

DRAFT

New Mexico State University

March 2006

Proposal for the Creation of an Association of Graduate Students
(13th draft)

DRAFT

Graduate Student Council

Association of Graduate Students Constitutional Committee

Committee on Open Forums

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**APPENDIX (A) ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
OF
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Declaration of Sovereignty

Due to the distinctive needs of the graduate students of New Mexico State University, it has become imperative for the graduate student body to separate from the Associated Students of New Mexico State University in order to establish a sovereign governing body that will represent the graduate student body.

This Declaration of Sovereignty is based on certain truths: Graduate students have a right to a rigorous academic curriculum, the right to conduct research and the right to produce creative work; they have a right to develop and grow in their discipline and profession; they have the right to cultivate and maintain cultural and social ties, the right to voice their opinions and the right to seek student government office; they have the right to gain and demonstrate teaching, tutoring and mentoring skills without being subject to restrictive or arbitrary political or social obstacles in achieving those ends.

All student governments exist by virtue of the students represented. When a student government ceases to represent its full constituency and restricts the voices of its minority population, the students have the right to change their government in a manner that allows all voices to be represented equally and fairly.

APPENDIX (B)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
OF
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

PREAMBLE

We, the Associated Graduate Students of New Mexico State University, in order to support the rights, issues, and needs of graduate students at New Mexico State University, and in order to form a truly representative graduate student government, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Associated Graduate Students of New Mexico State University.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization is the Association of Graduate Students of New Mexico State University, hereafter referred to as AGS.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

AGS shall represent and serve the graduate students of New Mexico State University, as enumerated in this Constitution.

A. Goal

AGS shall strive to enhance the academic environment of graduate students at New Mexico State University by facilitating an intellectual environment that promotes rights, interests and the development of the University community through advocacy, education and financial support.

B. Policy

1. AGS encourages every graduate student's effort to carry out the objectives of AGS, and the Association shall respect the autonomy of the individual, while acknowledging and abiding by applicable University policies and procedures.
2. AGS encourages social, cultural, academic and research activities for graduate students.
3. AGS will only fund individual graduate students or clubs with a membership of greater than 50% graduate students.

C. Governmental Structure

The governing structure of AGS shall consist of Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches.

ARTICLE III. DEFINITIONS

A. Association of Graduate Students:

The representative government of the graduate student body of New Mexico State University.

B. AGS Member:

Any graduate student enrolled at New Mexico State University who has paid the AGS fee for the current semester.

C. Academic Year:

The day after the spring semester ends through the last day of the subsequent spring semester.

D. Constitution:

The original portion of this document passed by AGS membership and ratified by the AGS Senate and including amendments.

E. Bylaws:

The portions of this document that clarify, designate, or ratify sections of the Constitution.

F. This Document:

The integrated Constitution and Bylaws of AGS.

G. Bill:

A draft of a proposed law presented for approval to the Senate and the law enacted from such a draft. Text of Bills is always shown in this document in a plain (Roman) typeface.

H. Censure:

A written expression of strong disapproval.

I. Sponsor:

A legislator who proposes and urges adoption of a bill.

J. Business Day:

A day on which school is in session.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE

The Executive branch shall be composed of a President, a Vice President and appointed cabinet members.

A. Qualifications

All members of the Executive shall be members of AGS, and shall be a fulltime student as defined by the Graduate School.

B. Election

The President and Vice President shall be elected in a general election as set forth in Article XII of this document.

C. Term Limits

1. The President may serve a maximum of two terms.
2. The Vice President may serve a maximum of two terms.

D. Replacement of the President

In the case that the President is unable to complete a term, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy.

E. Replacement of the Vice President

In the case that the Vice President is unable to complete a term, the President will nominate a candidate to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

F. Duties of the President

1. Administer the budget.
2. Appoint cabinet members as deemed necessary. Positions shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. Appoint an official representative from AGS to the New Mexico State University Board of Regents to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
4. Chair and coordinate the Executive branch.
5. Appoint Justices and committee members.
6. Oversee Executive ad-hoc committees.
7. Appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
8. Other duties as defined by AGS Bylaws.

G. Duties of the Vice President

1. Preside over the Senate.
2. Coordinate committee meetings.

ARTICLE V. LEGISLATIVE

A. Membership

1. Senators shall be members of AGS.
2. The Legislature shall consist of twelve Senators, two from each of the following six colleges:
 - a. Agriculture and Home Economics
 - b. Arts and Sciences
 - c. Business Administration and Economics
 - d. Education
 - e. Engineering
 - f. Health and Social Services

B. Election

Senators shall be elected in a general election as set forth in Article XII of this document.

