

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, February 6, 2009
Marron Hall, Rm. 131

Present: Leslie Donovan (Chair), Robert Trapp, Karolyn Cannata-Winge, V.B. Price, Mario Hernandez, Pam Herrington, Rebecca Suttmiller, Michael Thorning,

Ex-Officio: Jim Fisher, Jennifer Olson, Ryan Tynan

Also Present: Carolyn Souther, Rachel Hill

Absent: ASUNM President Representative, Damian Garde

Leslie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Donovan asked for a review of the minutes from the November 14 meeting. One correction was noted. V.B. Price made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mario Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donovan asked Jennifer Olson for a report on *Conceptions Southwest*. Olson said the final submission deadline has passed and that more than 200 submissions were received. She said she is in the process of getting quotes for printing. She said a CSW concert is scheduled for March 3 at 7 p.m. in Keller Hall. Olson said music submissions would be performed at the concert. She said that including a music CD in the magazine might not be possible because of the additional cost. She said that at the least, the music would be available on the CSW Web site. Olson said that 10 composers are participating in the concert. She said that the magazine would be out in mid April.

Donovan asked Pam Herrington to report on the CSW guidebook. Herrington displayed a bound copy of the guidebook. She said it had been printed at the UNM copy center. All Board members congratulated Herrington on the guidebook.

Donovan asked Ryan Tynan for a report on *Best Student Essays*. Tynan said there have been no submissions to date for the spring issue. He said the final submission deadline is March 13. Tynan said there was one embarrassing typo in the fall issue that occurred in the photo essay. Tynan said he is planning on attending the GPSA funding hearing later in the month. He said he might need help filling out the application. Herrington said she would help with the application.

Donovan noted that Damian Garde was not present to report on the *Daily Lobo*. Rachel Hill, *Daily Lobo* news editor, was asked to fill in for Garde. Hill said that she thought the paper was running well this semester. She said her job is very stressful and she spends a lot more hours than she expected. She said she has hired three more staff reporters. Price said that the reporting in the Lobo has been great. Hill said she feels the reporters are very dedicated. She said that the majority are from Communication & Journalism, and most others are English majors.

Donovan asked Jim Fisher to give the *Daily Lobo* financial report. Fisher said that financially things look better than he expected through December considering the state of the economy. He said that expenses are less than what they were this time last year and January revenue is looking to be strong. He said the *Daily Lobo* spring Coupon Companion came out in January, which also helped with revenue. Fisher

noted, however, that classified advertising is down 40 percent from last year and classified display is down 20 percent, which he felt did not bode well for the future. He said the area where the Lobo is doing best is campus advertising but expects that not to be as strong due to UNM budget cuts.

Fisher said the *Daily Lobo* will upgrade its editorial system later in February. He said the system is a software upgrade from Woodwing's Smart Connection Pro to Smart Connection Enterprise, which will enhance editorial workflow. He said the cost is estimated to be around \$15,000. Fisher said it is the same system that is in use at the *Albuquerque Journal* and knowledge of the software may help students with employment after they graduate.

Donovan asked Fisher to present proposed timelines for 2009-10 editor selection. The Board agreed to hold the *Daily Lobo* editor selection on April 10 at 3 p.m. and to select the magazine editors on April 24 at 3 p.m. Fisher said the *Daily Lobo* editor position will now be posted on the UNM job website at student employment.

Donovan asked the Board if there were any new business.

Fisher said in reference to a past discussion about *Daily Lobo* history that a page has been created on Facebook for *Daily Lobo* alumni. It includes a link to the *Daily Lobo* Web site. He said he felt this might be a better option for alumni news, history and general information than creating a site in-house. He said that there are already more than 30 members without much of any prompting.

Fisher said he and Price will schedule a meeting with Mary Kinney, campus planning officer, regarding the status of Marron Hall.

Donovan asked if there was any additional new business. There was none.

Donovan reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for April 10, at 3 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Daily Lobo editor's report in absence.

As we dealt with our post-election exhaustion, it took some effort it to rally everyone back into fighting shape in order to cover the University's growing economic troubles. Thankfully, Schmidly and company continued to provide us with quality stories to chase down, culminating in December's forum on UNM finances, which, in my opinion, resulted in the best tag-teaming of photography, design and reporting in my three years at the Lobo. I'm very proud of the work we did in getting all the angles and implications of that meeting, and I know community members were pleased with it, as well.

Re-energizing the staff after winter break has always been a difficult (and often slow) process, and this year was no different. Our first week back was a bit sluggish, and I think some of the copy reflects that. However, we've since rebounded from our holiday malaise, and I've been quite pleased with the output of all sections. In the sports section, which doesn't often get attention at board meetings, now comes the season when major sports come to a close and the staff's creativity and willingness to dive into unfamiliar topics is tested. I'm confident that this year's sports desk has the wherewithal and the energy to keep the section interesting, even without Steve Alford. In culture, we've had success in recruiting young reporters with disparate interests who, as we groom them and send them out for stories, will likely result in a more diverse section than we've seen in some time.

There was some concern that this semester might not bring the tumult and drama we were treated to last year. That, clearly, is not the case. We've hit the ground running in news, and we've received numerous compliments on our even-handed coverage of the faculty's petition and the plight of UNM up in Santa Fe. Of particular interest to us now is keeping tabs on Legislative Finance Committee's budget recommendations and on the status of Regents President Jamie Koch's reconfirmation. We've hammered out a few reliable sources in the Legislature, and we've received off-the-record tips and

advice from some unlikely UNM higher-ups. We're also working to stay focused on the big picture. Among our long-term plans is a comprehensive story detailing the complaints against Schmidly during his tenure at Texas Tech and Oklahoma State — which, we've come to find out, closely resemble the ones he's hearing now. Also, I've been working to get a digital copy of the UNM Salary Book, which is now only available in hard copy at Zimmerman, and it carries some bizarre rules as to its use. I'd like to have the data on hand to ease some aspects of reporting and, eventually, to create a searchable salary database on our Web site.

How the faculty's "crisis of confidence" turns out and how UNM fares come late March are things I can only guess at. However, I can ensure the board that the Lobo will be there to objectively report on these interesting times.