

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, February 19, 2010
Marron Hall, Rm. 131

Present: Alicia Barry, Leslie Donovan (Chair), Miguel Gandert, Lissa Knudsen, V.B. Price, Michael Thorning, Robert Trapp, Cole Vertikoff,

Ex-Officio: Eva Dameron, Jim Fisher, Mario Trujillo, Jennifer Sawayda

Also Present: Pat Lohman, Hunter Riley, Carolyn Souther

Absent: Journalism & Mass Comm. Representative

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

Donovan asked for a review of the January 22, 2010 minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Robert Trapp. Michael Thorning seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donovan asked for the *Conceptions Southwest* report from Mario Trujillo. Trujillo said he had a total of 210 submissions from 86 people. He said that 13 poetry submissions have been accepted and the staff will be evaluating fiction and non-fiction next week. He said he is giving the design editor two weeks to lay out magazine. Donovan said that she felt that two weeks was probably too much time to budget for layout and design because the magazine would need to get to the printer earlier than that would allow. Trujillo said he would know the page count in the next couple of weeks and then would be able to get printing bids.

Donovan asked Jennifer Sawayda to report on *Best Student Essays*. Sawayda said the fall issue of *BSE* was published in December. She said the reception for the fall issue was held January 29. She said there was a good turnout for the reception. She said she is currently soliciting submissions for the spring issue with a first submission deadline of March 12. She said that five people have volunteered for the staff. Sawayda said that the final deadline will probably be March 23 and hopes to go to press by April 16. She said she would like to schedule the reception for the spring issue on May 3.

Donovan asked Eva Dameron for a report on the *Daily Lobo*. Dameron said that she is trying to focus the staff on better writing and content since taking over in January. She said she feels there is a good energy in the newsroom and the staff has taken a lot of initiative on finding stories. Dameron said there have been some issues with copyediting, which she said she is working to address. She said she has brought in former *Daily Lobo* editor, Damian Garde, to copyedit the news. Jim Fisher said he had some concerns regarding headlines and cutlines with photos. Dameron stated she is having roundtable meetings every Sunday to review the week's news coverage. Lissa Knudsen said that she had heard a lot of negative comments about the anal sex column when she was attending the legislative session. Alicia Barry said there had been some concerns at ASUNM as well.

Donovan asked Fisher to give the *Daily Lobo* financial report. Fisher reviewed the financials through January. He said that revenue is down about \$70,000 from the same time period last year. He said that even though he has been trying to reduce expenses to help defray the

consequences of the decreased revenue, he said expenses are currently still exceeding revenues for the year. He said he expects the Lobo to end up in the red for the year. When Donovan asked him how much the Lobo would be in the red by the end of the year, Fisher responded that last year the Lobo was \$42,000 ahead going into the lean months of February and March, but this year the Lobo is \$16,000 down going into the lean months. He said the Lobo could be in the red by \$40,000 or \$50,000 by the end of the year. Donovan asked if the deficit would be coming out of reserves. Fisher replied it would. He said he expects to be spending more money on travel with the Mountain West Conference basketball tournament coming up and that the Lobo men's team will most likely be going on to the NCAA tournament. He said that the *Daily Lobo* is committed to covering the team in the post season.

Fisher then distributed and reviewed the dates for the postings for the editor positions. The Board decided the *Daily Lobo* editor selection will be on April 23 and the *CSW & BSE* editor selection will be on April 30. Fisher said the annual Student Publications banquet is scheduled for Saturday, May 1.

Donovan asked Fisher to address the Student Publications Policy Statement. Fisher noted some proposed changes to the policy statement that he felt the Board needed to review. Fisher said that after a meeting with a university attorney he was considering whether the Board might wish to add a paragraph explaining that students are exclusively responsible for the content of the publications. Fisher recommended a special meeting to review the policy statement. Donovan asked everyone to read the policy carefully and bring recommendations to make the statement consistent with practice. Fisher said he would try to obtain copies of student publications board policy statements from some other universities with comparable publications.

