Members Present: Gabriela Ruiz (ACCOUNTING), Cesar Valdez Hughes (BUSINESS ADMIN), Sonja Kolstoe (ECONOMICS), Megan Wolff (MGMT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Kyle Kaalberg (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION), Nancy Hamilton (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY), Nathan Slife (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Catherine Howerton (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Ajay Kalra (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Bartosz Kajak (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Anthony Flarisee (INFORMATICS), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Jared Goode (FILM), Mackenzie Burns (PUBLIC HEALTH), David Wedley (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES), Sharon Young (ANTHROPOLOGY), Lorena Pike (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Susan Phipps (HISTORY), Kenneth Retzel (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Tyler Schafer (SOCIOLOGY), Thomas Bussey (CHEMISTRY), Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (LIFE SCIENCES), Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Mari Sakiyama (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), George Molnar (CRISIS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT), Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES), Yu-Ting Chien (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES), Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Brenda Argueta (SOCIAL WORK), Kyle George (PRESIDENT), Antonio Gutierrez (VICE PRESIDENT), Diane Owen (SECRETARY), Michael Gordon (TREASURER)

Members Absent: Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP), Kimberly Hammer (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY), Siboney Zelaya (NURSING), Nancy Amhaz (HOTEL MANAGEMENT), Kathy Anders (ENGLISH), Joshua Juvrud (PSYCHOLOGY), Steven Jones (MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), Destiny Farr (WOMEN’S STUDIES)

Others in Attendance: Carin Wallace (GOSA BUSINESS MANAGER), Haley Etchison (NEWS EDITOR, REBEL YELL), Kate Korgan (GRADUATE COLLEGE), Adam Simon (GEOSCIENCE), Candace Griffith, Lucas Bang

I. Roll Call

President George called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.
II. Approval of Minutes

President George asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes from October. After hearing no corrections, Kyle Kaalberg (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION) motioned to approve the minutes. Jared Goode (FILM) seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Speakers

No speakers were present at the meeting.

IV. Budget Report

Treasurer Gordon reviewed the November budget and encouraged students to purchase food in GPSA Lab as this money goes to the GPSA budget. Sonja Kolstoe (ECONOMICS) motioned to approve the budget. Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE) seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

GPSA Activities
Cesar Valdez Hughes (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) gave the report. About 40 students attended the Firefly activity on December 3rd.

GPSA Ad Hoc Awards
No updates.

GPSA Community Service
No updates.

GPSA Grants
E/Fall grants November cycle award amount $2,950. Vice President Gutierrez reported that the Spring grants, 109 applications, were deliberated and decisions were made on who would be funded. Funded 51% of applicants for a total of $40,000 awarded. He asked that the council forward any appeals, questions, comments, or concerns on to him, Antonio.Gutierrez@unlv.edu. Letters informing applicants of their application status were to go out the coming week. If individuals wished to appeal, they must write directly to Vice President Gutierrez within 10 University business days of receiving notification.

GPSA Publications
Secretary Owen gave the report. New newsletter is out, please take a copy to post in your respective areas. Covers the accomplishments of the GPSA over the past year and includes deadlines and dates for the upcoming year. We are shooting for another newsletter in February. Thanked Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES) and Jared Goode (FILM) for your hard work.

President’s Advisory Council
President George gave an update on the food bank. There were four collection bins placed across campus (at SU, SRWC, SEB, and Lied Library) and 1800 items were collected. 31 people came to collect from the food bank for a total of 141 family members helped. There are 330 items left over. As this was a very quick turnaround, President George believes there will be greater usage in the future. He reminded the
council that this is an ongoing activity, not just for the holidays and encourages all to donate. Any volunteers to help with organization and distribution, contact Michael Gordon (Michael.Gordon@unlv.edu) and any ideas on how to make this process more effective/efficient contact Kyle George (Kyle.George@unlv.edu).

President George informed the council that the PAC is about to release a campus climate survey to discover diversity issues on campus in order to evaluate the severity of these issues, participate and encourage others to participate.

NSHE Tuition and Fees Committee
Nothing to report on tuition fees.

BOR voted to approve differential tuition for grad students; approved architecture and two other programs, nursing and MBA. As part of approving this, BOR will look into differential stipend for GA students.

President Smatresk appointed as full president of UNLV by BOR. The council’s concerns were taken back to Chancellor Klaich and BOR regarding code being suspended. BOR broke into two issues; the first whether to suspend the code and the second whether Neal Smatresk should be instated as full president. Only one regent voted against code being suspended. A half hour was allotted for public comment on the issue and it went over an hour being very positive for President Smatresk. BOR voted unanimously in the end. Pres also made a gesture to forego $50,000 in his salary until the end of his term and if he fulfills his contract he receives the lump sum at the end, but if not, he will relinquish that money to the University.

