Members Present: Steven Lehr (MBA), Megan Wolff (MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Jennifer Wimmer (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION), Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY), Sara G. Bell (PROXY - EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Joseph Morgan (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Dawid Zydek (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Stacy Nelson (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Maggie Werning (FILM), Christopher Trevino (THEATRE), John Rountree (PROXY - HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION), Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION), Jennifer Scharf (KINESIOLOGY), Brandon Richards (PHYSICAL THERAPY), Edward Wynder (PUBLIC HEALTH), Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING), Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION), Kathy Minkel (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICE MGMT), Aaron Hockman (PROXY - ANTHROPOLOGY), Sam Harr (ENGLISH), Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Adla Earl (HISTORY), Brendan Morris (PROXY - POLITICAL SCIENCE), Andrea Kayl (PSYCHOLOGY), Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY), Pauline Serrano (CHEMISTRY), Corinne Griffing (GEOSCIENCE), Michael Webber (PROXY - LIFE SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES), Elizabeth Young (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES), Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Kyle George (VICE PRESIDENT), Veronica Glover (SECRETARY), Candace Griffith (TREASURER).

Members Absent: Jessica Lucero (PRESIDENT), Erin Diebold (ACCOUNTING), Jared Price (ECONOMICS), Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), John Piro (LAW), Yanan Jiang (MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES), Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), Justin Smith (MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY), Gabriela Gandarilla (SOCIAL WORK).

Others Present:
Dr. Adam Simon (Faculty Advisor), Dr. Kate Korgan (Faculty Advisor), Dr. Doris Watson (Chair, Graduate College ad hoc Professional Development Committee), Amy Brooks (Assistant Director, Alumni Chapters and Clubs), Amanda Hearst (Vice President, Membership of Alumni), Christina Hernandez (Coordinator, Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Outreach and Awareness), Karoline Khamis (Jean Nidetch), Dr. Neal Smatresk (UNLV President), Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager).
I. **Roll Call**
Vice President George called the GPSA Council Meeting, held in the Student Union Room 208, to order Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. He announced that roll call would be determined by the sign-in sheet.

II. **Approval of Minutes**
Vice President George asked for a motion approving the October 2009 GPSA minutes. Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) motioned to approve the meetings and was seconded by Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING). With no oppositions, the motion passed.

III. **Speakers**
- Doris Watson, Chair of the Graduate College ad hoc Professional Development committee
  Dr. Watson is soliciting participants for a pilot study to implement a Research Certificate. This certificate is analogous to the Teaching Certificate that is now available through TLC. Graduate students and Honors College undergraduates are eligible to participate. She needs graduate students to participate so she has a random sampling of the body to provide feedback. A larger study will be launched in Spring 2010. Testing takes approximately one and a half weeks and is at your own leisure. You will then participate in a focus group to discuss what makes sense and what needs improvement. If interested, contact Doris @ 895-5085 or email doris.watson@unlv.edu. She will meet with you and answer any questions you may have before you being.

  Kathy Minkel (SPORT & LEISURE SERVICE MGMT) asked if this study will result in a certificate. Dr Watson answered that at this time, no it will not.

- Amy Brooks, Assistant Director of Alumni Chapters and Clubs introduced Amanda Hearst the Vice President of Membership of Alumni
  Amanda discussed the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and its benefits. This association enables undergraduates, masters and PhD students to stay connected and network. SAA puts on various events throughout the year. Spring event = dinner with a Rebel. You are paired with an alumni member who shares a general interest. You share a meal and are able to interact one-on-one. This is also a great way to build connections. Fall event = Rebel rock and race (i.e., Football tailgating). NOTE = these are free events once you pay your membership dues.
  When you join SAA, you receive a membership card good for local discounts (i.e., $100 off a Kaplan course). You are also automatically a member of the Alumni Association as well as the chapter associated with your college.

  Currently have executive board positions available as well as chair positions. Term is one semester. Deadline for applications is November 13th. Check the website for applications

  http://alumni.unlv.edu/students/saa.html

- Christina Hernandez, Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Outreach and Awareness Coordinator
Karoline Khamis, violence prevention coordinator – resource center and programming.

There is now a lactation room available at the center as well as parenting classes available both on campus and off campus. Christina and Caroline are both certified state advocates, meaning they are able to help you through victim process. The Center provides various programming, such as take back the night (16 yrs and running). Additional events include the following: November 23rd is the International Day to eliminate violence against women, in January there will be programs centered on stalking, and in January there will be a Take Back the Campus night as it is Assault Awareness month. If you would like to schedule an event to talk about how to prevent violence in the community please call 895-4475.

