

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, October 10, 2008
Marron Hall, Rm. 131

Present: Leslie Donovan (Chair), Karolyn Cannata-Winge, Mario Hernandez, Pam Herrington, Robert Trapp, V.B. Price, Jesse Stark, Rebecca Suttmiller,

Ex-Officio: Jim Fisher, Damian Garde, Jennifer Olson, Ryan Tynan

Also Present: Carolyn Souther, Maggie Ybarra

Absent: ASUNM President Representative

Leslie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Donovan asked for a review of the minutes from the April 25th meeting. Robert Trapp made a motion to accept the minutes. Karolyn Cannata-Winge seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donovan asked Jim Fisher to discuss adoption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act by the Board. Fisher outlined the items of the Open Meetings Act that he felt applied to holding meetings. A motion was made by V.B. Price to adopt the Act as operating procedure for the Board. Jesse Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed

Donovan asked Jennifer Olson for a report on Conceptions Southwest. Olson said she has most of her staff in place. She said she has advertised for both staff and submissions in the Daily Lobo and also posted flyers. She said the cover art contest deadline is October 20 and the final submission deadline is December 12. Olson said she has also been visiting classes to promote the magazine and submissions. Olson said she has been soliciting donations for prizes and also plans a bake/magazine sale on Tuesday, October 14 at Smith Plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She said a CSW open mic event is being planned as well. Olson said the Web site has also been recently updated.

Donovan asked about Pam Herrington progress on the CSW guidebook. Herrington said the guide is almost completed. Herrington gave Donovan a copy to review before final printing. Herrington said the guide will be printed at the UNM Copy Center. Cannata-Winge said she had the C&J accreditation book printed at the UNM copy center and had to have it reprinted and advised to be sure the guide was printed correctly.

Donovan asked Ryan Tynan to report on Best Student Essays. Tynan said he has received 16 submissions and two photo essay submissions. He said he has his staff in place and is currently working on reviewing the design and layout of the magazine. He said he is also asking for submissions for the magazine cover. Tynan said the final submission deadline will be extended to October 17. Tynan said he has also spent time talking to classes and using listservs to advertise BSE and submission requests.

Donovan asked Damian Garde to report on the Daily Lobo. Garde said things at the Lobo have been very busy. He said the Lobo has been on the receiving end of some very good news tips. He said the story about student services moving off of main campus is an example. Said he feels the staff's recent reporting experiences have made them more jaded, less green. He said staff retention has been high and there have been enough staff reporters in place so that the editors can do the job of editing and not have to be as responsible for writing stories. Price asked if the Lobo has beat reporters. Garde said he has an

administrative reporter, but no real beat reporters. Garde said he is trying to match staff to their interests. Price asked what initiatives the Lobo might be working on in the future. Garde said he thought a story on the number of vice presidents at UNM was on the agenda.

Bob Trapp asked if Garde was aware of the university's new open record policy and asked how well it was working. Garde said he recently met with the UNM Communications & Marketing staff after the Lobo student services story. He said he realizes that the Lobo staff at times can be a little demanding of the office and is hoping to keep a good relationship them. He said there have been a few rocky moments but in the past year they have been pretty cooperative and that the Lobo has not had to file any official information requests so far this year. Trapp said it was his understanding that the system had been overhauled and had spoken with NM Foundation for Open Government members about the change and had been told that things were going pretty well. Price asked if the Lobo had been stonewalled anywhere on campus. Garde said that for the most part that has not been a problem.

Donovan asked Jim Fisher to give the Student Publications financial report. Fisher reviewed for the Board the end of 2007-08 and summer 2008 financial statements for the Daily Lobo. He also outlined a proposed Daily Lobo budget for the 2008-09 school year. Fisher said that a new contract has been signed with Signature Offset, the Daily Lobo printer, which proposed printing costs lower than the previous contract. He said he had bid the printing as a request for proposal, which included a request for the printer to provide an amount of money for the department to purchase equipment. He said Signature Offset proposed to give \$17,500 towards equipment purchase. Fisher noted that the department has recently purchased new furniture for the Lobo newsroom and said a couple of offices had been reconfigured. Fisher also reviewed budgets for BSE & CSW including proposed budgets for 2008-09. He said he felt both magazines were in good financial shape.

Jesse Stark made a motion to accept the budgets as presented for The Daily Lobo, Best Student Essays and Conceptions Southwest. Price seconded the motion. The motioned passed.

Fisher then discussed the balance of the Daily Lobo reserve and the allocation of \$50,000 from the reserve by the office of Student Affairs. Fisher said he and Donovan had met with Eliseo Torres, the VP of Student Affairs, and Kimmerly Kloeppel, Student Affairs Fiscal and Planning Officer, in June to discuss the issue. Fisher said that Torres had stated his office needed to come up with \$300,000 from campus auxiliary enterprises at the request of the VP of Business and Finance. Fisher said he felt it was misguided to include the Lobo in this allocation along with entities such as Parking Services and the Bookstore. He said he felt the nature of Student Publications was vastly different from service departments on campus. He noted that 94 percent of the department's revenue came from student efforts selling advertising. He stressed that while the Lobo is a business, the educational aspect of the Lobo was a very important aspect of the operation. Fisher said he had never seen an allocation of Lobo funds before and felt this is the biggest fundamental threat to the Daily Lobo that he had ever experienced. He said he felt if an allocation happened once it would happen again. He said the reserve protects the Daily Lobo's editorial independence and helps ensure the same opportunities for Lobo students in a bad economic year as in a good one. He noted that he is fearful that very bad economic times are on the horizon and much of the Lobo's reserve may be needed for the paper to operate. He said that it had been a long-standing policy of the Board to try to have at least one semester's operating expenses in reserve in order to maintain the Lobo's current operation. Fisher said he recently received a request form Student Affairs for a detailed explanation on how we were planning on spending our reserve. Fisher said that he expects to be spending much more money on operating expenses this year than last. Fisher asked for comments from the Board.

Price said that it seems unconscionable to take money from students who worked their tails off to earn the money and then to just have it taken. Cannata-Winge asked if anyone knew what the money had been

used for. Donovan responded that Vice President Torres said he did not know what the money was for. She said Dr. Torres relayed that if the Lobo needed money in the future, it could request it through his department.

Donovan said it is her understanding from her time served on the Board that the Board has felt it is essential to hold enough money in reserve to protect the students pre-professional education as journalists at one of the largest papers in the state and if we don't give them the same resources that other staffs have had it is a huge disservice to their professional education and development.

Stark asked if the money in question belonged to the university. Fisher responded that when any revenue from Lobo ad sales is deposited in the Lobo account, it is technically university money. Stark replied if the money legally belongs to UNM, then the only course of action is dissent. He suggested that some sort of legal contract should be formed with the UNM administration to prevent this type of occurrence in the future. He said that it is a big threat to the Lobo's editorial independence if the UNM administration feels it appropriate to tap the Lobo's funds so easily and then turn around and say that if the Lobo needed funding the administration could provide it.

Fisher said his recommendation would be for the Board to form a committee to speak with the UNM administration about the matter.

Price made a motion to create a committee of Board members to speak with the UNM administration about the matter. Mario Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed. Price, Cannata-Winge, Stark and Hernandez all volunteered to be on the committee.

Donovan asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Donovan scheduled the next meeting for November 14, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.