education)
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING	Kishor Shrestha (Civil & Environmental Engineering and Construction Mgmt)
	Ashish Karki (Computer Science)
	Ahmad Al Agry (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS	Matthew “Ezra” Mahurin (Film)
	Jonathan Baltera (Music)
SCHOOL OF LAW	Christian Augustin (Law)
COLLEGE OF HOTEL ADMINISTRATION	Yun Ying “Susan” Zhong (Hospitality Administration)
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS	Kathryn Baustian (Anthropology)
	Anthony Patricia (English)
	Rebecca Bolen (History)
	David Snyder (Political Science)
	Caleb Picker (Psychology)
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES	Christopher Conner (Sociology)
	Eshani Gandhi (Chemistry)
	Alison Sloat (Geoscience)
	Juan Carlos Duhart (Life Sciences)
COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS	Megan Gilliland (Journalism & Media Studies)
	Priscilla Lopez (Social Work)

Executive board members in attendance: President Michael Gordon, Vice President Sharon Young, Treasurer Jennifer Reed and Secretary Jennifer Liese.

Others in attendance: Becky Boulton, GPSA Manager and GPSA faculty advisors: Kate Korgan and Peter Gray, Fred Krauss, Director of Graduate Outreach, Juanita Fain, VP Student Affairs and Jamie Davidson, Associate VP of Student Wellness.

Colleges/Schools/others absent: School of Allied Health: Physical Therapy (Erin Jarrett, class conflict, unable to attend meetings); College of Business: Management Information Systems (vacant position); School of Dental Medicine (JD Westphal, class conflict, unable to attend meetings); College of Education: Teaching & Learning (Zaid Haddad); College of Engineering: Mechanical Engineering (vacant position); College of Fine Arts: Architecture (vacant position), Art (Lauren Adkins) and Theatre Arts (vacant position); Foreign Languages (Sarah Carey); School of Nursing: (vacant position); College of Science: Mathematical Sciences (vacant position) and Physics & Astronomy (vacant position); College of Urban Affairs: Communication Studies (Sara Kaplan), Criminal Justice (Natalie Martinez), Environmental & Public Affairs (Jung “Vicki” Eun Song) and Marriage & Family Therapy (Matt Nelson)

III. Public Comment

No public comment

IV. Approval of Minutes

President Michael Gordon called for a motion to approve the February minutes. Caleb Picker (Psychology) motioned to approve and Christopher Conner (Sociology) seconded. Gordon asked for any corrections or additions and hearing none, he called for a vote, which was unanimous to approve.

V. Speakers

- Juanita Fain, Vice President of Student Affairs – Dr. Fain explained as Vice President of Student Affairs her duties revolve around campus life, admissions, financial aid, administration, wellness, and police services. GPSA has worked for the last two years with Student Affairs to bring dental chairs to campus. Fain suggested that Student Affairs has a subscription for the New York Times, and if GPSA combines our sponsorship of NY Times together with theirs, maybe we can bring a speaker on campus. Student Affairs is compliant with EEO, as well as ADA. Fain has also committed \$6k to GPSA which would be half of the NAGPS lifetime membership fee.
- Jamie Davidson, Associate Vice President of Student Wellness – Dr. Davidson said the goal of the mandatory wavier program is to maintain affordable insurance on campus for students. Health insurance prices nationwide are rising. Only two insurance companies were willing to put a bid in because we do not have mandatory health insurance and because our Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) is so high. UNLV’s MLR is at 99%, and not profitable for insurance companies to carry the university. UNLV would like our rate to be closer to 80% and insurance companies would like MLRs of 60%. After sending out offers to 14 companies, UNLV got 2 offers back. (Wells Fargo is UNLV’s insurance broker). The mandatory health insurance would most likely target full time students and not part time students. But there needs to be lots more discussion on this issue. All insurance plans have to cover everything for up to half a million dollars. Insurance providers are saying they will not continue to quote UNLV. It will be much cheaper to get student insurance than other insurance. If the mandatory health insurance is not passed, UNLV will not be able to carry insurance for students. Davidson believes the mandatory health insurance will be significantly cheaper than Silver State Insurance. Aetna will consider offering

insurance just for graduate students on the mandatory waiver plan, but that plan will be higher than if the hard waiver is required for undergrads as well. The regents will be voting soon, and Davidson would like to get support for this resolution from graduate students.

