

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting Minutes
Student Union room 208 A, B & C
Monday, May 2, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30pm

ROLL CALL:

School of Allied Health

Health Physics	✓
<i>Timothy Thatcher</i>	_____
Kinesiology	✓
<i>Joshua Bailey</i>	_____
Physical Therapy	N/A
<i>Vacant</i>	_____

College of Business

Accounting	✓
<i>Brittany Stuck</i>	_____
Business Administration	✓
<i>Li Zhang</i>	_____
Economics	✓
<i>Kaiyang Wu</i>	_____
Management Information Systems	✓
<i>Dixidha Devarajan</i>	_____

School of Community Health Sciences

Health Care Administration & Policy	A
<i>Jeffrey Wan</i>	_____
Public Health	✓
<i>Laura Gryder</i>	_____

School of Dental Medicine

Dental Medicine	A
<i>John Silvaroli</i>	_____

College of Education

Educational & Clinical Studies	✓
<i>Dominique Tetzlaff</i>	_____
Educational Psychology & Higher Education	✓
<i>Rebecca Gates</i>	_____
Teaching & Learning	A
<i>Daniel Murphy</i>	_____

College of Engineering

Computer Science	✓
<i>Patrick Daleiden</i>	_____
Civil & Environmental Eng.	✓
<i>Kishor Shrestha</i>	_____

College of Engineering (cont.)

Electrical & Computer Eng.	A
<i>Carlos Camacho</i>	_____
Mechanical Engineering	✓
<i>Sogol Pirbastami</i>	_____

College of Fine Arts

Architecture	A
<i>Audrey Bardwell</i>	_____
Art	✓
<i>Wendy Chambers</i>	_____
Film	A
<i>Javier Hernando</i>	_____
Music	N/A
<i>Vacant</i>	_____
Theatre Arts	N/A
<i>Stephanie Resnick</i>	_____

College of Hotel Administration

Hospitality Administration	✓
<i>Lenna Shulga</i>	_____

Law School

Law	✓
<i>Adrian Viesca</i>	_____

College of Liberal Arts

Anthropology	✓
<i>Cheryl Anderson</i>	_____
English	N/A
<i>Vacancy</i>	_____
World Languages & Cultures	✓
<i>Theresa Farmer</i>	_____
History	✓
<i>Stephen Bohigian</i>	_____
Political Science	✓
<i>Rafael Oganessian</i>	_____
Psychology	✓
<i>Mierae Fornander</i>	_____
Sociology	✓
<i>Matthew Le Claire</i>	_____

School of Nursing

Nursing	✓
<i>Marie Poggio</i>	_____

College of Science

Chemistry	Proxy
<i>Kyle Bowen</i>	_____
Geoscience	A
<i>Amanda Gentry</i>	_____
Life Sciences	✓
<i>Amanda Kidman</i>	_____
Mathematical Sciences	✓
<i>Chace Ashcraft</i>	_____
Physics & Astronomy	N/A
<i>Vacant</i>	_____

College of Urban Affairs

Communication Studies	N/A
<i>Vacant</i>	_____
Criminal Justice	✓
<i>Breanna Boppre</i>	_____
Environmental & Public Affairs	A
<i>Edith Gonzalez Duarte</i>	_____
Journalism & Media Studies	A
<i>Nicole Santero</i>	_____
Marriage & Family Therapy	N/A
<i>Sarah Hechter</i>	_____
Social Work	✓
<i>Emily Paulsen</i>	_____

Executive Board

President	✓
<i>Surbhi Sharma</i>	_____
Vice President	✓
<i>Meghan Pierce</i>	_____
Secretary	✓
<i>Ariel Rosen</i>	_____
Treasurer	✓
<i>Terri Thomas</i>	_____

✓ = present
A = absent
N/A = seat vacancy

Others present: GPSA E-Board 2016 - 2017 Secretary-elect Kirk Talib-deen and GPSA 2016 -2017, Treasurer-elect Kimberly Florence, UNLV Assistant Sustainability Coordinator Monica Garcia, Office of Sponsored Programs Proposal Development Manager Carol Brodie, GPSA Faculty Advisor Peter Gray, Associate Dean, Graduate College Kendall Hartley and GPSA Manager Rebecca Boulton

Those schools/departments needing to leave early: None.

The meeting was called to order by President Sharma at 2:00 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

INFORMATION ONLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for approval of the April 4, 2016 Council Meeting minutes. President Sharma asked for a motion to approve minutes. Motion to approve from Educational Psychology and Higher Education, second from Health Physics. With no discussion the minutes were approved unanimously. Motion carried.

