GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, September 13, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 208A

Members Present: Gabriela Ruiz (ACCOUNTING), Cesar Valdez (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MBA), Sonja Kolstoe (ECONOMICS), Megan Wolff (MGMT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Kyle Kalhberg (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION), Catherine Howerton (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP), Bartozs Kajak (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY), Siboney Zelaya (NURSING), Nancy Ahmaz (HOTEL MANAGEMENT), David Wedley (SPORT & LEISURE SERVICES), Sharon Young (ANTHROPOLOGY), Lorena Pike (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Kenneth Retzel (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Tyler Schafer (SOCIOLOGY), Destiny Farr (WOMEN’S STUDIES), Thomas Bussey (CHEMISTRY), Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (LIFE SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Mari Sakayama (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/ACTING SECRETARY), Michael Gordon (TREASURER).

Members Absent: Ajay Kalra (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Anthony Flarisee (INFORMATICS), Kimberly Hammer (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Jared Goode (FILM), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Joshua Juvrud (PSYCHOLOGY).

Others in Attendance: Carin Wallace (GPSA BUSINESS MANAGER), Samantha Steelman (REENERGIZE THE VOTE), Kate Korgan (SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN, GRADUATE COLLEGE), Haley Etchison (NEWS EDITOR, REBEL YELL).

I. Roll Call
President George called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and proceeded with roll call by department; there were 26 members and 3 executive board members present, and quorum was established. President George briefly introduced the Executive Board to Council; President George also introduced Dr. Kate Korgan and Carin Wallace. President George discussed the Parliamentary Motions Guide with the Council.

II. Approval of Minutes
President George asked the council members to look over the August 2010 GPSA minutes and see if there were any corrections to be made. After hearing no corrections, Jason Baker (PHYSICS) made a motion to approve the minutes and Cesar Valdez Hughes (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) seconded the motion. With no oppositions, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Speaker(s):
Samantha Steelman from Reenergie the Vote explained that ReEnergize the Vote is a nonpartisan campaign to encourage young people to vote. She offered council members the opportunity to register to vote and encouraged them to assist her by spreading the word in their classes. She reminded the council that the last day to register to vote is October 2, 2010. President George requested a flyer to be sent to all Councilors and mentioned that the movement is statewide. Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES) asked a question in regards to citizenship requirements to volunteer for the movement.
IV. Budget Report
Treasurer Gordon explained the August budget and the various line items on the budget. Highlights included stipends and salaries for GPSA staff and extended hours. Laurenn McCubbin (ART) made a motion to approve the budget and David Wedley (SPORT & LEISURE STUDIES) seconded the motion. With no oppositions, the motion carried.

V. Orientation
President George explained forms to Council as well as the committee process; forms must be submitted at the end of the meeting. Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY) asked two questions regarding committee membership. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked a question regarding the Center. A Member of public asked a question regarding the GPSA Research Forum. President George provided information on Research Forum. Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) asked a question regarding submitting multiple posters to the Research Forum. Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE) asked a question regarding paperwork.

VI. Committee Reports
Board of Regents
President George explained the outcome of the Board of Regents (BOR) meeting. The state of affairs of the Millennium Scholarship (MS) fund; the fund was short $5 million; new procedures will be in place for the MS. On August 27 the Governor’s Office requested that NSHE submit a budget with 10% reduction in revenue; BOR instead submitted a 24% budget increase for the next biennium. There will be additional potential reductions. Higher education can expect to place 4th in list of priorities. President George stated that the NSA is working on a candidate pledge. Recently deceased former Governor Kenny Guinn has been granted an honorary doctorate from UNLV in December 2010 commencement. President George discussed the issue of differential tuition for high-cost, high-demand programs; all fees collected will remain on campus. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked if these reports were available online.

GPSA Activities; Ad Hoc Awards; Community Service
No updates

GPSA Grants
Vice President Gutierrez discussed the need to quickly seat the Grants Committee and to work diligently to process the emergency grants currently in queue

President’s Advisory Council (PAC)
President George stated that President Smatresk is graduate-student friendly—graduate student concerns should be brought to his attention.

GPSA Community Service
Treasurer Gordon stated the possibility of merging Activities and Community Service, as students can join other organizations to become involved in community service.

VII. Old Business
President George discussed GA contracts
Dr. Korgan explained GA contracts, rights, responsibilities, and protections available to GAs, including new contracts and procedures to establish additional safeguards for GAs. She also expounded the new appeals process. President George reiterated the importance of communication to constituents by individual councilors. Siboney Zelaya (NURSING) and Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) asked questions regarding GA contracts.
VIII. New Business
Laurenn McCubbin (ART) informed Council regarding the university’s decision to divest itself of its rental properties, which will impact the Art graduate students; she asked GPSA to advocate on their behalf. Dr. Korgan recommended that she first speak to the Fine Arts Dean.

President George explained the various informational items of GPSA goals. The Education Counts Initiative is intended to demonstrate that education is important and that we vote. The UNLV-Friendly Program is aimed at working with businesses that are friendly to graduate students. GA/Graduate Student Abuse is one of our goals with Dr. Korgan. Undergraduate recruitment initiative was mentioned. Treasurer Gordon is spearheading a Committee Restructuring. For GPSA Advocacy Role, President George reiterated the need to advocate for graduate students more diligently. Treasurer Gordon explained that for GPSA Cultural Activities we should focus on cultural events, like art, rather than just drinking. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked if GPSA could target academic integrity as a goal; President George stated he was amenable to this.

A member of faculty from Executive Safety Management asked if the program could be represented—a student from the program was present to observe the meeting.

The Executive Board wishes to incorporate the Law and Dental students to GPSA as ex-officio members. Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) asked why they simply couldn’t be members rather than be part of the Executive Board and if they would have special privileges. Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked if this had been done before; President George said it had. There will be discussion on this item before action is taken.

IX. Announcements
President George made a plea for Council members to spread the word to their constituents in regards to the Secretary Executive Board opening.

GPSA Manager Wallace asked students to sign up for the GPSA raffle.

GPSA Grant Writing Workshop Vice President Gutierrez spoke about the need to spread the word to constituents in regards to the GPSA Grant Writing Workshop, which will take place October 16, 2010.

IX. Public Comment
Haley Etchison, News Editor of the Rebel Yell, introduced herself and encouraged Council members to contact her with issues; she will be attending all meetings

X. Adjournment
Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) made a motion to adjourn and Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE) seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.