

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, September 30, 2011
Marron Hall, Rm. 131

Present: Leslie Donovan (Chair), V.B. Price, Robert Trapp, Lissa Knudsen, John Luna, Sunny Liu, Miguel Gandert, Jaymie Roybal.

Ex-Officio: Jim Fisher, Chris Quintana, Sarah Parro, Shari Taylor

Also Present: Carolyn Souther, Bridget Chavez, Isaac Romero

Absent: SPJ representative

Leslie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Donovan asked Jim Fisher to discuss the adoption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Fisher referred to handouts from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. He said that the main points are that all meetings are to be held in public, advance notice of the meeting must be given, and that what Board members say at meetings are on the record unless the Board goes into closed session. Jaymie Roybal made a motion for the Board to adopt the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. John Luna seconded the motion. The motion passed. Fisher asked Roybal for clarification about who is the new ASUNM presidential representative to the Board. Roybal said that she is the presidential representative to the Board. She said she would be the representative but Bridget Chavez would also be attending Board meetings.

Donovan asked for a review of the April 29, 2011 meeting minutes. Miguel Gandert made a motion to accept the minutes. Luna seconded the motion. Trapp abstained. The motion passed.

Donovan asked Shari Taylor to report on *Conceptions Southwest*. Taylor said she has created a listserv and Facebook page for *CSW* and hired four staff members. She said the submission deadline will be December 1. She said she is working on getting the Web site up and running and expects to have that done by the end of October. Taylor said she would like to be able to accept electronic submissions.

Donovan asked Sarah Parro to report on *Best Student Essays*. Parro said things are going well with the magazine. She said she has 11 staff members. She said she and the staff have been focusing on advertising and soliciting submissions. Parro said they already have received five submissions. She said she is currently talking with printers for quotes and planning to be a part of the Celebration of Student Writing event on campus. She said the first deadline for submissions will be October 7, but will extend the deadline to October 17. Parro said the magazine usually has 8-10 essays depending on their length.

Donovan asked Chris Quintana for a report on the *Daily Lobo*. Quintana said the year has been off to a good start with an uneventful summer. He said Isaac Avilucea filled in as managing editor for the summer until Elizabeth Cleary returned for the fall semester. He said that news editor, Chelsea Erven, is doing a great job. He said the staff is enjoying working with Kate Nash, the new *Daily Lobo* writing coach. Quintana said professional photographer, Mark Holm, is helping students with photography and former *Albuquerque Tribune* staff member, Tony Stewart, is helping with design critiques. He said the paper has been using a modular design with some minor tweaks. He said the staff will participate in sensitivity training with Jozi De Leon, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, on October 10 in relation to some issues that came up earlier in the year. Luna asked if Quintana had been contacted by anyone at ASUNM to set up a meeting. Quintana responded that he received an e-mail from Jaymie Roybal's secretary earlier in the week requesting to set up a meeting and now a meeting time has been set.

Roybal said that meeting has been set now, but she has been contacting the *Daily Lobo* office since May trying to get a meeting with Quintana and had not received a response until this week. She said that as ASUNM president and a member of the Student Publications Board she is upset that she had not received a response. She said that she did speak with Quintana on the phone this morning and said that Quintana refused to meet with her at the ASUNM offices. Quintana responded that since Roybal requested the meeting it was appropriate for her to come to the *Daily Lobo* office. Roybal asked Quintana what is the intent of the *Daily Lobo* or its goal. Quintana responded that the goal of the *Daily Lobo* is to provide information objectively and criticism when necessary. Roybal asked Quintana if he felt the *Lobo* is reporting objectively. Quintana responded, yes. Roybal said she does not think the paper is reporting objectively. Donovan asked Roybal if she is aware that the Board does not oversee content of the *Daily Lobo*. Roybal said she is aware the Board does not oversee content but is bringing student concerns about the *Lobo* to the Board. She said that articles she has seen have been lacking facts and she said she feels the *Daily Lobo* has been taking a more investigative slant that does not show UNM in any positive light. She said that one of the intents of a student newspaper is to develop professionalism and that the question needs to be asked whether the *Lobo* is doing that. She said the *Lobo* is not professional. Roybal then read an e-mail sent to her from a student expressing concerns about negative news coverage in the paper, specifically about a cartoon singling out Roybal.

