

Graduate Student Council - Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 27, 2012
4:30 pm, Dona Ana Room

1. **Call to order / Welcome**
2. **Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. The entire \$12 thousand for the semester has been allocated. We have another \$12 thousand for the Spring for future disbursements. Anyone who applied this semester is now eligible to apply again for next semester. Anyone who has disbursements in the works will receive an email as soon as your money comes in.
4. **Guest Speaker: Joni Newcomer, Manager of Environmental Policy and Sustainability-NMSU Office of Sustainability and Environmental Education Center**
 - a. They have an Environmental Education center can be used for green focus meetings. It is a temporary office and the new office will be environmentally friendly. They have volunteer opportunities. If you are interested you can meet with them in person. Initiatives that the Office of Sustainability has for 2012 include energy reduction, building design, waste management, water conservation, and research.
 - b. They will begin green teams to send out emails to all faculty in order to encourage everyone to turn off the lights after leaving classrooms.
 - c. Contact information: sustain@nmsu.edu (575) 646-7563. They are located in Regents Row, Mitchell Hall Room 101/103.
5. **Graduate Senator's Report**
 - a. There is a bill going through this week to allot money to GSC. It will take some time because it is in our best interest that it goes through committees so that we are likely to have more support.
 - b. If you are traveling over the break, get in touch with a senator as soon as possible. You do not have to have your community service done, but senators need to have something entered of you in the system so that they at least have you in the system. Remember that for ASNMSU appropriations you need to submit your paperwork by the senate meeting after you have left.
 - c. The law book clause that prevents GSC from spending more than \$1,000 on individual organizations is being worked on. Currently it is being treated like others that can only receive \$500.
 - d. Can students apply for funds for more than one conference in a semester? ASNMSU Senators have suggested that they do not like to have several bills for *one* student because of the fiscal circumstance that we are in, although the law book does not have any restrictions on this.

6. GRAS Report

- a.** GRAS Update (Romina). It will be March 11 – 13th.
 - i.** GRAS Volunteer sign-up & planning update
 - 1. Initial meeting the week before the break to begin the process. Proposals have already been submitted.
 - 2. We encourage everyone to invite other students, and your students if you are a teacher.
 - ii.** GRAS call for papers
 - 1. Remind people who received funding last year that they need to present at GRAS

7. Other Committee/Council Reports

8. Old Business

9. New Business

- a.** New ASNMSU senators – check out last meeting minutes to find out what departments the new senators are from (and have them introduce themselves if they are not at the meeting)
 - i.** Angela Muhanga from the Engineering Department
 - ii.** Nitish Narula from the Biology Department
 - iii.** Collin King from the Government Department

- b.** GSC Survey of Graduate Travel Funding
 - i.** GSC will be conducting an online survey (through surveymonkey) to find out how graduate students are receiving travel funding and what complications or difficulties they have with the funding process. (SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

10. Announcements

- a.** We encourage you all to participate in the Presidential Search Input Session – December 7, 10:00AM Fulton Center
- b.** Last First Monday is this coming Monday, December 3rd. It is in Corbett Center from 4 – 7:30pm

11. Open Forum

12. Adjournment

GSC Examination of Graduate Student Travel Funding at NMSU

- GSC is beginning to examine graduate student travel funding at NMSU. As part of this examination, GSC will be meeting with the Graduate School, College of Arts and Sciences, ASNMSU, and the Interim President/Provost to discuss the current issues surrounding funding for graduate student travel.
- This examination will also include the creation of a survey for all graduate students to fill out online (via surveymonkey) so that we can better determine any problems that currently exist with the travel funding process.

Based on our initial conversations with graduate students and grad student leaders, we have determined that graduate students may be frustrated with the funding process and may possibly be deterred from attending academic conferences because obtaining funding is so difficult for them. Many students must go through up to 5 sources to obtain enough financial resources to attend conferences. Some of these processes are very political and can be daunting to students who simply want to be supported by the university.

We believe that graduate student presentations and attendance at academic conferences can be a huge asset to our university because the presence of NMSU grads successfully promotes NMSU's programs throughout the country and the world. Because NMSU's current administration has a goal of promoting scholarship, it is necessary that we look into how the current system for obtaining

Tia will be meeting with the Graduate School and Arts & Sciences before the semester is over. If graduate students have comments about any of the funding resources at the university that they would like to send to GSC, please ask them to email us.