I. Roll Call
President George called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes
President George asked everyone to look over the September meeting notes and note any changes that need to be made. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) said that the word “GAs” appears as “Gas” in the minutes due to Microsoft formatting. Also, “deadline to vote” needed to be changed to “deadline to register to vote.” Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE) made a motion to approve the minutes. Kenneth Retzel (POLITICAL SCIENCE) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Speakers:
- **Candace Griffith**
  Candace spoke about the prior increase in the GPSA student fee and the promise that GPSA would pay out more in scholarships. Three tentative scholarships are:
  i. **Book**
     1. **Program Overview:** the GPSA Book Scholarship program is designed to offer some financial relief to graduate students buying...
books for the upcoming semester. Ten (10) scholarships are available per semester (Fall and Spring Semesters only) in the amount of $100.00 each.

2. **Eligibility**: To qualify for the GPSA Book Scholarship students must be considered full-time (9 credits or 6 credits with a graduate assistantship). Students must also have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, be in good academic standing and have taken at least six (6) graduate credit hours at UNLV. All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee appointed by the GPSA’s executive officers.

3. **Application Instructions**: The student must fill out the application form in its entirety and include an unofficial transcript. Students must include all supporting documentation as outlined on the application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. **Deadlines**: GPSA Book Scholarships will be considered once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester for awarding in the following semester. To be considered, complete application packets must be received in the GPSA lounge by April 30 (Fall) or October 30 (Spring).

5. **Disbursal of Scholarships**: The GPSA Book Scholarship will be disbursed by the Graduate College. A form letter will be mailed for you to use at the bookstore. The generation of recipients will be based on random selection from the pool of qualified applicants. The procedure is as such: all applications will be reviewed to ensure each applicant meets the minimum standards. Their names are then put into an excel spreadsheet and using the random number generator, 10 recipients will be selected each semester.

**ii. Scholarship**

1. **Program Overview**: the GPSA Scholarship program is designed to offer some financial relief to graduate students. The purpose of this award is to celebrate the hard work of graduate students by offering an award that looks at both research and need. Four scholarships are available per semester (Fall and Spring Semesters only) in the amount of $1000.00 each.

2. **Eligibility**: To qualify for the GPSA Scholarship students must be considered full-time (9 credits or 6 credits with a graduate assistantship) or part-time taking 6 credits. Students must also have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, be in good academic standing and have taken at least six (6) graduate credit hours at UNLV and have NOT received the GPSA Scholarship in this academic year. All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee appointed by the GPSA’s executive officers.

3. **Application Instructions**: Students must fill out the application form in its entirety. The application must also be accompanied by a current CV, unofficial transcript, and statement of purpose (no more than 500 words) that references your service, academics,
research, and future plans. In addition, two letters of support/recommendation, with at least one letter from a member of your graduate committee is required. Students must also include all supporting documentation as outlined on the application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. **Deadlines**: Scholarships will be considered once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. To be considered, complete application packets must be received in the GPSA lounge by October 1 (Fall) or March 1 (Spring).

5. **Disbursal of Scholarships**: The GPSA Scholarship will be disbursed by check. It is the responsibility of the applicant to pick up the check when instructed to do so.

### iii. Medical hardship

1. **Program Overview**: the Medical Hardship Scholarship program is designed to help graduate students who may have trouble staying in school and/or paying for school related expenses because of medical hardship. Priority will be given to students with life altering or serious illnesses that may pose a financial drain that could jeopardize their educational status. Only necessary procedures for which no other funding is available may be considered. The maximum scholarship amount is $1000.00 per person, with no more than $2500.00 awarded per Semester.

2. **Eligibility**: To qualify for the GPSA Medical Hardship Scholarship, students must be considered full-time (9 credits or 6 credits with a graduate assistantship). Students must also have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, be in good academic standing, and have taken at least six (6) graduate credit hours at UNLV prior to application. Students must demonstrate that the medical condition will present significant financial burden, and that other funding sources are insufficient to cover expenses. All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee appointed by the GPSA’s executive officers. Students may receive the Medical Hardship Scholarship once every 2 years.

3. **Qualifying Expenses**: Expenses incurred as the result of a medical hardship up to six (6) months prior to the time of application will be considered. There will be no funding for expected or future expenses. In rare and exceptional cases, where medical problems are demonstrated to be extremely severe and burdensome, GPSA may consider funding expenses up to, but not exceeding, one year retroactive to the time of application. No funding will be given for expected or anticipated future expenses.

4. **Application Instructions**: Students must fill out the application form in its entirety. The application must also be accompanied by a letter explaining the need for the award and the circumstances leading to the financial emergency. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide as much detail as possible to aid in the
granting of the award. Students must also include all supporting documentation as outlined on the application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. **Deadlines**: Scholarships will be considered once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. To be considered, complete application packets must be received in the GPSA lounge by September 15 (fall) or March 15 (spring).

6. **Disbursement of Scholarships**: The GPSA Medical Hardship Scholarship will be disbursed by check. It is the responsibility of the applicant to pick up the check when instructed to do so.

iv. Laurenn McCubbin (ART) asked if all scholarship will be available during Spring and whether books can be bought elsewhere than the bookstore. Candace Griffith answered that all books have to be bought at the on-campus bookstore.

v. Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY) asked when the deadlines for the scholarships are. Candace Griffith mentioned that deadlines are not yet fixed, but that representatives could use the deadlines mentioned above as a guide.

vi. Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) asked if all graduate students will be eligible for the scholarships. Candace Griffith answered that all students, including international graduate students, will be eligible for all three scholarships.

vii. Candace Griffith also mentioned that she will be working with the Graduate College to remove the GPSA name from the Adams scholarship the College awards every year to avoid confusion.

viii. President George thanked former treasurer Griffith for her hard work on this committee. Candace Griffith reiterated that these scholarships were also available for international students.

