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 Howarter (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP), Ajay Kalra (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Bartosz Kajak (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Jared Goode (FILM), Valeria Martinez (KINESIOLOGY), Jennifer Berger (PUBLIC HEALTH), David Wedley (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES), Sharon Young (ANTHROPOLOGY), Laura Breitenbeck (ENGLISH), Lorena Pike (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Joshua Juivrud (PSYCHOLOGY), Kenneth Retzel (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Tyler Schafer (SOCIOLOGY), Thomas Bussey (CHEMISTRY), Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (LIFE SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Mari Sakiyama (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES), Carol Servino (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Brenda Argueta (SOCIAL WORK), Kyle George (PRESIDENT), Antonio Gutierrez (VICE PRESIDENT), Diane Owen (SECRETARY), Melissa Schaar (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (LIFE SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), Jeffrey Lavigne (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Mari Sakiyama (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: Anthony Flarisee (INFORMATICS), Kimberly Hammer (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Siboney Zelaya (NURSING), Nancy Amhaz (HOTEL MANAGEMENT), Susan Phipps (HISTORY), Destiny Farr (WOMEN’S STUDIES)

Others in Attendance: Haley Etchison (NEWS EDITOR, REBEL YELL)

I. Roll Call
President George called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

II. Approval of Minutes
President George asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes from December. After hearing no corrections, George Molnar (CRISIS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT) motioned to approve the minutes. Jared Goode (FILM) seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Speakers

IV. Budget Report
Treasurer Gordon reviewed the current budget; pointing out changes to the student wages and also the pro staff wages due to the office manager’s departure. Jared Goode (FILM) motioned to approve the budget. Kenneth Retzel (POLITICAL SCIENCE) seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.
V. Committee Reports

GPSA Activities

Cesar Valdez Hughes (MBA) gave the update. GPSA combined with three other groups to sponsor a social at the Freakin Frog. Over 100 people turned out. President George explained that other clubs on campus have reached out to GPSA which is why we combined for the social which is positive as evidenced by the large turnout and also the fact that the venue was close to campus.

GPSA Grants – January E-Grants and Modifications to Spring 2011 Cycle: $2,963

Vice President Gutierrez gave the report. The Spring 2011 cycle was modified by $2963 due to the fact that several grant applicants did not submit documentation on whether their proposals were accepted or rejected.

GPSA Publications

Secretary Owen gave the update. The committee has decided to go Green and send the newsletter electronically via the grad student listserv. The next newsletter will focus on the budget crisis. The committee needs one more committee member as per the bylaws.

Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents

President George gave the update. The Board of Regents met regarding the budget. The situation is serious as they are discussing possibly having to shut down entire colleges. Will go into further in Old Business.

The Board of Regents will also be meeting to discuss a new stadium to be built on the Swenson side of campus which would include shopping and housing. No public funds will be used towards the stadium, it will be a public private partnership with a private party developer and UNLV lending land and their tax exempt benefits. This will result in revenue sharing. See more information at www.unlvnow.com. A discussion on the stadium included the following points brought up by council members:

- The money for the stadium would be coming from the private developers.
- Oscar Goodman likes the idea, but would prefer that it were built downtown.
- Economically, this would be very beneficial to UNLV and keep events like the NFR and PBR in Las Vegas.

VI. Old Business

Update on 2010 NSHE Budget Cuts

President George gave an update on the budget cuts crisis. The state is looking at a 29.1% cut to higher education which would mean $48 million cut in a two year period and a $100 million cut in a six year period. Individuals and programs will be cut. The governor says that higher education is good in that it creates jobs and so emphasis needs to be placed on programs that create jobs, which may mean cuts to Liberal Arts and Fine Arts. There was a town hall meeting on January 29th and 800 students turned out to the Southern Nevada meeting and 600 students turned out to the Northern Nevada meeting. This is really positive and President George encourages students to keep up this momentum by staying visible via letters, phone calls, and possibly trips to Carson City. A discussion about the upcoming budget cuts brought up the following points by the council:

- There is a “find my legislator” feature on the state legislative website.
- Cuts will not go into effect before August.
- Students will stand for how to increase state revenues rather than make cuts.
- Got to http://go.unlv.edu/budget for updates.
- UNLV is still on track to becoming a research institution.
- It is possible that duplicate programs will be cut at one institution and kept at another.
- State power is shifting back to the South (Clark County).

Food Bank Update
President George gave the update. We can no longer use state facilities for a food bank, so this is at a standstill. We are looking at utilizing either the LDS Institute or the Neuman Center since these are private and close to campus.

VIII. New Business

GC New Programs Evaluation Committee update
Treasurer Gordon stated that some programs have changed and if you would like to know what those programs are, contact him at Michael.Gordon@unlv.edu.

Spring 2011 Cycle Grants
Vice President Gutierrez explained that 53 applicants from the Spring Grants cycle were not funded. He initially tried to explain to those individuals the reasons for them not being funded which included a record number of applicants and a limited budget. Issues then arose from these students because they perceived Vice President Gutierrez as being disrespectful towards them. So, the Executive Board sat down and drafted an email to address the miscommunications and to extend the deadline for appeals to the 4th of February. There is now a total of 23 appeals which the Executive board will be discussing this upcoming Wednesday. Our faculty advisor, Adam Simon has recommended that we increase the size of the grants committee to include a representative from each college for the purpose of making the process less objective and make less of a burden on current number of committee members. This would result in a change in the bylaws. Vice President Gutierrez then opened the floor for feedback and the following points were made/ addressed by council:

- Every grant would be reviewed by at least one member of an applicant’s college to make the decision more informed.
- Some students did not follow instructions on their application, but this was not a majority of the applicants.
- Grants committee made the decision to highly fund superior applications rather than reduce every applicant’s amount of funding.
- There might be value in having someone from your college looking at your application, but it could also make the process more complicated because it would double the work.
- Applicants should be able to write their proposals well enough so as not to need an advocate on the committee from their college.
- A member of the grants committee states that it wasn’t a priority to fund someone who was attending a conference, but not presenting. President George clarified what the priorities are according to the bylaws and stated that if that was the standard used, then bylaws were violated.
- Just because there is a representative from the college does not mean they would understand all applications from the different programs in their college.
- NSF uses experts to review applicants and 2-3 representatives look at each application, make a decision, and immediately write an email to the applicant explaining why or why they were not funded.
- Representatives might not be very committed if the size of the committee is increased.
- Applicants from the Spring cycle did not receive their scores and were legitimately confused as to why they were not funded.
- The solution may be how results are communicated.
- Applicants should be able to call and find out why they did not receive funding.
- GPSA’s mission is to serve students and thus they should be fairly dealt with in this process.
- Rather than penalize students for having incomplete applications, have someone act as an “editor” for the grants to have mistakes corrected.
- Refining the way the grants committee does things would be the answer over increasing
the committee size.
- It was suggested that possibly the reason for the high number of appellants is the high number of applications. President George clarified that the percentage of appellants relative to the total number of applications is much higher than previous cycles.
- Grants committee felt they did not have the budget to fund all applicants. Vice President Gutierrez ended the discussion by saying previous grants committees were much more giving and this committee chose to be much more competitive.

IX. Announcements
Research forum is March 26, 2011. The deadline for grant recipients to register is February 25, 2011.
Awards committee needs another representative on the committee.
GPSA office manager decision will be finalized this month. If you have paperwork to turn in, do so in the Grad College lounge to the office staff.

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjournment
Jason Baker (PHYSICS) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jared Goode (FILM) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:28pm.