3. SPEAKER(S)

INFORMATION ONLY

- James Ratigan, Associate Vice President of Alumni and External Relations – James Ratigan sends his regrets and could not attend the meeting.
- Luis Valera, Vice President of Government Relations, Diversity Initiatives and Compliance – Mr. Valera sends his regrets and could not attend the meeting..
- Monica Garcia, UNLV Assistant Sustainability Coordinator – Ms. Garcia spoke to the Council about a new initiative to create an Office of Sustainability at UNLV. For Top Tier, she said, this is a big priority for institutions to improve in this area. Having an office would allow them to move from an operational standpoint to help change the culture at UNLV. In 1995, the Board of Regents approved a \$1 fee, which it still is currently. Currently this fee pays for half the student salaries at the recycling center. Ms. Garcia said in the proposal is a request to implement a \$5 student fee each semester to help fund the Sustainability Program. She further stated that this proposal is being forwarded to CSUN as well. The funds could go towards various programs or a grant project fund. The fees would be collected but then turned around to students and staff proposing projects of sustainability. That could be a variety of objectives, i.e possibly a social sustainability project. She stated that they are also looking at acquiring outside funding, like Americorps. This will be an asset to UNLV, which would also be turned around and given back to the students and the campus. It is a way to make students more aware of sustainability.

Law asked what the process of funding is, and why the best way to fund this new Urban Sustainability Department is student fees. Ms. Garcia responded it would not be totally funded strictly by student fees, but the plan is a common model in the field of sustainability, similar to other institutions like Arizona State, Colorado, Boulder, etc. It is a common model but not the only resource we want to use.

Political Science asked for a list of proposals where students can see what the funds will be diverted to. Ms. Garcia responded that ASHE has a ranking system that breaks down various areas; parking, energy usage, water reuse, all across the board. She further stated that those are the kinds of things the Council and volunteers are trying to get across to the campus. If interested you can email monica.garcia@unlv.edu for access to this organization. She stated that they will also send the information as well to the GPSA.

4. BUDGET REPORT

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Treasurer Thomas gave the May GPSA budget report: directing the Council to the top of the report, stating that the March student wages are listed at \$4,837.50 this includes the May GPSA Council stipends and the wages for student staff in the Graduate Student Commons. Operating expenses for April (listed in the monthly expenditure column): Routine postage office supplies and telephone costs. Research Forum expenses are listed under prizes and awards this is for payment to the recipients receiving recognition for their outstanding presentations and the GPSA Award recipients. The Graduate College generously pays for the Research Awards and those funds will be transferred in next month. Treasurer Thomas concluded the report stating that the revenue from the snacks sold in the and student fees came in at \$358.45, which brings the revenue total for the fiscal year to \$253,468.07. The balance forward is \$138,748.52 with a balance of \$143,225.01. President Sharma asked for a motion to approve. Motion to approve from Anthropology and second from Accounting. With no discussion the budget was approved unanimously.

5. GPSA / CAMPUS-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORT

INFORMATION ONLY

- Board of Regents / Nevada Student Alliance - Nevada Student Alliance met on April 7th. Discussions continued to be around the changes in the NSA Constitutions, and Bylaws. A report on the State of Student advising at the NSHE institutions was submitted to the Regents. Next NSA meeting is on the 12th of May, and the transition to the new NSA leadership will occur at that time. New 2016 – 2017 GPSA President Meghan Pierce will be attending that meeting.

Law requested a report of what is happening on the controversy within higher education and the call for resignation for the Chancellor. The next general Board of Regents meeting is scheduled June 9-10 in Reno, NV. As of today the main agenda item pertaining the GPSA will be the Board vote to approve the Student Health Insurance rates.

GPSA / CAMPUS-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

- GPSA Activities / Community Service - Chair Kidman said the recent GPSA mixer is featured on page 7 of GPSA newsletter, *The Luminary*, distributed at today's Council meeting. She further stated that Shade Tree still needs a lot of volunteers, especially with tech support, i.e. creating resumes, etc.
- GPSA Government Relations - Chair Thomas will be working with the incoming Treasurer to make sure it is a smooth transition for next year's Legislative Lobby day.
- GPSA Publications - Chair Rosen highlighted the final issue of *The Luminary* and thanked the committee members.
- GPSA Sponsorship - Chair Pierce reported that on April 1st the committee met making the following decisions: Reviewed 98 Summer Cycle Sponsorship Applications with 95 applications approved for a total of \$49,972.46. Four applications were denied. Reviewed one Modification application which was approved, with no funding change. Reviewed 6 Emergency Sponsorship Applications and approved all applications with a total amount of \$2,556.00. The Sponsorship committee will meet again this Friday. Over the past 5 years, students have requested over a million dollars in research and travel funding. The GPSA has been able to award around \$600,000. Thank you for the committee members who make all of this possible.
- Top Tier – President Sharma reported that the GPSA is represented at the strategic planning of UNLV's commitment to be a Top Tier University. Broadly speaking, there are 5 major goal areas have been identified where UNLV needs to work on:
 - i. Student Achievement
 - ii. Academic Health Center
 - iii. Community partnerships
 - iv. Infrastructure and Shared Governance
 - v. Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities

