GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Notice of Public Meeting

Graduate & Professional Student Association

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

GPSA Council Meeting 46-09

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

5:30 PM

For Members of the Public

View the hybrid meeting via **live stream**:
youtube.com/@gpsaUNLV/streams

Join the hybrid meeting **in person** or **by phone**:

In Person: GTW 2-268 & 269, Gather Conference Room, Gateway Building
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154

By Phone: +12532050468,,91079461668#

Graduate & Professional Student Association • University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89154-1007
702-895-2261 • Fax 702-774-3904 • www.unlv.edu/gpsa

Important Information
About the Agenda and Public Meeting

This meeting is held in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law (NRS Chapter 241.020). The agenda was posted at least three working days in advance, no later than 9:00 AM, and includes all items scheduled for discussion or action. Posting locations include: GPSA Office (CHB-C 111, exterior public bulletin board), Graduate Commons (LLB 2141), Nevada Public Notice and GPSA Website, www.unlv.edu/gpsa/agendas. This meeting is held to conduct the official business of the graduate student government, including governance decisions, advocacy efforts, information dissemination, and to provide the public with updates and reports related to GPSA operations.

Meeting Format & Supporting Materials

This is a hybrid meeting. A quorum of voting members shall convene in person and online via Zoom, with public remote access available via YouTube livestream or telephonic participation via Zoom dial-in. For questions or accommodations contact the GPSA Secretary at gpsasecretary@unlv.edu. All materials related to this meeting are available online or upon request from the GPSA Office. Please contact gpsasecretary@unlv.edu for access.

Submitting Public Comment

GPSA meetings are open to the public. Members of the university community and general public are encouraged to attend and participate.

GPSA accepts public comment in three formats:

(1) Email: Submit written public comment to gpsa@unlv.edu. Subject Line: "PUBLIC COMMENT" and include the meeting type and meeting number

  (a) (example Email Subject Line: PUBLIC COMMENT for GPSA Council 46-09)

  (b) Emails must be sent no later than 5:00PM one business day before the meeting.

(2) In-Person: At the beginning or end of the meeting (limit: 2 minutes)

(3) Voicemail: Call 702-895-5674 (limit: 120 seconds)

Public comments may be read aloud or summarized at the discretion of the Chair, subject to time constraints. Public Comments must be relevant to GPSA agenda items, be respectful, and cannot contain profanity or discriminatory language. GPSA may refuse comments that are obscene, slanderous, or disruptive per NRS 241.020 and NRS 241.0

Attendance

Voting Members of GPSA Council

Included in official agenda Roll Call; voting members count toward quorum.

Fall 2026 Council Representatives

**Council Representatives not listed or appointed after this agenda was publicly posted will be recorded in the meeting minutes.*

31 Representatives appointed as of Wednesday September 2, 2026

Department	Representative	Attendance (P) In-Person | (V) Virtual (E) Excused | (A) Absent
English	Alea Droker	Not Yet Recorded
Geoscience	Alma Reasoner	Not Yet Recorded
Theater	Aya Giardina	Not Yet Recorded
Political Science	Bianca Martins de Oliveira	Not Yet Recorded
Mathematical Sciences	Chinonso Unegbu	Not Yet Recorded
Anthropology	Cole White	Not Yet Recorded
Business Administration (MBA/EMBA)	Colin Covitz	Not Yet Recorded
Law	David Elder	Not Yet Recorded
Psychology	David Vollweiler	Not Yet Recorded
Physical Therapy D.P.T.	Diana Buenrostro	Not Yet Recorded
Journalism and Media Studies	Ferrari Dior Little	Not Yet Recorded
Computer Science	Graham Haley	Not Yet Recorded
Sociology	Hailey Maltempi	Not Yet Recorded
Dental Medicine	Hayden Riley	Not Yet Recorded
Psychiatry & Behavioral Health (Couple and Family Therapy, CFT)	Ivory Rowden	Not Yet Recorded
Finance	Jared Desamero	Not Yet Recorded
Chemistry and Biochemistry	Jedidah Ashi	Not Yet Recorded
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Jion Md Maksudul Alam	Not Yet Recorded
Hospitality	Julia Chan	Not Yet Recorded