C. Term Limit

A Senator may be allowed to serve a maximum of three terms.

D. Attendance, Censorship and Removal

1. A Senator with two absences from Senate meetings in the same semester shall be censured by the Senate, and a Censure Notification Brief shall be filed with the Supreme Court by the Vice President or by the Senate Pro Tempore.
2. Should a Senator have three or more absences from Senate meetings in the same semester, the Senate shall have the authority to recommend, with 2/3 majority, that the Senator be removed by the AGS Supreme Court.
3. A majority of the Supreme Court must vote in favor of removal to remove a Senator.

E. Leadership

1. The Vice President shall preside over the Senate and shall cast a vote only when the Senate is equally divided.
2. The Senate shall elect a President Pro Tempore. Should the Vice President not be in attendance, or should the Vice President assume the Presidency, the President Pro Tempore shall preside over the Senate.

F. Powers and Duties

1. The Senate shall receive a budget from the President during the first regular Senate meeting of each spring semester.
 - a. The Senate shall approve or reject the budget with 2/3 majority.
 - b. The President shall, in open Senate hearings during the second Senate meeting of the spring semester, make amendments to the budget until a 2/3 majority vote is obtained.

- c. The Senate may approve funds within budget constraints only after the budget is approved.
2. The Senate shall have authority to pass legislation, amend the Constitution and create Bylaws.
 - a. At least a 3/4 majority must vote in favor of Amending the Constitution.
 - b. At least a 2/3 majority must vote in favor of adding a Bylaw.
3. The Senate shall conduct investigations of alleged wrong doing by the Judiciary.
 - a. At least a 3/4 majority must vote in favor of removal of a member of the Judiciary.

G. Bills

1. Bills shall be passed by a majority vote of the Senate and shall be sent to the AGS Secretary in order for the President to sign.
2. The President shall have the power to sign a bill into law.
3. Should the President return the bill unsigned within 10 business days, 2/3 majority of the Senate may override the veto.
4. Should the President fail to return the bill to the President Pro Tempore within ten business days, the bill shall become law.
5. Should the President veto part of any bill, 3/4 majority of the Senate may override the partial veto.

ARTICLE VI. JUDICIAL (supreme court)

A. Membership

1. Justices and the Chief Justice shall be members of AGS.
2. The Judiciary shall consist of three Justices.
 - a. The President shall appoint a Chief Justice from any college.
3. The President shall appoint The Chief Justice three weeks before the current Chief Justice's term terminates.
4. The President shall appoint Justices three weeks before the end of the fall and spring semesters.
5. Appointments shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
6. No member of the judicial shall hold any other office in AGS.

B. Term of Office

1. A term shall be one year.
 - a. The term shall terminate one year from appointment.
2. A Justice may be reappointed with a majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

A. Standing Committees:

1. An Elections Committee shall be formed and maintained as set forth in Article VIII of this document.
2. A Finance Committee shall be formed and maintained as set forth in Article IX of this document.
3. An Elections Committee shall be formed and maintained.
 - a. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for soliciting names for elections and appointments.
 - b. The Senate shall direct the Elections Committee.
4. Other necessary committees shall be formed as the Senate sees fit.
 - a. The Senate shall decide which committees are necessary.
 - b. A standing committee may be formed by 2/3 majority of the Senate.
5. Standing Committees shall be composed of Senators.
6. Committee members and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Vice President and affirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
7. Responsibilities
 - a. Provide a monthly written report to the Senate.
 - b. Other duties directed by the Senate in writing.

B. Ad-Hoc Committees:

1. Membership
 - a. Committee members shall be members of AGS.
 - b. Committee members shall be appointed by the President, Vice President or Senators.
 - c. All Committees must include at least one Senator as a member.
 - d. The Committee Chair shall be decided amongst committee members.
2. Ad-hoc committees shall be created either by the President or by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. Committees created by the Senate shall dissolve upon the completion of duties prescribed by the Senate.
4. Committees created by the President shall dissolve at the end of the term of the President that created it.

ARTICLE VIII. JOINT COMMITTEE

A. Membership

The committee shall be composed of three Senators.