There are 5 committees in total. One committee for each goal working on campus towards achieving the benchmarks set. GPSA (President Sharma) serves on the Research, Scholarship and Creative activities. This committee is chaired by Dean Korgan, and Vice President of Research and Economic Development Tom Piechota. All 5 committees met together for a retreat last year in August to identify the key goals that should/could be achieved in year # 1 of implementation, and then in the end provide a summary of our accomplishments, and a set of goals that to be achieved for the next upcoming year. GPSA (President Sharma) also serves on the GA subcommittee which is charged with the re-evaluating and aligning the GA program to support Top Tier Efforts. The GA subcommittee met a number of times last year, and one of the outcomes of that committee was the increase in doctoral GA stipends, which some of us have observed. Some of the goals for the next year are: full Student Health insurance, tuition and fees, increase the number of GA positions, increase in stipends of Masters GA, and provide summer funding (or 12 month contracts). President Sharma continued stating that these goals are not in any order of priority. An update was given on April 25th, during the Top Tier Retreat. These reports are available online.

President Sharma also encouraged the Council to attend the Top Tier Roll out on May 4th (this Wednesday) 7:00-8:15pm at UNLV Foundation Building-Blasco wing. This will be targeted to UNLV students. There is free pizza, and soda. Provost Rapoport will be leading the sessions.

- UNLV Sustainability Council – request committee member (contact Monica Garcia, UNLV Assistant Sustainability Coordinator). Meets monthly. Please share information with your constituents, if someone would like to serve, send information to Becky or Vice President Pierce.
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- Campus Engagement Presidential Debate – President Sharma reminded the Council that UNLV will be hosting the final 2016 Presidential Debate on October 19th. Interested volunteers should visit the website, with different types of volunteer positions outlined.

6. OLD BUSINESS

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- Update: 2016 - 2017 Student Health Insurance Rates - President Sharma shared good news with the Council: following previous discussions held at GPSA Council meetings and subsequent GPSA recommendations for renewing the student health insurance rates, Aetna submitted a revised proposal for consideration. According to this new proposal, students on HWM i.e. international, graduate and professional students will observe a 9% reduction in premiums. However, this proposal requires UNLV to no longer offer a voluntary health insurance plan, which would eliminate the undergraduate health insurance program. President Jessup has approved the new proposal, which will save students over \$500,000 in premium costs. As a result of this, students can expect to see an increase

in the number of carriers interested in submitting bids next year. Student Wellness will contact each undergraduate student currently enrolled in the plan to inform them of this change and to assist them in finding alternate insurance coverage through the Insurance Exchange. Shown here Column # 1 is current plan, Option 1A is the old plan approved by GPSA in the March Council meeting, and Option 1B is the current propose plan. This plan will be put in front of the Regents during June meeting, and if approved, students will see a significant reduction in their premiums with no changes to benefits.

- Lifetime Transcript Fee - President Sharma reported that during GPSA President Michael Gordon's terms of office (2011-2013) it was suggested that instead of paying fees for every time an alumni needs a transcript, that a lifetime transcript fee should be implemented. That issue was brought in front of PAC (Presidential Advisory Council), and was discussed with the Mr. Sauer, Associate Vice President, Enrollment and Student Services. The transcript fee is part of the Enrollment Management Fee account. The current fee is \$10.00/ transcript, which covers postage, ink, paper and staff's time required to pull up individual records, take orders over the phone, print, and mail the transcript. Last year (Feb 2015), a report in the form of a white paper was released that provided usage data so that it could be decided whether it was worth pursuing this issue. President Sharma continued stating that an institutionalizing a lifetime transcript fee is not unheard of. A quick look at the institutions indicate that some do offer this as an option. However, in this case the onetime fee would higher. Such as UCLA charges \$165; University of Chicago \$65. According to that white paper, 71% of the students request for 1-2 transcripts, 24% students requested for 3-5 transcripts, and only 5 % students request for 6 or more transcripts. Which means it is a very small percentage that requests a high number of transcripts. So, the bottom line is: most of the students ask for 1-2 transcripts, which would be \$10-20/ student versus having a lifetime transcript fees, which will cost us close to our peers such as \$60 or so. I cannot give an exact price since it is not in the report. President Sharma that she had been asked by PAC to solicit the Council's feedback, and present it at an upcoming meeting.