Department	Representative	Attendance (P) In-Person | (V) Virtual (E) Excused | (A) Absent
Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IGP) - Doctoral	Katie Bricarell	Not Yet Recorded
Educational Psychology, Leadership, & Higher Education (EPLHE)	Kingsley Nimoh	Not Yet Recorded
Teaching and Learning	Kris Miguel	Not Yet Recorded
School of Public Policy and Leadership	Lakiasha Hollingsworth	Not Yet Recorded
Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IGP) - Master's	Mamata Aryal	Not Yet Recorded
Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences	Monica Enriquez	Not Yet Recorded
Social Work	Morgan Murphy	Not Yet Recorded
Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services	Nia Virgil	Not Yet Recorded
Physics and Astronomy	Peter Quigley	Not Yet Recorded
Art	Reese Wallace	Not Yet Recorded
Accounting	Roberto Ibarra Lira	Not Yet Recorded
Social and Behavioral Health	Rupam Mitra	Not Yet Recorded
Environmental and Occupational Health	Salome Ogbuleka	Not Yet Recorded
Information Systems	Shanzeh Aslam	Not Yet Recorded
Architecture	Shawnie Thomas	Not Yet Recorded
World Languages and Cultures	Sidney Ahles	Not Yet Recorded
Civil & Environmental Engineering and Construction	Susmith Kundu	Not Yet Recorded
Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education	Temitope Aborishade	Not Yet Recorded
Nursing	Victoria Seidman	Not Yet Recorded
Life Sciences	Zoe Wall	Not Yet Recorded
Economics	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded

Department	Representative	Attendance (P) In-Person | (V) Virtual (E) Excused | (A) Absent
Department of Management and Entrepreneurship	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Electrical and Computer Engineering	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Mechanical Engineering	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Film	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Music	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Occupational Therapy O.T.D.	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
History	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Medicine	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Healthcare Administration and Policy	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Criminal Justice	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded
Communication Studies (ON HOLD - no grad students admitted)	Vacant	Not Yet Recorded

Voting Members of GPSA Executive Board

Included in official agenda Roll Call; voting members count toward quorum.

2026-2027 Executive Board

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
☐ Trey Curtis-Brown	☐ Nehemiah Afam Chukwuere	☐ Kalyani Ganapathireddy	☐ Rachel DeWald

Non-Voting Members of GPSA Council

Included in official agenda Roll Call; voting members count toward quorum.

2026-2027 Members-at-Large

Members-at-Large serve the Association as a whole, representing the general membership by contributing to GPSA-related committees, developing initiatives, structuring events, or providing input.

**Members appointed after this agenda was posted will be recorded in the meeting minutes upon request.*

Members-at-Large are not required to attend Council Meetings.

2026-2027 President's Cabinet & Division Leaders

President's Cabinet members are hired through the end of the Spring semester (May 15th).

Division of Communications & Marketing	Division of Engagement & Outreach	Division of Legislative Affairs	Division of Operations	Division of Sponsored Funding	Division Leaders
Director	Director	Director	Director	Director	Attorney General
Starlisha Towers	*Alexander Zafarana*	*Devin Lopez*	*Jared Desamero*	*Nehemiah Afam Chukwuere*	*David Elder*
Deputy Director	Deputy Director	Deputy Director	Deputy Director	Deputy Director	Historian
Vacant	*Ariadna Gutierrez*	*Bianca Martins de Oliveira*	*Gabriella Maki*	*Ayoola Olayinka*	*Vacant*

GPSA Faculty Advisors & Liaisons (Non-Voting)

NOT included in the official agenda Roll Call; non-voting. May advise, provide reports, or updates.

2026-2027 GPSA Faculty Advisors

- ☐ **Academic Faculty Advisor**, Dr. Bill Robinson
- ☐ **Academic Faculty Advisor**, Dr. John Colombo
- ☐ **Academic Faculty Advisor (ex officio)**, Dr. Alyssa Crittenden
- ☐ **Administrative Faculty Advisor (ex officio)**, Virginia Smercina, GPSA Manager

Graduate College Liaison

- ☐ **GA Program Coordinator & Advocate**, Dante Washington

Agenda

1) Call to Order

2) Roll Call

Time allotted ~5 minutes

3) Public Comment — INFORMATION ONLY

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Board Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Body, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

4) Consent Agenda — FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Consent agenda items will be approved in whole unless a member objects to an item on the consent agenda, in whole or in part. Unanimous consent will be used for the approval of the consent agenda. An individual item may be pulled from the Consent Agenda for consideration by any member by request to the Chair.

[*Time allotted ~10 minutes*]

A. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes for Council Meeting 46-08 October 24, 2026 will be considered for approval. Minutes are uploaded to the GPSA Google Drive and are also sent to the Council.

B. Summer Compensation for Council and Executive Board Members

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of summer compensation for the identified GPSA Council and Executive Board members as provided in the accompanying list.

Ref. 46-037

C. **Lee Business School Dean Search Committee Appointment**

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of the appointment of Jared to serve as a GPSA representative on the Lee Business School Dean Search Committee.

