



**GPSA President's Report
December 2008 GPSA Council Meeting**

(1) GPSA Budget

The Student Government Accounting Office and GPSA President have released the monthly report of finances on December 3, 2008 and consists of "GPSA Summary of Accounts" and an update of the "Council General Fund" (please see the reports).

(2) UNM Board of Regents & Executive Cabinet

I attended the Board of Regents meetings on December 4 and will attend the meeting on December 18. I also attended the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting on December 4. I will be attending the Executive Cabinet Meeting on December 15. I also represented GPSA at a meeting to plan the 12/12 President's Town Hall. I am planning to meet with the Vice Presidents for Enrollment Management (to talk about international admissions) and Student Affairs. My current work with the UNM administration has focused on the 'economic pause.' I am doing my best to represent our issues – assistantships, department harvesting, faculty hiring as well as communication and transparency.

(3) Faculty Senate Graduate Committee

I attended the FSGC meeting on December 4 and again presented the Fellowships, Research Funding and Scholarships Ad-Hoc Committee Resolution calling for a strategic plan for improving recruitment and retention of graduate and professional students. I also again discussed the changes to international student applications with the fee for transcript evaluation – the International Graduate and Professional Student Ad-Hoc Committee will be presenting again a resolution at the GPSA Council Meeting.

(4) Student Fee Review Board

As Vice Chair, I am supporting the ASUNM President in the process. I emailed past recipients to request detailed information in both the application and hearings about the impact the programs and services have on graduate and professional students. Hearings will take place on January 15 & 16. There will be town halls scheduled the second week of classes, January 26-30.

(5/7) Standing Committee Chairs, Ad-Hoc Committees & University Committees

I attended the Ad-Hoc Committee on Committees, Appointments and Procedures, Finance Committee and Lobby Committee convened in December. The Finance Committee will also meet next week. The Finance Committee (GRD/SRAC/ST) is reviewing all budget revisions for awarded funds. I also created, and will discuss at the meeting, a new ad-hoc committee on the financial crisis. Beck Ellis, MA in History, will be serving in the capacity to assist GPSA in addressing concerns about the financial crisis and greater issues dealing with (1) budgets and funding, (2) priority of the core academic mission and academic integrity as well as (3) communication and transparency. I also met with chairs from Assistantships & Benefits, Programs & Service and Research Design.

(6) Executive Board

The Executive Board met on December 3 to discuss a number of proposals. We would like to suggest that the GPSA Council review a proposal in January to create a committee(s) to review and set the Council meeting agendas instead of the E-Board having this role.

(8) GPSA Office & Project Assistants

We've hired a new project assistant, Yasmin Khan will be joining the office staff in January. She was one of the candidates from the summer search. Jennifer Sullo will be leaving as a temporary employee. Office hours for spring 2009 should be announced before the end of the school year. The office will be open for the last day on Friday, December 19 and re-open on Monday, January 5.

Also, in the month of December (three weeks) over 200 students visited or used the office, while this is a decrease of students from the previous month it's a shorter period of three weeks and includes the Thanksgiving Break. The largest group continues being computer pod users (117) and students using the conference room for meetings and events (27). Other students visited the office with other requests (15), to speak with the President (33) and to use the copier (10).

Other Updates

Accountability & Transparency

We will be presenting the results of the Grants Audit in January. The committee chairs and I have been working hard to make sure information about meetings and programming, including decisions about our grants, are accessible on the website and office.

Building Bridges & Partnerships

I am continuing to work with the other constituencies – ASUNM, Faculty Senate and Staff Council. Thanks to Lucy Grinnell, I have also reached out to students from the History Graduate Student Association who are interested in mobilizing students, faculty and staff about the financial crisis. We planned a forum, strategy session and also assisted in outreaching to students and others in the UNM community.

- I met with staff from OGS and Scholarships to develop the criteria for the GPSA Scholarships which should be announced in January 2009 and include 10 \$500 scholarships for graduate and professional students.
- GPSA and PNMGC will co-host an orientation for new students on Wednesday, January 14.
- Please attend the lobby workshops on January 27 & 28. Ashley Fate and I have also submitted a letter to MRCOG requesting free passes on Rail Runner for the New Mexico Day in Santa Fe on February 3.
- Research Design has set tentative deadlines of February 3 and April 7 to receive feedback about research proposals. Please look for more information the week before classes start. They will also be co-hosting IRB workshops with the IRB office and PNMGC.

Student Participation & Voice

I want to thank the students and others who participated in the past two weeks in GPSA's efforts to educate and mobilize our members about the financial crisis. If we are not part of the process than we will be left out.