Law said that law students request their transcripts every semester, a new transcript for the new semester of grades. The Law School has students would use the lifetime transcript service a lot.

History stated he cannot remember the last time he ordered an official transcript. Unofficial transcripts work for him work for funding requests. At the same time, he is sympathetic to other situations, although implementing the fee doesn't make sense for the History Department.

Life Science asked if both fees could be offered, individual requests and the lifetime transcript fee. That way students can choose depending on their situation. This brought on more discussion from the Council with the general consensus being that it should be an optional service. She will share this at the next PAC meeting.

- GPSA Council acknowledgement - President Sharma acknowledged the GPSA Faculty Advisors and GPSA Manager, as well as handed out service letters to all of the GPSA Council members.

7. NEW BUSINESS

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- GPSA Summer Council Election of Representatives – No one is contesting any one position so there is no election.
- Creation of Urban Sustainability Department – President Sharma asked for Council feedback on the creation of the Urban Sustainability Department. She said that a report had been received last week, with the \$5 student fee proposal per semester. She requested that Council return to their constituents and request their input. Law stated that he would continue to ask them for a more definitive statement of what they want. He said that we really need a mission statement and some definitive goals and how they envision sustainability. Law continued saying that he thinks a lot of things can be done in a sustainable way without a whole new department. Public Health noted that she feels the department should be seeking grants outside of the institution, which is a part of top tier is to find external funding rather than redistributing student funds.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION ONLY

Department, Campus-Wide & Community: President Sharma asked for any reports for the Council or any events to share that are happening within your department, campus-wide or out in the community that you would like to briefly share with the council? Please contact either Secretary Rosen or now Secretary-Elect Kirk Talib-deen or Becky Boulton at least a week prior to next Council meeting date so that we can put them on the agenda.

- Refreshments offered in Graduate Student Commons (LLB 2141): May 4 – 8 from 7:30am – 10:00am and 4:00pm – 6:30pm
- GPSA Emergency Sponsorship applications for funding research and conference travel are due the 20th of each month. Applications must be submitted prior to travel. More information available on the [GPSA website](#).
- Recognition of Spring 2016 Graduates:

- Law School Commencement - Friday, May 13th, 10:00am at the Artemus Ham Hall
- Dental School Commencement - Friday, May 13th, 5:00pm at the Artemus Ham Hall
- Graduate College Commencement – Saturday, May 14th – Ceremonies at 9:00am and 2:00pm at the Thomas & Mack Center
- GPSA Summer 2016 Council vacancies – College / School of: Allied Health; Community Health Sciences; Hotel; Liberal Arts; Nursing; Urban Affairs
- Grad Awards Ceremony at 3 pm Thursday
- Graduate Showcase Event - Share your research, during UNLV Research Week, just prior to the debate week. Must be nonpartisan with the theme the Presidential Election. Details are on the website. Unlv.edu/graduatecollege/showcase. Deadline is July 1.
- PhD Hooding ceremony is next Friday, May 13th at 1 pm.
- Next year's GPSA professional development workshops are being planned GPSA Faculty Advisor Peter Gray announced. He stated that there will be several UNLV graduates in nonacademic realms on a panel to discuss how they put their graduate degree to use. There is also a new Graduate College Mentorship Certificate Program. For more information visit: unlv.edu/graduatecollege/gcmcp.
- Presidential Debate, October 19, 2016 – Call for Volunteers
 - General Debate Volunteers – needed to direct traffic, give campus tours, staff Ask Me Booths, and work the debate watch parties. These volunteer positions are open to any UNLV student, faculty or staff and do not require an application or background check for security clearance. Sign up on the 2016 Presidential Debate website.
 - Student Debate Hall / Media Center Volunteers – work with the Presidential Debate Commission and National and International Media providing administrative and technical support. Students need to apply, have a faculty/staff reference (brief form), and be able to pass a background / security check conducted by the Commission on Presidential Debates. View more details and complete the application by clicking the Sign Up to Volunteer button on the 2016 Presidential Debate website.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

President Sharma stated that if there was any further public comment, with a 2 minute allotment from each speaker.

Political Science would like to know about cancelling classes the debate week because parts of the campus will be closed. Was there any resolution? President Sharma says we do not yet know exactly what parts of the campus will be closed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President Sharma asked for a motion to adjourn the May 2, 2016 Council Meeting. Motion to adjourn from Art and second from History. With no discussion the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.

GPSA Summer 2016 Council Meetings • 10:00 – 11:30am • Graduate Student Commons (LLB 2141)
Monday, June 6, 2016; Monday, July 11, 2016; Monday, August 1, 2016