D. **GPSA Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Implementation**

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of the GPSA Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Implementation.

Ref. 46-036

E. **Retroactive Compensation for Md Maksudul Alam (Jion)**

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of $200 in retroactive compensation for Md Maksudul Alam (Jion) due to an administrative error by the prior Executive Board. The compensation consists of $100 for Fall 2025 and $100 for Spring 2026.

F. **Amendment to Resolution 46-032: Executive Remuneration**

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of an amendment to Resolution 46-032 regarding the start date of executive remuneration.

Ref. 46-032

G. **Approval of Cole White as GPSA Historian**

President Curtis-Brown requests approval of Cole White to serve as the GPSA Historian. The Historian will support the documentation and preservation of GPSA activities and institutional history and perform other duties as assigned.

5) Unfinished Business

Unfinished Business is any motion or action item that was under discussion and was postponed or moved to this meeting at the discretion of the public body as approved by the chair. All items will be for possible action unless otherwise stated.

A. **None at this time**

6) New Business

All items will be for possible action unless otherwise stated.

A. UNLV President Chris Heavey and Kyle Ethelbah — INFORMATION ONLY

President Curtis-Brown requests time for UNLV President Chris Heavey and Associate Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Experience Kyle Ethelbah to address the Council. President Heavey will introduce himself to the graduate and professional student community and share his vision for graduate and professional education at UNLV moving forward, including the role graduate and professional students play in the university's continued growth and success.

Time allotted for item. ~20 Minutes

B. Thesis and Dissertation Accessibility and Defense Deadlines — INFORMATION ONLY

President Curtis-Brown requests time for Meg Wilson to discuss thesis and dissertation accessibility and provide information regarding changes to defense deadlines beginning Fall 2027. Defense deadlines will move approximately one week earlier, to the first week of November, to allow sufficient time for the Graduate College to complete formatting reviews prior to degree conferral. Final deadlines will be established by the Graduate College.

Time allotted for item. Ex: 10 Minutes

C. Rebel Advocacy Training — INFORMATION ONLY

President Curtis-Brown requests time for Dr. Constance Brooks, Vice President for Government & Community Engagement, to provide Rebel Advocacy Training for the Nevada Legislative Session.

Time allotted for item. 1 hour

D. UNLV Food Pantry Sponsorship — FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President Curtis-Brown requests time for the Council to consider and possibly approve a $2,500 sponsorship in support of the UNLV Food Pantry.

Ref. 46-035; *Ref. 46-039*

Time allotted for item. Ex: 20 Minutes

7) Reports & Recommendations **INFORMATION ONLY**

Members of the Executive Board, President's Cabinet, the Business Manager, Faculty Advisors, internal Committee Chairs, external Committee Representatives, and the Graduate College will report to the GPSA Council concerning UNLV related issues or events important to the UNLV graduate and professional student body. Council Representatives may also present, at the discretion of the Chair, any information specific to their Department and/or Unit. No immediate action may be taken on items raised under Reports & Recommendations unless properly scheduled as an agenda item.

[*Time allotted for item. Ex: 30 Minutes*]

A. Executive Board

i. President Curtis-Brown

ii. Vice President Chukwuere

  i. Including Sponsorship Committee, and Division of Sponsored Funding

iii. Treasurer Ganapathireddy

iv. Secretary DeWald

B. President's Cabinet

i. Division of Engagement & Outreach, *Director*

ii. Division of Legislative Affairs, *Director*

iii. Division of Communications & Marketing, *Director*

iv. Division of Operations, *Director*

v. Attorney General

vi. Historian

C. GPSA Manager & Advisor

i. Manager and Administrative Faculty Advisor, *Nia Smercina*

D. UNLV Department or Unit Updates

Council Representatives may provide updates from their individual departments.

i. Graduate College

E. GPSA Internal Committee Reports (standing committees)

i. Ways & Means Committee

ii. Constitution & Bylaws Committee

iii. Rules & Ethics Committee

iv. GPSA Awards Committee

F. External Committee Reports

Representatives serving on any external committee on behalf of GPSA may use this time to provide updates.

G. GPSA Faculty Advisors

i. GPSA Faculty Advisor, *Dr. Bill Robinson*

ii. GPSA Faculty Advisor, *Dr. John Colombo*

iii. GPSA Faculty Advisor, *Dr. Alyssa Crittenden*

8) Announcements — INFORMATION ONLY

[Upcoming events, deadlines, etc.]

9) Public Comment — INFORMATION ONLY

(See foregoing notation regarding public comment)

10) Adjournment