The Governor has requested every state funded agency show how it would decrease its budget by 10%. $175 million is looking to be cut which means there is talk about closing some Nevada institutions. Health and Human Services will also be hit hard. President George stated that the council as well as all UNLV students need to get ready for the upcoming legislative sessions. In the past, GPSA has helped organize rallies, walk outs, letter writing campaigns, etc. However, President George would like to do something new this time. He asks for volunteers to work on the Ad Hoc Crisis committee who can work under stress, are committed, and innovative. Pending on their schedules, Cesar Valdez Hughes (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) and Lorena Pike (FOREIGN LANGUAGES) volunteer. Anyone else interested email President George (Kyle.George@unlv.edu). A discussion on the affects of the budget cuts included the following points:

• When a program or department is cut, students are given notification and are allotted a certain amount of time to complete their degree. This means, if they are a first or second year undergrad, they must find an alternate program.
• A goal of the upcoming legislative sessions is to fight for UNLV tuition to stay on campus rather than be reallocated to the state budget.
• There is discussion in some colleges to merge programs rather than eliminate them.
• There is discussion about sharing resources between similar programs at UNLV, NSC, and CSN. (i.e. nursing)
• President Smatresk has proposed a scholarship plan for undergraduates who are progressing towards a degree in the case that tuition is raised for all undergraduate students.
• There is also discussion on only having a program offered at one school, either UNLV, CSN, or NSC, rather than at more than one of those institutions.

Let President George know (Kyle.George@unlv.edu) if you have any comments or suggestions on how to proceed with lobbying against budget cuts to Higher Education.
VI. Old Business

Increase in stipend amount – Bylaws change
President George informed council that the Executive Board is reviewing the GPSA bylaws and will be taking time over Winter Break to look them over closely.

Treasurer Gordon stated that in the last meeting the Bylaws committee suggested an increase in the stipend amount for the GPSA council, but there would be no vote at this meeting as the Executive Board is still reviewing the bylaws. President George asked for thoughts and the following comments were made:

- Increasing the stipends sends the wrong message while the university is undergoing budget cuts.
- Suggested increased stipends for those on committees that put in more time.
- This is a volunteer based organization and $50 more to a stipend will not make a difference.
- Rather than increase everyone’s stipend, reimburse those that will need to travel because of their committee work (i.e. sending Crisis Committee to state legislative sessions).
- This would go into effect for next year’s GPSA council, not this council.

George Molnar (CRISIS & EMERGENCY MGMT) motioned for an advisory vote. 7 members voted in favor of an increase in the stipend, 18 members opposed an increase, and 6 members abstained from the vote. President George will move forward by looking at how other similar institutions handle stipends.

GPSA Ad hoc Financial Aid Committee now GPSA Ad hoc Scholarship Committee—information item
No updates.

VIII. New Business

GPSA Fall Stipends: $5700
Treasurer Gordon informed council that all their forms must be signed with Carin at the end of the meeting. George Molnar (CRISIS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT) motioned to accept the stipends. Nancy Hamilton (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Dental Health
President George discussed that plans for reaching out to the Dean of the Dental school have moved forward. Opening a room in the Student Wellness center for dental work, providing a dental chair, and inviting dental students to do their work there is being discussed with the Dean as well as the Provost. This will also encourage more Dental students to come to campus.

Graduation Changes
Kate Korgan updated the committee on changes in the graduation process:
- Beginning Fall of 2011, graduation fees will increase to $75 from $50 and this money will go directly to the commencement fund.
- Thesis and dissertation fees are now free.
- Graduation applications are no longer paper; everything will be done online through MyUNLV.
- Exit surveys will be given via email.
IX. Announcements

• Congratulations to the December 2010 Commencement Speaker, Meng Li, and all December graduates.
• Congratulations to the GPSA Book Scholarship Winners: Sarah St. John, Patricia Lozano, Mark J. Salvaggio, Bryan Applequist, Kayla Applequist, Matias Sokolowski, Christopher T. Conner, Kyle Kaalberg, Tyler S. Schafer, Michael Gordon, Kyung Kang, Qingmin Shi, Su Gao, Majid Shirali, Judith Contreras, Siping Liu, Michelle Escasa, Lisandra Rojas, Qing Han, and Abigail Hasherry.

X. Public Comment

• Congratulations to those who are graduating this semester.
• President George appreciates that the council has been more interactive than seen in the past.
• Vice President Gutierrez acknowledged the Grant Committee. It took 4 + hours of time to go through all applications. He is appreciative and proud to work alongside them.
• Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) thank you for the graduate email list that was provided.

XI. Adjournment

Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Laurenn McCubbin (ART) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) 72 hours in advance for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, room 137. The DRC phone number is 895-0866 or TDD 895-0652. Or visit our website at www.unlv.edu/studentserv/disability/.

GPSA Council Agenda is posted in the following locations: GPSA Office – Lied Library Bldg. 3251, Graduate College Display Case – Flora Duncan Humanities Bldg. (3rd floor), Student Union 1st floor display case, BEH 1st floor bulletin board and available on the GPSA website: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/agendaMinutes.html. Please Note: Above is the agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented at the discretion of the chair.

*GPSA welcomes Public Comment after each item, as well as at the end of our meetings.