There is a Graduate Assistant position available in the Women’s center. It is research oriented.

- Vice President George introduced President Neal Smatresk who stopped by the meeting. He update everyone on the progress over the last 3 months.

The Lincy Institute was established in August. It will focus on improvements in health, education, and welfare of the people in this region. They will work with nonprofits in the region. Once the Institute is fully staffed, it will have up to 12 GA lines.

The Brookings Institution announcement followed that of the Lincy Institute. Brookings is a Metro institute, which means its mission is about cities and what they need to be healthy. This is a blueprint for American prosperity. They will work on solutions for regions that help build economies, innovative technological clusters in order to make life better for people in the cities. Brookings scholars will come out 2-3 times per month and is located in the Greenspun Building.

The formula study is complete and should be brought to the legislators. There is room in the undergraduate structure for a tuition increase, but not for graduate students. This is due to hiring new GAs. Therefore, graduate students probably will not have to worry about tuition increases.

The EPA buildings will be moved to Reid Institute Research Park. UNLV is positioning itself to be the Solar Capital of the world through a solar hub initiative. Various companies are interested in the Southern NV initiative. This initiative represents a complete change to the economic structure of this region.

Questions:
- Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) – do you see us becoming tier 1 research institute? According to World News & Report, UNLV is a tier 4. This is based on measurements that do not favor our sized university. It is not a good evaluation tool for West coast universities. With our many accomplishments this year and on the horizon, UNLV’s national reputation will change in the next 3 – 5 years.
- Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) asked (1) what will happen to the GAs who work for EPA when it moves off campus? President Smatresk explained that they will be commuting to the new location. (2) How will UNLV move to the nearly 2500 acres in North? President Smatresk explained that this transition would happen over time. (3) Are we using our past accomplishments to try to get our money back from the budget
cuts? President Smatresk explained that yes, our accomplishments will be used to try to get some of it back.

Kate Korgan (GPSA Advisor) - can you comment on graduate stipends and graduate student housing? President Smatresk agreed that stipends are too low and not competitive. The main focus will be on PhD production. Currently, we under produce PhD students. At the moment Deans can adjust the amount of stipends resulting in a change in the number of stipends each year. Eventually, President Smatresk sees an initial increase for PhD students and then MA students. When UNLV receives more budget money, stipends are on the priority list. As far as housing, UNLV has bid on property on Flamingo. It will be geared to graduate student and new faculty housing. There are 217 units that can be rented out below market. There are also plans to partner with RFP in a public/private partnership to build dorms near and around campus for various levels of students. The Cottage Grove area may be ideal.

Maggie Werning (FILM) asked President Smatresk to specify if MFA would go with PhD or MA students as far as stipends are concerned? President Smatresk stated that it will be up to the Dean to decide what a competitive stipend is for the MFA program.

IV. Budget Report

- Treasurer Griffith gave the budget report. President Lucero’s expenses for attending the Board of Regents meeting were included. As a reminder, expenses are for items that have posted. There is typically a one month delay in processing and inclusion in the budget report.

V. Committee Reports

- GPSA Activities - William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) the chair of the committee reminded everyone of the Ultimate Team Cardboard Fortress Battle (UTCFB) on 11/21 at noon. We will be making forts; details are still being hammered out. He is in negotiations with Memphis BBQ to cater the event, and vegetarian plates will be available. Please RSVP on Facebook to give the committee a more accurate head count. Everyone is encouraged to bring their family. The committee needs to collect cardboard ASAP; Edward Wynder (PUBLIC HEALTH) suggested that they contact Rebel Recycling.

The activities committee is also in negotiations with Firefly to hold an event. If it doesn’t pan out, the committee will solicit ideas from everyone. Please contact Billy via email if you have any questions.

- GPSA Ad Hoc Awards - Treasurer Griffith explained that the committee will be adding a dollar amount to the awards and a plaque for non-student awards. GPSA Student Awards are opened to all graduate students. The money associated with awards may encourage nominations.

- GPSA Community Service - Treasurer Griffith has planned out drives. February will focus on animals. If you have extra animal food/toys, bring those in. In March the community service committee will be collecting books for CCSD to help families who are not able to buy books that are needed. In April, they will focus on the
Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, which is for gay youth. Check out their website for more details about the center: www.thecenterlv.com. Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES) explained that the committee will partner with the Salvation Army, which 4K in NV with food items. Please see the flyer for details on collecting food for the food drive. They are collecting until November 20th and delivering food on 11/21. In December the committee will once again partner with the Salvation Army and collect new and gently used toys. Bring your toys to the GPSA office or a box can be provided for your department for donations and a member of the committee will come and pick it up. The Salvation Army has provided toys to ~ 16K toys to kids in the Valley. The Salvation Army would like to see some of us volunteer the day(s) of toy distribution, aka Angel Tree. The event is December 15th – 17th. They have schedules from 8am – 3pm. You will be handing out toys to families who come in to pick up items. It is a very simple, stream-lined process. Wear red or a UNLV t-shirt to distinguish our group.