B. Procedures

1. Coordinate shared programs with ASNMSU.
2. All other procedures will be defined by the Senate.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. Membership

1. The committee shall be composed of six Senators and the Treasurer.
2. The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee and vote only in the event of a tie.
3. The President Pro Tempore may not be a member of the Finance Committee.

B. Procedures

1. Funding bills can be proposed by any member of AGS with the sponsorship of a Senator from that member's college.
2. Sponsors shall introduce all funding bills to the Finance Committee.
 - a. Copies of the funding bill shall be distributed to Finance Committee members.
 - b. The sponsor of the bill shall give a presentation to the committee not to exceed fifteen minutes in length on the proposed funding bill.
 - c. The sponsor can request ten additional minutes with the approval of the Finance Committee Chair.
 - d. Each committee member may ask up to five questions of the funding bill sponsor.
3. A decision shall be made immediately following questioning.
 - a. The sponsor shall be excused from the proceedings while the committee deliberates.
 - b. The Committee shall take no more than thirty minutes to reach a decision on the funding bill.
 - c. The funding bill representative shall be called back, and the decision shall be rendered.
4. The Finance Committee shall present a written account of deliberation on all funding bills considered to the sponsor, Vice President and President Pro Tempore.
5. The President may approve funding bills rejected by the Finance Committee, and 2/3 majority of the Senate may override Presidential approval.
6. Finance Committee notes shall be made available to the Senate and appended to the Senate meeting minutes.
7. All approved funding bills in excess of \$1000 must be approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
8. The Treasurer shall be charged with maintaining information about current budget constraints and communicating those to the President, Vice President, and Senate Pro Tempore.
9. The Senate shall not consider funding bills that are proposed in excess of available budget funds.
10. Funds that are left over at the end of the academic year in excess of expenditures shall be deposited in the building and maintenance fund.

ARTICLE X. APPROPRIATIONS

AGS shall receive graduate student fees each semester to be distributed according to the approved AGS budget and through funding bills passed by the Senate or Finance Committee during each semester.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

All AGS meetings shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act of New Mexico.

A. Schedule

1. An agenda shall be posted in the Roundup no less than twenty four hours before any scheduled AGS meeting.
2. The Executive Cabinet shall meet twice per month at a time of their own choosing.
3. The Senate shall meet twice a month, and each meeting will not adjourn until all immediate business is concluded.
4. Committee members shall schedule committee meetings.
5. The AGS shall hold a monthly forum on the second Monday of the month at 4:00pm.
 - a. All AGS members shall be encouraged to attend and participate.
 - b. The Secretary shall publicize forum meeting times and agendas to all AGS members.

B. Quorums

1. At least 2/3 of the Senators are required to be present to conduct business.
2. At least fifty percent of a committee's members shall constitute a quorum.

C. Minutes

1. The Secretary or a designated replacement shall take detailed notes at all AGS meetings.
2. Notes from the previous meeting shall be read before conducting any business at all AGS meetings.

D. Information Dissemination

1. All Senate meetings and open forums shall be broadcast either live or on delayed web video or audio to AGS members who are not members of the Main Campus graduate student population unless such action would induce unnecessary hardship, as defined by a majority of the Senate.
2. Unofficial meeting notes shall be made available within one week to all AGS members through electronic media.
3. Official meeting notes shall be made available within one month to all AGS members through electronic media.

E. Suspending Rules

A 4/5 majority vote of the Senate is required to suspend any rule.

F. Procedure

Robert Rules of Order will be followed unless specifically stated otherwise in this document.

ARTICLE XII. ELECTION RULES

A. Election

1. A President, a Vice President and twelve Senators, two from each of the six colleges, shall be elected by the most votes cast by AGS members casting ballots.
2. The AGS shall adopt the election procedures of ASNMSU for at least the first year of operation.
3. The Election Committee shall propose future action and amendments to this section.

B. Representation of Undecided Majors

1. AGS members not belonging to a represented college shall be allowed to choose a college to represent them until such a time that they become affiliated with a college as defined by the Graduate School.
2. AGS members not belonging to a represented college shall be allowed to choose which college to vote in during the balloting process.

C. Terms of Office

1. Each elected Executive officer and member of the Senate shall serve a term of one year.
2. All appointed officers shall serve a term commencing at the time of appointment and shall serve the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

A. Amendments

1. The Constitution shall be amended by 2/3 majority of the Senate.
2. Proposed amendments must be made available to all voting members at least two weeks prior to a vote.
3. Amendments shall become binding immediately after approval from the Office of Campus Activities.