IV. **Budget Report**

- Treasurer Gordon presented the latest budget.
- George Molnar (ECEM) asked if it was possible to see account balances on the budget. Manager Wallace replied that this would be possible since GPSA now has its own line item for hosting.
- Susan Phipps (HISTORY) made a motion to approve the budget and Laurenn McCubbin (ART) seconded the motion. With no oppositions, the motion carried.

V. **Committee Reports**

- Board of Regents
  i. President George mentioned the Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) and their mandate. This group developed a questionnaire to send out to electoral candidates, but another group also sent out a different questionnaire to candidates. There is also a possibility of a candidate forum, sponsored by CSUN, on October 28 from 5:30-8pm.
  ii. Differential tuition, which is already in place for undergraduate programs, might be coming for graduate programs as well. The issue for GPSA is
whether graduate assistantship stipends will increase for students in high-cost programs to allow them to continue furthering their education. The Graduate College is currently working on a plan to see if this is feasible. President George asked for feedback from representatives through their constituents. Thomas Bussey (CHEMISTRY) asked which programs are probable for getting differential tuition in the future. President George answered that no final decisions have been made, but that programs such as Nursing, Education, Engineering, Physical therapy and MBA are typically mentioned when talking about differential tuition.

- **GPSA Activities** –
  i. Cesar Valdez (MBA) talked about the upcoming activity
     1. Friday October 15 from 5:30-7:30pm at Macayo’s near campus

- **GPSA Ad Hoc Awards** - Nothing to report

- **GPSA Community Service** – Treasurer Gordon mentioned that the Community Service committee would meet immediately following the current meeting.

- **GPSA Grants** – E/summer cycle $1,700
  i. Vice President Gutierrez reported that Grants committee met for orientation and that business will be more transparent.
  ii. There will be a Grant writing workshop on Saturday, October 16 from 10am-12pm at SU209. Three exciting speakers are lined up who have extensive experience in grant writing.
  iii. Kyle Kaalberg (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION) asked if the workshop could be recorded for future use. President George mentioned that the powerpoint from last year’s workshop was published online.
  iv. Cesar Valdez (MBA) asked about departmental listservs. Susan Phipps (HISTORY) mentioned that protocol was followed in her department regarding the dissemination of information. Thomas Bussey (CHEMISTRY) developed a questionnaire asking for contact information and created his own list. President George mentioned that this was a good first step to create a database. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked if the Graduate College could sort a list from the Admissions department based on graduate standing. Advisor Korgan mentioned that this was not possible and that RAVE was the best way to communicate with graduate students. She also said that departments could setup departmental RAVE accounts. VP Gutierrez suggested that representatives become friendly with their respective departmental administrative assistants, to make sure that information are disseminated to constituents.

- **GPSA Publications** – Manager Wallace mentioned that a newsletter will appear sometime this semester as soon as a Secretary is appointed. If you have any ideas for stories, please pass them along.

- **President’s Advisory Council** –
  i. President George talked about diversity report and that some members of the committee felt that the diversity report did not adequately reflect the culture on campus. President’s Advisory Council (PAC) has decided to address this problem head-on through a campus climate survey. This
process will start at faculty level and filter down to student level. Representatives are urged to pulse their constituents on what resources graduate students want/need in this regard and email President George.

ii. PEBP – Personal benefits for state employees. The latest round of cuts has put full-time employees in bad situation. The Provost is looking at breaking away from statewide system and graduate students may have the opportunity to get the same health insurance benefit as faculty. This may be a way to augment stipends for graduate assistants.

VI. Old Business

- GA contracts
  - Advisor Korgan talked about the stalled changes to the GA contract for GAs terminated mid-semester. The conversation is now in limbo due to the general counsel at UNR wanting more time to review the changes. More details to follow at the next meeting.
  - Laurenn McCubbin (ART) gave feedback on her request from last month to have the university wait until the end of the academic year before relinquishing its rental properties. This move, scheduled for the middle of the semester, would have a negative impact on the art students whose studios form part of the rental property. She reported that when she mentioned to the Dean of Fine Arts that GPSA was going to look into this, the students got word that the move was now scheduled for the end of the year.

VII. New Business

- Adam Simon, assistant professor in Geoscience, was unanimously re-appointed as faculty advisor after a motion was made by Laurenn McCubbin (ART) and seconded by Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY).
  - Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked whether Simon only advises the executive board or all GPSA representatives. Advisor Simon replied that he has an open-door policy and welcomed any and all discussions with departmental representatives.
  - VP Gutierrez reminded representatives that any departmental representative can approach any faculty member with GPSA-related issues and concerns.
- Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) advised all representatives to check the amount of taxes being withheld on paychecks. Only federal tax should be withheld from August-May.
- Rutgers university incident and civility. A student at Rutgers University has committed suicide after his sexual activity was recorded and distributed by his roommate. President George asked for civility from graduate students and to set an example since our actions have consequences. He also mentioned that the behavior at the UNLV-UNR game was atrocious. He pleaded with GPSA to take the lead on campus to set the tone and be an example for mature behaviour.

VIII. Announcements

- GPSA Secretary – interviews in progress and new Secretary will be announced next week
- GPSA Raffle – congratulations to Qing Chen, Aubree Papaj and Chen I-Pei.
- Commencement speaker competition – deadline is October 22nd at 5pm
• October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

IX. Public Comment – No comments

X. Adjournment

• Tyler Schafer (SOCIOLOGY) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sonja Kolstoe (ECONOMICS) seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 3:22pm.