UNM Student Publications Board

Friday, Dec. 5, 2003 Communication & Journalism Conference Room

Present: Nancy Baca, Leslie Donovan, Miguel Gandert, Bob Gassaway, Karl Linzmeyer, Charlene Sevilla

Ex-Officio: Jim Fisher, Arthur Simoni, Marisa Demarco, Diana Sanchez

Bob Gassaway asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Oct. 24, meeting. Leslie Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes. Miguel Gandert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gassaway called for the Best Student Essays editor report. Diana Sanchez said the magazine is going to press on Monday, Dec. 8. She said the magazine should be delivered by the end of the semester. She said there will be nine to 10 essays in the magazine. Donovan asked Sanchez if the essays are good quality. She said they are. Gandert asked how she intends to get more submissions for next semester. She said she is going to get a larger staff and advertise more.

Gassaway asked for the Conceptions Southwest report. Marisa Demarco said everything is on schedule. She said the magazine received 270 submissions. She said she is currently meeting with different printers for printing bids. Demarco said the magazine should be out by late February, giving her staff plenty of time to sell the magazine. She said the high number of submissions came about because of heavy advertising and many CSW events this fall.

Gassaway called for the Daily Lobo editor report. Arthur Simoni, said everything is going well. He said Marisa Demarco, Ryan Floersheim and Jeff Proctor had recently attended the Associated Colligate Press conference in Dallas and had come back with a lot of fresh ideas for the paper. Simoni said Jeff Proctor, Clay Holtzman and Eric Howerton would be leaving the Lobo at the end of the fall semester. He said some newsroom staff would be shifting positions and he would be doing additional hiring. Gassaway asked how the e-mail version of the Lobo came about. Simoni said it came with the program they use for the Web site. Jim Fisher added that there are about 10,000 registered users on the Daily Lobo Web site.

Gassaway asked Jim Fisher for the Daily Lobo financial report. Fisher said the report is through October 2003. He said October was not a good month in display advertising compared to the previous month and also compared to October 2002. Fisher said the Lobo is still within budget because operating costs are down and classified and insert revenue are up. Fisher said he appreciated the newsroom sticking within their budget. Gandert asked if the use of digital cameras were saving the Lobo money. Fisher responded they were saving money on film and processing.

Gassaway then spoke about a pending lawsuit. He said that Fisher and former Lobo editor Angela Williams had given depositions on November 6th. Gassaway recapped the events which led to the lawsuit. Fisher said the Lobo appears to be protected from the claim because students are making the editorial decisions. Gassaway said it is important to remember the Board's role to select the editor and occasionally advising the newsroom, but not running it.

Gassaway asked for any new business.

Fisher said that he met with a UNM committee looking into limiting or regulating the distribution of newspapers on campus. He said the committee consists of the associate director of student activities, the head of business services on campus and the person in charge of environmental services. He said the committee suggested the Lobo be distributed in different boxes possibly located in fewer locations. Fisher said he told the committee he would not agree to the change because he felt it would cause Lobo readership to decline. He said the committee also discussed how to regulate other publications on campus, such as the Weekly Alibi, The Albuquerque Tribune, The Albuquerque Journal and Crosswinds. Fisher said he would keep the Board informed of future committee actions, however, he said he felt this would not become a significant problem for Student Publications.

Charlene Sevilla said she asked ASUNM members if they had any comments to bring to this meeting. She said some people she spoke with didn't think there was enough ASUNM fall election coverage in the Daily Lobo. Simoni said that the Lobo was short staffed at the time.

The board decided to have its next meeting on February 13 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.