

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
4:30 pm, Senate Gallery

1. Call to order / Welcome
  - a. 4:29 pm
  
2. Dr. Andrew Pena and Renee Yoder from HR to talk about Health Insurance
  - a. Addressing graduate assistant health insurance, still working on the issue, talked to Dean Reyes about what was said to the graduate council – what is more important health insurance, higher scholarships, or tuition assistance
    - i. Health insurance – fines, how do we make sure that we are not going to have to pay the fines
    - ii. Work – don't want to have to go off campus to get a job
    - iii. Health insurance most important, as this gives a sense of coverage, if increase the money getting or try to wrap it up in a package don't have the sense of well-being or being secure
    - iv. Health coverage as a plan at the University far less expensive than an individual plan
    - v. If getting guaranteed hours then at least feel have some type of coverage, if health coverage goes away, then what are the benefits of being at NMSU, don't see the benefits, we already pay fairly high tuition, just don't see that the University cares about the graduate students
  - b. Student Health insurance program, is not an employee health insurance plan – with recent changes in government programs, the health plan does not meet coverage, so the university would have to mimic the employee health insurance plans, so in the future won't offer student health insurance plans, as this would make it very expensive for the common student. This means that need to think about what we are going to do with regards to graduate health insurance plans, international students don't need the higher health insurance plans. At this moment have less than 100 domestic graduate students, so no way is their going to be an affordable insurance plan. So at this time don't know which way they are going to go due to the fact that just haven't come to a solution at this point. Don't know if it will be health insurance, graduate tuition, or something else – will have a meeting hopefully within the next couple of weeks to come to a decision – looking for ideas to submit at this time. Cannot put graduate students in with the university employees, and they are paying very high insurance as it is. As an employer they cannot give benefits that are directly tied to health insurance, as this is against the law as well.
  - c. Our big issue is that we were not communicated with about this issue prior to this time. University believes that there was an e-mail sent out.
  - d. The university may set up some sort of program to help graduate assistants find new insurance, the current plan ends August 15<sup>th</sup>, would then be able to go to the exchange to find insurance coverage.
  - e. Health and wellness fee covers visits on campus to the health center.



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- f. Where is the money going that was originally budgeted for partial payment of the graduate assistant health insurance? Don't know where that money will go now, this money goes to a central pool, not to something that is specifically designated towards the graduate school
        - g. Please keep the communications channel open – [benefits@nmsu.edu](mailto:benefits@nmsu.edu) is the contact for Renee Yoder, if need to ask questions about this topic
        - h. Still trying to decide if or what benefits that graduate students will receive – will boil down to what can the university afford – and decisions made may change over time. Dean Reyes working very hard to get what benefits can for graduate assistants.
3. Secretary's Report
  - a. Minutes Approved
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. During the Fall semester 34, Spring 28, 2 GSO organizations, Money is first come first serve, Need to add to the bylaws about distance education students, need some clarification in bylaws, there are links to example calculations, need to put example on the website, hopefully will let everyone know by the end of the week whether or not your funding paperwork is approved. If travelling over the summer can turn in paperwork next semester. Reimbursement from ASNMSU for money from GSC and ASNMSU.
5. VP of Activities' Report
  - a. No Report
6. Graduate Senator's Report
  - a. Most of the Bills vetoed, some of those bills were overturned.
7. Updates and Announcements
  - a. One open seat open –There will be a fall semester only seat open, will vote at next meeting – first meeting in the fall
    - i. Purnima Dwivedi introduced herself, wants to be a senator in the fall
    - ii. Trevor Harris introduced himself, wants to be a senator in the fall, was an undergraduate senator, resigning seat as graduating, now becoming a graduate student
  - b. Elections for GSC executive council – Jean gave a brief description of each of the six positions – quorum met
    - i. President
      1. Adam Amador- by acclamation - Won
    - ii. Vice President
      1. Ali Nasirian – chose not to run
      2. Alex Van Hought - by acclamation - Won
    - iii. VP of Activities
      1. Tara Young - by acclamation - Won



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- iv. Treasurer
  - 1. Tara Young - 3
  - 2. Trevor Harris -8 - Won
- v. Secretary
  - 1. "Name Withheld" – by acclamation - Won
- vi. Webmaster
  - 1. Sam Schonfeld - by acclamation - Won
  
- 8. Open Forum
  - a. Adam would like to have a committee put together to make sure that the health insurance does not fall by the wayside – please talk to Adam after the meeting.
  
- 9. Adjournment
  - a. 5:37 pm