B. Ratification

This Constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions.

APPENDIX (C) FORUM RESPONSES

Anything enclosed in [] is added for clarification. Everything else is unedited and copied exactly. Tiara Grant has possession of the original index cards if any further clarification or examination is desired. ** Please note that the Committee on Open Forums does not necessarily agree with or condone some or all of the specific responses given. **

Undergraduate Responses:

- Recycling, conservation, sustainable energy
- Grant proposals → student (peer) review
- Talk to Children's Village about Night Care

Graduate Responses:

- Student research funding
- I'm here in support of the separation of GSC from ASNMSU. Grads need more autonomy and representation in order to best serve the grad student population.
- I'm also here in support of increased allocation of funds for graduate research conference travel.
- [\$]160,000. – only [\$]15,000 for grad students.
- Have no programs for grad students.
- Single need for grad students to govern their own money.
- Funding to graduate students
- Money
- Access to Services
- Create an Award for Thesis writers in graduate school to cut pressure and help people graduate.
- Money toward conference travel awards, research grants etc.
- Separation of funds for ASNMSU if AGS does not get to be created
- Can we separate out \$ for grad students vs. undergrads
- Funding for research, easier process for trying to get that funding (time commitment)
- Tuition waiver
- Other ways to get information out to other students about ASNMSU (many don't know about it)
- Funding for research
- More representation of grad students in the ASNMSU
- Night care for students who attend classes at night and have kids.
- Research funding for materials AND travel

- Better health care
- More funding for stipends
- Tuition waivers for grad assistants
- Grad student government for grad student needs

- Funding for research and travel to conferences is much more critical to our educational experience at NMSU than juice bars and climbing walls, yet it is incredibly difficult for graduate students to get funding for these from ASNMSU. The grad students only benefit from a small fraction of the student fees they pay.
- We feel the graduate students are not listened to enough, relative to the other students, in the administration. Showing an organized effort in AGS can help form a more coherent voice and will work to ameliorate this situation.

- The primary concern I have is the difficulty in obtaining funding for research and travel to conferences.
- A secondary concern is the level of Graduate Student salaries. Admittedly the cost of living in Las Cruces is lower than avg., but the stipend/salaries are lower than those at similar institutions for similar services (Based on conversations with friends and collaborates in similar positions).

- Thesis/Project/Research \$
- Graduate Computer Lab
- Offices for grads that do not have TA/GAships.
- More GA/TAships
- Scholarships for grads that don't get TA/GAships.
- Discount prices for laptop rentals.

- Need for tuition waivers
- More money for research, travel to conferences to present and attend and network
- [Money] that is accessible → information that clearly entails how to apply for money
- Access through library to more research journals (it's very limited currently)

- Tuition waiver for GA and TA
- Funding for research
- Facilities for GA and TA (offices, computers, etc.)
- Recycling programs (plastic, glass, paper)
- Public information published on website

- What is the benefit of forming a GSA vs. trying to change the laws of ASNMSU?
- What type of temp fix (intermediate changes) can we make to aid the transition?

- I agree that the graduate students should have their own governing body (AGS). I use things on campus like the climbing wall and Nite Ride, and would like to continue using these facilities. However, the fact that grads pay ~ 160,000 USD per two semesters, and only receive ~ **9%** of this money which we invest (in terms of programs), is not practical and it is undemocratic.