- GPSA Grants – Vice President George announced that the E/Fall grants October cycle award amount $2,597.00. He also explained in detail why the grant writing workshop was canceled. There were several departments with conflicting events and the guest speaker canceled. Vice President George did not want to present a subpar event and so he canceled it. The event will be scheduled for the Spring semester. The grant deadline is 11/15 and the committee will be more lenient when awarding grants to reach out to the widest market of students. He would like to know what your unique needs are that can be funded.

- GPSA Publications – Secretary Glover, the committee chair, reported that the new newsletter will be out this month.

- Southern Nevada CORE Student leaders – Vice President George stated that the committee is still in planning phase. They purchased postcards to thank legislators and remind them of initial contact.

- Health Insurance Committee – Vice President George reported that it may be possible to join with other universities so we can get a better rate. He needs feedback on how each department feels about instituting a hard waiver (mandatory) for insurance.

- NSHE Tuition and Fees Committee – Dr. Kate Korgan explained that the proposal is gaining steam for a two-tier model to close the tuition gap over the next few years. The Graduate College wants to earmark the money specifically for increasing stipends. Vice President George relayed that 16 out of 24 departments provided feedback on the stipend issue – would you favor increasing stipend amount at the expense of decreasing GA lines? The vote was no. The Graduate College is in favor of giving more money, but where does it come from? Dr Korgan explained that UNLV receives a lump sum of money for state-funded GA lines. These funds are allocated on an annual basis to each Dean, who gets a lump sum. They, in turn, allocate a lump sum to the chairs of departments. The Chairs allocate the money to the Graduate students. There is still a minimum in place but no maximum. This flexibility is in limited use by the Deans at this time. The Deans have had this option for the past 3 years, but their dollar amounts have not increased. The Graduate College is investigating how much money they are
allocating to Deans. They are considering such things as the quality of the program and how many students are in the program. They now have a new proposal to modify the Graduate Program.

Deans did not want an increase in stipend amounts at this time because we do not have new funds coming in. The plan is as follows:

2011 – MA amounts stay the same, but PhD minimum increases to 14K

2013 – MA amount increases to 12K and PhD increases to 16K

The Graduate College is also coming up with a formula on distributing funds to Deans. Reallocation would be based on (1) teaching, (2) incentivizing graduation, (3) funds held by new university committee based on proposal, (4) institute a new category, such as graduate fellows who would be designated by Dean of the department. Based on these criteria, there will be a little bit of campus adjustment. The committee wants reassessment every 3 years and not annually because we need time for the GA to graduate.

- Policies and procedures governing the GA program need to be updated.
- Currently there are no provisions for appeals (i.e., GA abuse, etc.). State GA’s assigned to teaching will likely to assigned to 6 teaching credits per semester. Most GA’s are doing this already. Equivalent scenarios, such as teaching large classes or labs, will go towards these teaching credits.

VI. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- Treasurer Griffith asked for DOLLAR AMOUNT for GPSA Awards. Steven Lehr (MBA) made a motion to add the dollar amount to the awards, and Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE) seconded the motion. After no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Vice President George announced two organizations seeking recognition – BIOS and Christian Grads. Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) put forth the motion to recognize the organization and Jason Baker (PHYSICS) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Announcements

- GPSA Spring 2009 Grant Deadline – November 15th. Applications available @ http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants.htm
- Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk will take place Saturday, November 7 at the Fashion Show Mall. Feel free to create a team of your own and/or join one of the others from UNLV: http://memorywalk2009.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=294350&t eam=3576681 is the UNLV RAM Lab’s team and https://www.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=294350&lis=1&kntae 294350=2AA8E9CE85D5472CA03E151E7AAB41F0&supId=274442648&team=35 78985 is the team page for UNLV OMUP.
- UNLV Athletics is teaming up with 3 Square to combat hunger in Southern Nevada. Bring in your goods to donate at the Saturday, November 7 Rebel football game
against Colorado State, or Women’s basketball on Sunday, November 15, or the Runnin Rebels vs. Southern Illinois game on Saturday, November 21.

- Special NOTE: December 2 meeting will be held in SU Room 211

X. Public Comment
None

XI. Adjournment
Vice President George asked for a motion for adjournment. Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) put forth the motion and Christopher Trevino (THEATRE) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.