- Kate Hausbeck Korgan, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate College – Dr. Korgan noted that the Graduate College is very supportive of the mandatory health insurance with a hard waiver. This is because if the hard waiver is not mandated, UNLV will not be able to offer health insurance for students. This will negatively affect graduate recruitment and retention because providing health insurance for students is a normative thing. If UNLV doesn't have an affordable plan for international students, they will have to purchase a more expensive option. The Graduate College will do their best to keep the insurance waiver rates as is for GAs. Again, think about students that really need this plan; without the mandatory health insurance--these students will not have an insurance option at UNLV. The Graduate College has recently started retention funding awards that could help students maxed out on financial aid, so this could help that issue in a small way.

VI. Budget Report

Treasurer Reed reported the March monthly expenditures. She directed the council's attention to the top of the report, the March student wages are listed at \$4054.00 for the staffing in the Graduate Student Commons. She continued with the operating expenses for the month of March: noting the monthly postage and telephone costs, \$791.30 for the travel expenses for the 3 e-board members (Jennifer, Michael and Sharon) trip to Carson City for the Feb. 25th Nevada Education Awareness Day and printing expenses at \$654.89 for the Research Forum. She further noted the hosting expenses for March. \$350.00 was spent for the February social held at the Freakin' Frog.

\$728.52 was brought from the sales in the Graduate Student Commons; as well as \$2,986.09 from the remaining spring semester student fees. Bring the year-to-date revenue in at \$261,609.03.

The balance forward is \$157,840.87 with a balance of \$169,979.57

President Gordon asked for a motion to approve the budget Caleb Picker (Psychology) motioned to approve the budget report; Christopher Conner (Sociology) seconded. After a call for the vote, Council unanimously approved the budget report as presented.

VII. Committee Reports

- Board of Regents – Legislatively, Michael Gordon testified last week on the funding formula. This Wednesday they're hearing about conceal carry weapons on campus.
- GPSA Activities / Community Service – UNLV Food Pantry, if you have any charities you're looking for support, let them know. The end of year social is coming up.
- GPSA Government Relations – Jennifer Reed, Treasurer, discussed how bills AB440 and AB441, are about voter registration and making it easier to vote at any designated location on Election Day.
- GPSA Publications – Jennifer Liese, Secretary, mentioned the upcoming final newsletter to be printed April 12th. She asked the publications committee to stay behind after the meeting to set up the next publications committee meeting. She also mentioned if anyone had ideas for stories they'd like included in the next newsletter, please email her.
- GPSA Research Forum – The feedback from the judges is coming. Please let us know of any feedback or comments on how to improve the next Forum. Thanks to all the volunteers.
- GPSA Sponsorships – Sharon Young, VP announced \$950 was awarded for E/February Sponsorships.

- Campus-wide –none

VIII. Old Business – Mandatory Student Health Insurance – info item

IX. New Business – none

X. Announcements

- GPSA E-board office hours immediately following every Council meeting from 3:30 – 4:30pm in SU 306
- GPSA Voting April 1st – 5th – Graduate Student Commons 2141; <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/e-board-elections.html>
- GPSA Summer Council Sign-up – meeting dates listed below
- GPSA Research Brown Bag, April 3rd, noon – 1pm in the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141 – highlighted Law School and College of Urban Affairs
- IT Master Planning – Student input wanted: Pizza and Planning, April 3rd @ 11:30am – 12:30pm in SU 209
- Fall 2013 GPSA Book Scholarship application due: April 30, 2013
- Deadlines for applications for 2013 GPSA Fall Sponsorships April 15th; <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/grants.html>
- May 6th GPSA Council meeting change in location to SU Ballroom A
- GPSA Social – Paradise Cantina, Thursday, May 2nd, 5 – 8pm FREE APPETIZERS!
- Graduate Student Week 2013: April 1 – 5: <http://gradresources.org/gradweek/>

XI. Public Comment – There was open discussion of the pros and cons of the mandatory hard waiver. If nothing is done, our rates will rise 20%-30%. If we go to the hard waiver program the prices may go up a little or possibly down. Some argued, once the individual mandate hits, everyone will have to buy health insurance. Therefore it's better to pass this mandatory health insurance waiver now and get cheaper rates. Others felt the student health rates given are inflated. Some discussed how the Council voted down this same proposal at the February meeting and believed we should maintain our previous vote in this matter.

Dr. Fred Krauss, Director of Graduate Outreach, said he was not aware of a university that does not offer health insurance to students. He said a mandatory health insurance waiver does not look nearly as bad as not being able to offer insurance to students at UNLV.

XII. Adjournment - Christopher Conner (Sociology) motioned to adjourn, and Randal Rosman (Business Administration) seconded. By council's unanimous vote to adjourn, the meeting ended at 3:34 pm.