- Grads should have access to more money in order to help us pay for research (hard/software, publication costs) as well as conferences/collaborations (travel/per diem to feed ourselves). Graduate Students only help NMSU in receiving recognition due to publication, so it is only (should be) in the BEST INTEREST of NMSU to help us accomplish our research goals.
- My first paper was just accepted to publication; however, I may have to pay for the publication cost out of my own pocket. Can you believe this?
- Graduate Students getting less than \$30,000 of the \$160,000 we pay in student fees is unacceptable. Allowing grads to control the fees we pay is the only solution; ASNMSU will never allow us our share. Forming the AGS is tantamount is achieving this goal.
- The University is built on the back of graduate students. We do most of the research (with advisement from our Profs), teach a large percentage of classes, and do an amazing amount of outreach nationally and in the Las Cruces area. On top of that, we are required to find most of our own funding for research. I feel the least we deserve is to get our fair share of funds we put into the system to help alleviate our financial difficulties. More time spent on research and less on finding funding will only benefit everyone at the University.
- Assistantships being available
- Assistantships being on par with peer institutions
- Tuition waivers being available, even if by application
- Having the autonomy to decide the fate of graduate student fees
- Having an organized voice and being visible to the University and the State Government
- Getting paid on time
- My primary concern is appropriate distribution of student fees. It is obvious that we are not getting out the benefits that we pay in.
- Research is paramount. The quality of our research directly affects the quality of the University in the objective and subjective measurements.
- [Research] attracts better students, faculty, and so forth
- [Research] also benefits undergraduates and everyone associated with the University.
- I heartily support separating from ASNMSU
- We need
- Daycare
- Sovereignty to allocate our funds
- Research money
- Travel funds
- Conference fees money
- Job search \$
- Grad student research library/area
- Quit kissing the Greek's a**. Us other students matter too!
- Pardon my French but F*** the Greeks/ASNMSU

- We need more research funding, grants and tuition waivers for current grad students. There aren't many RAs and it's hard to do research, take classes, and TA. A lot of people don't have time to TA and there aren't many research funding opportunities other than federal grants and fellowships.
- I am concerned that my fees are not serving my fellow graduate students.
- I am concerned that undergraduate students have too much say about the activities graduate students undertake.
- I am concerned that graduate students are not being treated with dignity. I believe that graduate students should have more opportunities to develop themselves professionally.
- I believe that a role of the graduate school should be to act as an advocate for graduate students. This is in conjunction with their other roles.
- Diversity at all levels among the ASNMSU and AGS (when it is formed)
- Research funding, conference funding.
- A separate grad student association
- A grad office in Corbet Center
- Night Ride program, aggie safe walk, discount program, SLAP, computer labs, readership, daycare
- Grad lobbying committee
- Grad representation at Federal, State, and University level
- Social work research center
- What are the drawbacks to creating AGS?
- How will AGS help to get us better health insurance and tuition waivers?
- We are in a severe need of additional faculty in the Psych dept and others. How will AGS help with this problem?
- We have been told that NM legislature may cut money to Universities and that each department may get less money – therefore I might lose my TAship because of lack of funding. Other than getting someone on the lobbying committee, what will AGS do to address this?
- Thank you to the AGS Committee and all those that are putting such great effort into this – it is much needed.
- Having grad students represented by a majority undergraduates is like bringing a bunch of Canadians down to New Mexico to run the State. It's not about the separate colleges splitting, it's about 2 groups (grads and undergrads) being represented by one of those groups and as a result not being represented. Grad student's need to have full access to the funds they contribute so that all grads are equally represented w/out being trampled by undergrads who have none of the same interests or concerns. In addition, an organized graduate government could apply formalized pressure on the administration to serve our needs.
- The administration also needs to recognize that, as 1 of the few grad program that does not waive or at least discount tuition, the University is going to have a difficult

time attracting student, which in long run hurts the University in terms of quality of research done and national recognition.

Anonymous Responses:

- Graduate students have significantly different goals and needs from undergraduate students.
- Having AGS would help reach these goals more efficiently.

- Use common sense
- At this point, just give what is due

- ASNMSU is not representative of grad students.
- ASNMSU does not provide programs that benefit the true needs of grad students.

- Research funding for National Exposure
- A voice with the administrative decisions of NMSU

- Research fund, fund to go to conferences, ..
- As international graduate student, we really need scholarship
- Some of my friends couldn't come because the international tuition fees are so high. We would expect to have more scholarship for international students.

- Research funding – to attend and present at conferences
- Scholarships to fund research projects.
- Tuition waivers
- Represent the graduate students as a whole – to recognize us
- Improve health insurance
- Support research journal subscriptions in the library
- Address student problems with student family housing
- Teaching/research load problems
- Thesis/dissertation date changes

- When should graduate students expect to see assistance such as tuition waivers or competitive wages? After all, we are a major asset for this University.
- How can we get undergrads to realize and understand how important grad students are to this University? For example, J. Burn expects grad students to raise their own money for functions like GRAS. Perhaps if all undergraduates should be able to raise the money themselves.
- When should we expect to see more “job security” throughout our graduate career? We literally live semester to semester and there's no guarantee we'll have funding.
- Quentin sure had a lot of “I don't know” answers. Please do your research and be prepared for functions like the forum. After all, you're representing ASNMSU.

