

**Graduate Student Council - Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**  
**4:30 pm, Dona Ana**

- 1. Call to order / Welcome**
- 2. Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes**
- 3. Treasurer's Report**
  - a. There is \$1,000 available for funding opportunities for the rest of this semester. \*\*An application was submitted during this meeting for \$500 so there is \$500 left. If you are making a trip immediately after finals you can apply for this semester or spring. You can always apply in the spring retroactively.
  - b. All of the applications in the past 3-4 weeks are on freeze because there is a conflict between the ASNMSU law book and the GSC funding rules (in our [bylaws](#)). Applications will be taken care of, but they will take longer to get through.
- 4. Graduate Senator's Report**
  - a. The issue regarding community service in Chapter 8 after it was rewritten is still being worked on. The issue regarding the GSC funding rules is also being worked on.
  - b. Make sure to follow up with senators if you have turned in any paperwork to the ASNMSU office. It is preferable that you turn in your applications directly to your senators. Also, make sure to put all of the senators' names on the application so that it can be looked at quicker.
- 5. GRAS report**
  - a. GRAS Update
    - i. GRAS Volunteer sign-up – meeting November 15<sup>th</sup>, 4-5pm
      1. It's an opportunity to get involved with Graduate Student Council. You can get community service credit for this.
    - ii. GRAS call for papers
      1. Scheduled for March 11- 13, 2013 at New Mexico State University. Early submissions are being accepted now via email at [gsc.nmsu@gmail.com](mailto:gsc.nmsu@gmail.com) as an attachment. Deadline for proposal submission is Friday, February 1st by midnight (MST). If you have received funding in the past from GSC or the Graduate School you need to present at GRAS.
- 6. Other Committee/ Council Reports**
  - i. Graduate Council Update
    1. GA classifications
      - a. Classifications are trying to be simplified. We do not know yet how this will affect all graduate assistants.

2. Social Work program fee transfer to UNM
  - a. Graduate school is looking into supporting a social work program. These students pay fees but do not get any services in return so the Dean is working on this.

**7. Old Business**

**8. New Business**

- a. ASNMSU Graduate Senator Candidates  
Senate elections will be next week, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2016. You will be able to vote for them on: [asnmsu.nmsu.edu](http://asnmsu.nmsu.edu)
  - i. Kashif Altaf

Kashif is a graduate student of Engineering. He joined NMSU in January 2012 and is a 4.0 student. Before starting at NMSU, he graduated from Electrical Engineering Department at University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. At Illinois, he was the treasurer for Optical Society of America UIUC Chapter, and was involved with IEEE, Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society, and many other student organizations.

Many things can be improved at NMSU, especially for graduate students. Stipends for Graduate Assistants (GA's) are much lower at NMSU than in many other schools in the nation, mainly due to tuition fee liability, which is totally waived for GA's at most other places. Campus transportation system can be improved by introducing new shuttle schedules and lanes for bikes. Parking is a huge issue for students who drive to campus. Social scene on campus is not so good. Tuition fee is on increase, pressing students financially. To strive for all these causes effectively, Kashif is running for the Senator position at ASNMSU, which is a unique forum on campus.

Please vote for Kashif and take the first step towards this change. He can be reached at ([kaltaf2@nmsu.edu](mailto:kaltaf2@nmsu.edu)) for any questions of concerns. Thanks for voting!

ii. Irasema Padilla

*“Good afternoon my name is Irasema Padilla and I am your candidate for Graduate School Senator. Because senate is a majority of undergraduate students, graduate student needs and issues are often ignored or seen as irrelevant. I want to be the face to your voice so that the graduate school has equal representation to meet the needs, issues and funds distributions. I want to assure you that I will be a strong advocate, ethical, and promote responsibility within Senate. I will bring diversity to the senate and my legislative decisions will represent the graduate student population. As your graduate school senate my focus will be students, diversity and equal representation for legislative decisions. As senator I will use the skills that I have gained in my eleven years of teaching experience, the lessons I have learned as a mother, and the knowledge that I have gained from a graduate level education. If elected you will have elected a senator that has patience, experience, a strong work ethic and a passion to advocate for others.”*

iii. Collin King

*“My name is Collin King; I am currently in my first semester of the MA in Government program. I was appointed to the ASNMSU Senate this fall by Graduate Student Council.*

*Since my appointment I immediately began reforming and working with ASNMSU. I have already represented 8 individual graduate students before the Senate and I am currently working with three more for travel appropriations. My major initiative this fall was amending chapter 8 of the ASNMSU Law Book. This was accomplished via a Temporary Select Committee, which I sat on. The new Chapter 8 will fund students at an even level of up to 49%, simplifying the code, and eliminating loopholes; reimburse for travel while simultaneously ensuring the fiscal stability of the Senate. Currently the Senate has had to address a severe budget shortfall. For this reason, I was one of three Senators who wrote a resolution that proposed a budget for both the fall and Spring Semesters. This Budget will ensure that ASNMSU funds students not only this year, but for years to come. I have enjoyed serving you this semester and hope for your vote so I may continue to represent Graduate Students in the ASNMSU Senate.”*

iv. Nitish Narula

*“I am a graduate student at New Mexico State University, pursuing my doctorate in the Department of Biology. I currently serve as a graduate senator in ASNMSU. I have previously served in a student government and participated in student movements in New Delhi, India, my hometown. As a Research I institute, NMSU must put research as its top priority. Graduate students contribute extensively to the university’s research output. Therefore, the interest of the graduate student is of prime importance to the university as well. I believe the same should be reflected in the objectives and decision-making processes of our university’s student government, ASNMSU. Having worked with the ASNMSU senate, I believe I have the ability and drive to represent our interests at the senate. These interests manifest themselves as monetary funding for projects and conference travel. These have been, and will be, my focus as a graduate senator.”*

v. Angela Muhanga

*“Hello graduate students, my name is Angela Muhanga and I'm running for graduate senate! My priorities if elected to senate is to keep the graduate student body informed about what ASNMSU is doing for graduate students, so you can make informed choices for yourself and your organizations. I would also like to represent our needs in senate and be vocal on issues that are important to you and me as graduate students. I will perform my duties as senator to the best of my ability and reach out to fellow senators, both graduate and undergraduate to garner support in order to effectively address your concerns and will also be accessible to you as your representative in senate. Go Aggies!*

vi. Zeeshan

*“My name is Zeeshan, I am a graduate student doing PhD in Electrical Engineering. I strongly believe that stature and standing of the university is dependent on the quality of research that is done. It would be my mission to increase the funding from 49 percent to 100 percent with expedited processing for those who publish in the most reputable conference in a given area so that the rest of world may know NMSU. My second goal would be the tuition of graduate students in general and **Graduate Research assistant** in particular, because it seems to me highly probable that when a research grant is being procured an amount may be appropriated for Tuition of Students. This would encourage*

*high quality students from around the world and US to join NMSU. This would encourage holding and attracting the high quality faculty. This effect would generate a high amount research funding within the couple of years as funding bodies would have confidence that a project can be successfully completed. Ultimately this would eventually help to reduce the financial obligations of NMSU and a case can be made to reduce the fee."*

**9. Announcements**

- a. Graduate School Tailgate – November 10<sup>th</sup>
- b. GO VOTE RIGHT NOW!!

**10. Open Forum**

**11. Adjournment**