Donovan asked Thorning to report on the Marron Hall committee. Thorning said he had been in contact with Miguel Hidalgo in the campus planning department. Thorning said it has been very hard to get any definitive information, but he has the impression that the building is slated to be demolished in five to ten years. He said he had hoped to make contact with the ASUNM representative who is on the campus planning committee for assistance, but he cannot seem to find out whom that person is or if they have been appointed. Miguel Gandert said many years ago the *Daily Lobo* owned part of the C&J building and had traded it for space in Marron Hall. He said he believed the deal happened around 1975. He said the agreement, if it can be found, might be justification for UNM to continue to provide space for Student Publications if Marron Hall is demolished.

Donovan asked for new business.

Gandert said the Communication and Journalism department is changing its curriculum within journalism and mass communications. He said they are merging the print and broadcast tracts into a multi-media curriculum. He said the department is trying to accomplish this by the fall semester. He said the move would reflect the changing nature of today's journalism. He assured the Board that the curriculum would still include writing, editing, law and ethics classes. He said he is also working to get the Society of Professional Journalists going again within the journalism community in Albuquerque and at UNM. He said that a number of journalism professionals in the community are interested in getting SPJ viable again.

Trapp said he needs contact information at the UNM Communication and Journalism Department to coordinate the summer internship from the New Mexico Press Association. Gandert said he would get that information to Trapp.

Thorning addressed the ASUNM steering rules committee hearing regarding a resolution to cut the fees/funding to the Student Publications budget. Thorning said he had contacted Fisher to get information to make a case to the committee regarding the issue. Thorning said he suggests the Board explore strategies that we have the financial means to continue if this happens again. Thorning said he was alarmed about the resolution and felt this could directly affect both *CSW* and *BSE* as they might have to shut down completely and was concerned that the resolution could seriously harm the financial integrity of the *Daily Lobo*.

Donovan asked Barry to expand on her role in the resolution. Barry explained she wanted to get GPSA, faculty and staff councils to participate in a discussion regarding funding and to share the burden of funding the *Daily Lobo*. Both Donovan and Thorning said that Barry's part in this resolution could be perceived to be a conflict with her position on the Student Publications Board. Thorning said he felt that Barry's position on the Board is to protect the publications and their funding, not to help initiate legislation that could lead to a reduction in funding for UNM student publications. Barry said she felt that other sources could help with the publications funding and that the language ended up getting changed from cutting the funding to asking for a creation of a discussion with other groups on campus about helping with funding. Barry said ASUNM has more groups every year asking for funding from ASUNM. She said that because ASUNM gives a big part of their budget to Student Publications, it would be appropriate for ASUNM to lower its funding to Student Publications in order to get GPSA and the Faculty Senate to give monies to Student Publications. She said that a bill was written, but it failed to pass the committee. Barry said that a resolution was passed is to create a discussion on the matter.

Gandert and Donovan relayed that the Faculty Senate and Staff Council have absolutely no budgets and therefore no monies to allocate to Student Publications or anyone else. Donovan explained that the student publications serve the whole campus community not just individual groups that have specific membership constituencies that are requesting ASUNM funding. Thorning said that only after opposition was raised was the wording changed to remove the funding cut request and to open up a formal invitation for discussion. Thorning said many at the hearing expressed concerns about possibly losing the *Daily Lobo* all together. Donovan said that funding is a problem all over campus and all departments are dealing with this problem. Gandert said that ASUNM needs to get the proper people to the table for the discussion, which would probably be ASUNM and GPSA. When Gandert queried Barry again about the ramifications of this action, Barry said a bill would have to pass for funding to be cut. She stated again that ASUNM does not want Student Publications to lose its funding. Instead, Barry said she would prefer that the funding from ASUNM be lowered and have other groups such as GPSA pick up the remaining funding. Thorning asked Barry if she sponsored the original bill. Barry replied that she did. Thorning said that he was concerned about the original intent of the bill. Barry stated that, if GPSA or other groups are unable or cannot participate in the funding, she would not participate in an active bill to cut funding of Student Publications. Thorning said he felt that if a member of the Student Publications Board is going to be involved in something like this that the Board should be informed beforehand. Barry then read the amended resolution to the Board since she did not have copies available to pass out to all the board members.

Donovan scheduled the next meeting for March 26, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.