

UNM Student Publications Board Meeting
Friday, April 14, 2017
Marron Hall, Room 131

Present: Leslie Donovan, Robert Trapp, Monica Kowal, Gabe Gallegos, Tyler Narvaez

Ex-officio: Daven Quelle, David Lynch

Also Present: Carolyn Souther, Elizabeth Sanchez, Johnny Vizcaino

Absent: Joseph Bartolotta, Jessica Campbell, Sabina Rai, SPJ representative, Keriden Brown, Caitlin Carcerano

Monica Kowal called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Kowal asked for a review of the February 23, 2017 meeting minutes. Leslie Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Trapp. The motion passed.

Gabe Gallegos made a motion for the *Daily Lobo* editor interviews to be moved before the *Daily Lobo* editor report on the agenda. Tyler Narvaez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Daven Quelle reviewed the process for selecting *Daily Lobo* editor applicants. She said the board's usual method was to go into closed session to interview the applicants and then return to open session for board members to state their preference for editor. She stated that the candidates are Elizabeth Sanchez and Johnny Vizcaino.

Trapp made a motion to close the board meeting for interviewing and reviewing the candidates, seconded by Leslie Donovan. Motion carried.

The meeting went into closed session at 3:05 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 4:29 p.m.

Kowal thanked both candidates for interviewing for the position. She said the board was impressed with both interviews, in particular Sanchez's leadership skills and balanced approach and Vizcaino's vision of digital future for the *Daily Lobo*. Quelle took a roll call of board members present and their choice for *Daily Lobo* editor. Donovan, Gallegos, Kowal, Narvaez and Trapp selected Elizabeth Sanchez. Kowal congratulated Sanchez on being selected as the next *Daily Lobo* editor. Quelle encouraged Vizcaino to stay involved with the *Daily Lobo*.

Kowal asked David Lynch for his final editor's report on the *Daily Lobo*. Lynch reviewed digital analytics, which shows increases in traffic for the year, with sessions increasing 10%. He stated he is satisfied with the year overall, and that the goal to emphasize news was achieved. He said that the desk editors were able to provide direction and hire reporters to accomplish the goal of training young journalists. He said that desk editors Fin Martinez, Matt Reisen and Nick Fojud, are graduating this

semester, along with Lynch. He said that Robert Maler, sports editor, is staying on for one more year. He said that graduating desk editors have been grooming staff to take over their desks.

Lynch said that he and Reisen attended the Christopher J. Georges Conference on College Journalism annual event sponsored by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He said the opportunity was provided by a *Daily Lobo* alumna, Felicia Fonseca, who is currently an AP reporter in Arizona and a 2017 Nieman Fellow. Lynch stated it was a great opportunity to meet with other college newspapers who are facing similar challenges. He commented that the Harvard newspaper hires 400 reporters, and does not pay them. Quelle said that not only did Fonseca arrange the opportunity, but also secured funding to provide for housing and travel. Lynch said he hoped the *Daily Lobo* would now be invited annually.

Lynch reported on two pieces of legislation presented to the ASUNM Senate Finance Committee to strike the 8.5% funding from student fees allocated to Student Publications. He said he was notified two hours before the finance committee meeting but was able to gather ten to twelve newsroom and advertising staff to attend on short notice. He said that even Gallegos and Narvaez, who are a part of ASUNM, were unaware of the proposals until a couple hours before. Lynch said the two bills removed the current funding mechanism and required Student Publications go through the SFRB funding process, stating that ASUNM wanted oversight into funding provided. Lynch reported that Gallegos made the case that he and Narvaez, appointed to the publications board by ASUNM, were the oversight. Lynch also said that he warned ASUNM that a change to the funding would tether the *Daily Lobo* to student government, and endanger the independence of the paper. Lynch reported ASUNM Finance Committee decided to table the issue, recognizing that the conversations should happen before bills are presented. Narvaez noted that bills to amend the constitution would have to pass the finance committee, then the full senate, followed by a vote of the student body and then by approved by the Board of Regents. Lynch said that a meeting was held the following Monday with the two sponsoring senators who had sponsored the bill, Gallegos, Kowal, Quelle, Reisen, Celia Raney and ASUNM President Kyle Biederwolf to educate the senators on the history of the allocation and the ASUNM representation on the publications board. He said the senators apologized for not having communicated clearly, in advance, and without gathering information first. Lynch noted that Biederwolf told the senators that they needed to hold conversations with groups before sponsoring legislation that impacts them. Kowal stated that she made clear the lines of communication about funding should be the editor first, then the business manager, then the chair of the Publications Board.

Lynch said that the Student Publications banquet will be on Saturday, April 29 at the Albuquerque Press Club, with games at 3:30 p.m., barbeque at 5:30 p.m. and awards presentations at 6:30 p.m. He invited all board members to attend.

Kowal and the board thanked Lynch for his leadership of the *Daily Lobo* for the past year and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Kowal asked Quelle to report on the financials. Quelle reviewed the financials through March 2017. She said that local revenue is starting to increase again, but campus sales will not match projected revenue, given the current budget situation on campus. Narvaez, who is the *Daily Lobo* advertising manager, reported that local sales from January through April are up over last year. She reported that the

advertising staff is already selling the *Lobo Deals* magazine for the fall, and has several full page ads already books for August and September.

Quelle said that she and Kowal met with Travis Scholten, the interim GPSA finance chair about the funding the magazines receive from GPSA. She said that currently the magazines receive funding from GPSA on a sliding scale from 1 to 1½ percent. She said the council has discussed changing the process so that the magazines would have to ask for funding, rather than an automated process, as is currently in their bylaws. She said that she and Kowal each submitted memos to GPSA against the proposed change. She said the council will vote on the proposed change at their next meeting on April 29. Quelle noted that if the funding changed, it would be effective for the 2018-19 year.

Quelle reported that the new University Archivist is planning to continue digitizing *Daily Lobo* issues from 1985, when the digital issues in the university digital repository end, through 2009, when the digital issues the *Daily Lobo* has posted online begin. She said the project is scheduled to take place over the summer.

Quelle said that *Best Student Essays* is planning their release party for Thursday, April 27, at 5 p.m. in the UNM Honors forum. She stated that *Conceptions Southwest* was planning a reception for Wednesday, April 26, but that the reception may be rescheduled because the magazine was sent back to the printer due to a poor binding job.

Kowal said that at the next meeting the board should be discussed. She reported that ASUNM appointments are two-year terms, so students on the board have another year. She asked Trapp when his term was over. Trapp replied that his term is up this year, and a new appointment would be made at the annual meeting of the NMPA in November. Quelle said that while the board would like to keep Trapp, Martin Salazar could be a possible replacement for Trapp, if he did not want to serve again. Kowal said that Joe Bartolotta may be taking a position at another university next year, and would likely need to be replaced on the board. Kowal stated that Donovan's term is also ending. She said Donovan and Bartolotta are the faculty senate appointed representatives. She said that Quelle has provided a list of potential candidates, including *Daily Lobo* alumni who work at UNM. Kowal reported that she is working with Michael Marcotte at Communications and Journalism to help reinstate the Society of Professional Journalists student chapter.

Kowal stated that the next meeting will be Friday, April 28, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.