Gandert suggested the author of the e-mail should submit a letter to the editor. He then explained that the Board does not have control over editorial content. He said that questioning ethics is a very loaded and difficult issue. He said that the things Roybal is questioning as doing wrong are the things the *Lobo* may be doing right. He said the *Lobo* does write positive stories and referred to a story about his department. He explained that UNM must have an independent student newspaper free from university and government control to be accredited. He said that editorial cartoons are not necessarily meant to be factual, rather they are designed to be provocative and encourage discussion. The Board suggested that Roybal forward the e-mails she has received to Quintana. Donovan asked what outcome Roybal would like to see from the Board. Roybal said she felt the Board should hear the concerns she brought up. Roybal said there have been two comics in the *Lobo* that were untruthful. Gandert said that an editorial cartoon is meant to enrage and to get people to think. He said editorial cartoons are not meant to be factual because they appear on the editorial page and represent someone's opinion. Luna said his concern with the cartoon is that it attacked an individual student. Quintana responded that the ASUNM president is a public figure and is subject to comment. Gandert said that if students want the *Lobo* to be different, they should come work for the paper and apply to be editor next semester. He said only students can change the character of the paper, not the Board.

Lissa Knudsen asked about the *Lobo's* policy on printing retractions. Quintana said that they try to verify the information in question and print corrections, when necessary. Quintana said that inaccuracies do occur and they run corrections when they are brought to the staff's attention. Price added that the Board's primary purpose is to hire the editor and to protect the freedom of the paper. Fisher said he is glad that Quintana and Roybal are meeting soon. Donovan said that it is important to be aware that Quintana and Roybal are the two primary voices of the students on the UNM campus.

Roybal asked if other independently run student newspapers are funded by student government. Fisher said that the *Lobo* is not unique. He said there are many that are funded through student government and some that are not. He said a few are 501c3 non-profit organizations that are not funded by the university and noted that even a couple of those that are 501c3s are also funded in part by their respective universities.

Donovan asked Fisher to give a Student Publications financial report. Fisher said he first wanted to talk more about the new writing coach that was hired over the summer to replace Jim Montalbano, who had been the coach for the past eight years. Fisher said that Kate Nash, political reporter for the *Santa Fe New*

Mexican, was hired from a pool of very qualified applicants. He said Nash was a former photo and news editor at the *Daily Lobo* as well as a former reporter for the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Albuquerque Tribune*. Fisher then referred to the budgets for all three publications plus the year-end financials for each publication. He said that he is now including numbers from previous years' *Daily Lobo* budgets to serve as comparisons. He said that printing expenses were up last year due to printing more pages and more money spent on color. Fisher said he is looking into other revenue streams such as mobile delivery. Price asked why the *Daily Lobo* does not make more of its revenue in Web advertising. Fisher responded that Web revenue has been improving, but has a long way to go to match what the *Lobo* currently makes in print advertising.

Fisher discussed the *Daily Lobo*'s August 2011 financial report, which he said was fairly good for revenue. However, he noted that September was a very bad month compared to previous Septembers. He also referred to the summer financial report and noted that the *Lobo* would be in the red for the summer if not for the annual mail out edition, which was mailed to all registered students. Fisher then discussed the *Daily Lobo* fund balance, which is a reserve that helps protect the newspaper's ability to function.

Fisher also reviewed the financials for *Best Student Essays* and *Conceptions Southwest* magazines. He said that both magazines budgets are fairly straightforward, with no unusual expenses, and that both are in good financial shape.

The Board discussed the student Society of Professional Journalists board vacancy. Gandert said he felt that the student SPJ chapter will not be viable and will try to get the two student groups within UNM Communication & Journalism to select a student representative or ask the department chair to temporarily appoint a student representative to the Board. The consensus of the Board was a strong preference that students elect a fellow student to the Board.

Donovan asked for new business. Donovan said she had received an e-mail from President Schmidly's office stating he would like to meet with the Board. It was discussed whether he wants to meet with the whole Board or a smaller committee. Price made a motion to invite President Schmidly to the next Board meeting. Trapp seconded the motion. The motion passed. Knudsen suggested that a fact sheet may help to provide information about how the *Daily Lobo* is structured. Quintana said he could also put that information on the opinion page of the *Daily Lobo*. The Board agreed it was a good suggestion. Donovan said that she and Fisher would work on putting such a fact sheet together.

Donovan scheduled the next meeting for November 11 at 3 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.