

## **UNM Student Publications Board**

Friday, Nov. 8, 2002

Communication & Journalism Conference Room

Present: Julie Aicher, Adrienne Betzen, Leslie Donovan, Bob Gassaway (chair), Ashlyne Padilla, Cathy Sheridan.

Absent: Miquel Gandert, April Hale, Miriam Mara.

Ex-Officio: Sahar Anwar, Maryalice Erickson, Jim Fisher, Angela Williams

Also Present: Arthur Simoni

Bob Gassaway called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. He asked for a motion to accept the amended minutes from the Sept. 20 meeting. Leslie Donovan moved to accept the minutes. Julie Aicher seconded the motion, which passed.

Gassaway asked Maryalice Erickson for the Best Student Essays report. Erickson distributed a written report on the status of BSE. She said she has a large staff comprised of five assistant editors and others who have begged to help. She said BSE had a deadline of Sept. 27 but she extended it into October and received eight more essays. She said she had 10 total submitted. She said six essays have been selected to be published. She said the magazine will be 36-40 pages. Erickson said she was acquiring color and black and white bids. She said BSE will be using the same layouts as last year since they are pressed for time. Erickson said she was hoping to have the printer bids compiled and submitted to Jim Fisher by Nov. 20. The final layout will be delivered by Dec. 2. Erickson said she is hoping the magazine will be out by finals week.

Gassaway then addressed Sahar Anwar on the status of Conceptions Southwest. Anwar stated that things were going well and distributed a written report. Anwar said she is completing her staff. She said she is pleased with the people selected and still has a couple of vacancies to fill. She said she hopes to keep on scheduling poetry and fiction readings and also music events that promote the magazine. She said the general submission deadline is Nov. 29. Fisher asked Anwar what positions haven't been filled. She said the arts and poetry editor positions have not been filled. She said four people are interested in the positions.

Gassaway then addressed Angela Williams on the status of the Daily Lobo. She distributed a written report. She said she attended the Associated Collegiate Press Conference with the Daily Lobo news and sports editors. She said it was a very good conference and they all brought back some good techniques and ideas. She said she thinks this year's staff is one of the best in her three years at the Lobo. Williams said that the newsroom has many more reporters than in previous years. She then addressed the issue of the loss of accreditation in the C&J department. She said she believes a dialogue needs to be started between the Lobo and the C & J department. Aicher asked if there was any dialogue yet. Gassaway said there had been one meeting, which about 50 students

attended. He said that the dean supports the department and that losing accreditation is not the end of the world. He said the department is hoping to improve the department and seek accreditation again in two years. Aicher suggested this would be a good time to form a stronger bond with professionals in the area in order to help the department.

Gassaway then asked Jim Fisher for the Daily Lobo financial report. He said the report covered to the end of September. Fisher said financially things looked a lot better than last September. He said the Lobo advertising income was doing well considering the state of the economy. He said the Lobo is a little over \$16,000 ahead on budget for the school year. He said October was a good month for advertising but he didn't have the final numbers yet.

Gassaway then addressed Leslie Donovan on the Student Publications Board policy statement revision. She said the committee of herself, Maryalice Erickson and Jim Fisher revised the document. Donovan asked the board members to look over the revisions and be prepared to discuss the changes at the next board meeting.

Gassaway then brought up a libel suit facing Student Publications. The Lobo ran a letter from a woman signed M. Anderson claiming she was raped. Williams said that after the letter was published, a woman called Megan Anderson called and said she did not write the letter. Williams said she did not check the letter for its authenticity. She said she ran a retraction that Anderson had approved. Williams said she received a letter two weeks later from an attorney demanding \$30,000. Fisher said he sent the letter to University Counsel who agreed to handle the case. Williams said she plans to implement an editorial board in light of the situation. The board will consist of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and an editorial assistant who will all review all content on the opinion page.

Gassaway said he was skeptical about the complaint because there were several M. Andersons on campus. He said at this point he would be inclined to go along with the University Counsel's advice. He asked for other views. Aicher said that she thinks the editorial board is a good plan for assessing letters in the future. Williams said she would no longer run letters unless she can verify they are from the person who wrote them.

Gassaway asked if there was any new business. Fisher said Student Publications was not receiving money allocated from GPSA. He said according to GPSA by-laws, Student Publications should receive \$1,500 per year. He said the last two years GPSA has suspended the by-laws in order to not give Student Publications money. He thinks the board should look into this to see if this will happen every year, and why. Gassaway asked if the board if this practice were to continue if it should reconsider having a GPSA board member. He asked Fisher to investigate and report at the next meeting. Gassaway said he saw no need for a meeting until early February.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.