

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, September 28, 2012
Marron Hall, Rm. 131

Present: Leslie Donovan (Chair), Robert Trapp, Miguel Gandert, Timothy Carpenter, Bridget Chavez, Damon Hudson, Kris Miranda

Ex-Officio: Jim Fisher, Junfu Han, Elizabeth Cleary, Elizabeth Thayer

Also Present: Carolyn Souther, Svetlana Ozden, Danielle Ronkos, Aaron Wiltse, Sunny Liu,

Absent: V.B. Price, ASUNM President Representative

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

Donovan welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the year. Sunny Liu read an introduction letter from Taylor Bui, the new ASUNM presidential appointee to the Board who was unable to attend the meeting.

Donovan asked Jim Fisher to discuss the Board's adoption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Fisher said the NM Open Meetings Act applies to the Student Publications Board because it determines public policy. He said the act as it applies to the Board requires that all meetings are held in public and that advance notice of the meeting is made public and that minutes of all meetings must be publicly available. Damon Hudson made a motion for the Board to adopt the NM Open Meetings Act. Kris Miranda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donovan asked for a review of the April 27, 2012 meeting minutes. Bridget Chavez made a motion to accept the minutes. Timothy Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donovan asked Junfu Han to report on *Conceptions Southwest*. Han said he has a volunteer staff that includes graduate and undergraduate students. He said he has received six submissions to date. He said the final submission deadline will be Dec. 10. Han said they are accepting electronic, email and Dropbox submissions. Donovan suggested using Submittable.com. She said the software works great for online submissions.

Donovan asked Elizabeth Thayer to report on *Best Student Essays*. Thayer said everything is going well. She said she has hired seven staff members. She said she is speaking to classes and advertising in the *Daily Lobo* and posting flyers. Thayer said the fall submission deadline is Oct. 5. She said she has received six submissions to date, using Submittable.

Donovan asked Elizabeth Cleary for a report on the *Daily Lobo*. Cleary said that because she has appointed a social media editor now the *Daily Lobo* has much more activity on Facebook and Twitter. She said the staff is planning on using live-blogging for some of the election coverage. Cleary said that the sports staff live-blogged the UNM/NMSU football game recently. She said the news desk is having issues obtaining and keeping reporters but noted that there have been a lot of new faces recently. Cleary said that the staff had a table at freshman orientation sessions all summer long and conducted writing workshops over the summer open to all students. She said the *Daily Lobo* won several awards from the NM Press Association. She said awards were for the news coverage of Occupy Albuquerque, design, sports, photo and editorial cartoon. Carpenter asked about the Lobo policy for disrespectful commenters on the *Daily Lobo* Web site. Cleary said she wanted to ask the Board about this issue because current policy seems subjective as to what comments stay up on the Web site and what come down. She said

many comments were directed toward the woman who was interviewed for the story covering the latest suicide on campus. Cleary said that many of the comments were harsh but they only removed the comments that used foul language or were deemed personal attacks.

Hudson said a primary concern is that there is no registration required for the comment section. He said that anyone can post a comment anonymously. Cleary said that there is not a registration process currently and wishes there were one. Fisher and Cleary said they would find out if the settings can be changed to enhance authentication. Hudson stated a concern about the coverage of suicides on campus and how the *Daily Lobo* covers those types of stories.

Robert Trapp asked Cleary about her meeting with Dianne Anderson. Cleary said she felt she was invited to the meeting under false pretenses. Cleary said she was told that the meeting would be about how to best get in touch with the staff of UNM Communications. Cleary said that almost immediately she was attacked from all sides about the content of the *Daily Lobo*. She said she was told that the content is unreliable and distrustful and that the *Daily Lobo* needed a faculty advisor in the newsroom to monitor content. Cleary said that the University Communications staff kept making the distinction that the *Daily Lobo* staff are students who need a faculty advisor, which she inferred as the Lobo staff not having the same right to publish as freely as a commercial newspaper. Cleary said she told them that the *Daily Lobo* did not want or need a faculty advisor. She said that another meeting was held with Fisher, herself and Diane Anderson a few days later. She said Anderson was somewhat apologetic and stated they wanted to work with the Lobo. Cleary said that things are much better and that department has given the *Daily Lobo* several news tips. Fisher mentioned that President Frank would like to meet with the *Daily Lobo* editorial staff and Board members.

Donovan asked Fisher for a Student Publications financial report.

Fisher first discussed some issues that came up over the summer concerning *Daily Lobo* printing. He said that the *Daily Lobo* printing bid went out for proposals in June. He said that Signature Offset had by far the lowest bid and was granted the contract to print the Lobo for the upcoming year. He said about a month after the bid was awarded he was informed by Signature Offset that its plant in Albuquerque was closing. Fisher said that if we were to continue printing with Signature Offset the Lobo would have to be printed in Las Cruces and trucked up every day. Fisher said the printing job went out for bid again and Vanguard Printing was awarded the contract. He said Vanguard is a local printer and felt that they are printing a better quality product but at a higher cost and noted that printing expenses would be increasing for the upcoming year.

Fisher noted other changes occurring during the summer. He said that Mark Holm was hired as the *Daily Lobo* photo coach. Fisher said that Holm brings many years of experience to the students and is not only expert in visual journalism but also in newsroom management. He said that the coaches' presence is meant to ensure the independence of the *Daily Lobo* by giving instruction through post-publication critiques. Gandert said he could think of no better person to be working with the students in this role.

Fisher said that the primary project this summer has been the development of iPad and smart phone applications for the *Daily Lobo*. He said the tablet app is live and looks good but still need additional work to be where he wants it to be in order to release it. He said there will be apps for iPhone and android as well. He said the department hosted a welcome back/orientation event in August for the *Daily Lobo* staff members at the Albuquerque Press Club. He said there were presentations from Kate Nash, *Daily Lobo* writing coach, Mark Holm, and Sean Griswold, news producer at KOB-TV. Fisher said that several members from the Albuquerque media were also in attendance.

Fisher then reviewed the financials for the *Daily Lobo*, *Best Student Essays* and *Conceptions Southwest*.

He said the Lobo ended up in the black for the school year, noting that revenue finished strong in April and May. He said that summer revenue was also strong. Fisher said that the allocation from GPSA to each magazine had been eliminated for this year. He said he and the editors are talking to Kris Miranda to explore ways to continue funding through GPSA. He asked the Board in the meantime to approve budgeting \$1350 from each magazine reserve to cover expenses for the upcoming year. Carpenter made a motion for the Board to allocate \$1350 from each magazine's reserve to meet this year's budget. Gandert seconded the motion. The motion passed. Fisher said that the magazines plan to work with GPSA to ensure funding this year and in the future.

Donovan asked for new business.

Carpenter said the new student SPJ Chapter is having its first meeting on October 3 at 5:00 p.m. Fisher asked if a Student Publications Board member might be selected at that meeting. Carpenter said that he hoped to have that happen. Carpenter then congratulated Donovan on *Scribendi* being nominated for a national Pacemaker award. Donovan thanked him and said that the issue nominated was her last with the magazine.

Donovan scheduled the next meeting for November 9 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.