- I am concerned that this action goes forward while the current leaders are still here. This issue has been brought forward before, but because of long delays, the effort was not successful because leaders left and the issue died.
- What is the main problem or what's against forming a Graduate Student Association?
- What % of undergrads of NMSU continue as Grad Students at NMSU if the opposition from ASNMSU?
- The Survey?? I think it's necessary to incorporate the references of grad payments.
- It seems to for a Separate Grad Association takes lot of time. What's ASNMSU's impact on this problem since they are against it?
- Quentin, is your lack of professionalism at this form indicative of how you feel about these forums?
- How many of our peer institution have a sovereign graduate student government?
- What has been the feedback from grads and undergrads? Positive or negative?
- Why hasn't ASNMSU paid their half of the advertising cost for these forums?
- Why is it called ASNMSU when less than 10% of students vote? It seems more a Greek buddy system that does nothing to encourage broader participation. No way is this democracy.
- We pay more than \$160,000 in fees per academic year and yet we only get a hard fought \$15,000 back. Don't graduate students have the ability to better spend their money? And getting money from ASNMSU is like pulling teeth.
- First, I do not think that Dean Lacey is really very supportive of graduate students. The fact that she is more or less undermining efforts by graduate students to govern ourselves is rather disappointing in our every endeavor, then what is her job?
- Second, ASNMSU does not represent the views of graduate students. As a former undergrad myself, I did not understand what it means to be a graduate student. The things that interest undergrads do not interest me: athletic teams, homecoming, Greek societies or others do not interest me; I do not want my student fee paying for these activities or groups!
- Finally, the single greatest thing that NMSU could do to improve status is to have admission standards!
- Health care: why can we not but into the University's employee health care plan? The one that is available to graduate students is not worth even \$5!
- Conference travel awards: Why are they not available in equal numbers for each semester? Many of us do not have conferences until the Spring or Summer, which means these awards are already disbursed before we can apply.
- Research money: Why are our student fees not available to fund research grants to graduate students? As a scientist, most of my own research has been funded through external grants but many students have no money for research. I would like most of my student fees to support the research of other students who do not have the opportunity to obtain external grants.

APPENDIX (D) How to Get Funds from ASNMSU

Everything on this list should be done before your trip, preferably 2 months PRIOR to your trip.

1. Go to the Graduate Council and request funding from them. Ask for about 50%; \$500 is the maximum we can request (see graduate council funding request sheet). The graduate council meets twice a month; talk to Morgan for details.
 - a. If the GSC has already given \$500 to ESGS (individual disbursement) or if there is still some money remaining before ESGS reaches its maximum, but not enough to cover the amount requested, the GSC president must write a letter stating this. You should give this letter to the ASNMSU senator who is writing your bill.
2. You can request funding for a conference you are presenting at, a conference you are attending but not presenting at, and competitions.
3. Be prepared, you should have your budget and evidence of any estimated costs. (i.e. airline estimates, registration fee estimates, other transport fees)
4. Fill out ASNMSU community service form (from Morgan or J.R or <http://asnmsu.nmsu.edu/> and click on Community Service.) This means you should have already participated in at least 2 community service projects – 1 off campus 1 on campus –and at least 3 members must participate. You should participate in both of these if you are requesting money.
5. Once you've received approval from the Graduate Council move on to the next steps.
6. Find an ASNMSU senator to represent you, and they will write a bill, which they will present to the ASNMSU council. Graduate Council meetings are held twice a month, and there are usually 5 senators present at these meetings.
7. This is the schedule you must follow after you have contacted an ASNMSU senator.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Tuesday your bill must be turned in by the senator.	Monday, by noon, your community service forms must be turned in. You can turn them in to the ASNMSU office yourself or have your senator do this.	Thursday –6:00 p.m. Senate Gallery – discussion and vote of your bill –attendance is not mandatory
Thursday 6:00 p.m. Senate Gallery –the first reading of your bill – attendance is not mandatory	Tuesday 6:00 p.m. ASNMSU office conference room – Community Affairs Meeting – attendance is mandatory	
	Wednesday 6:00 p.m. ASNMSU office conference room – Rules Meeting – attendance is mandatory	
	Thursday 6:00 p.m. ASNMSU office conference room – Finance Meeting – attendance is mandatory	

8. Once your bill has passed the ASNMSU Senate it will be passed on to the ASNMSU President, who will have 2 weeks to approve or veto the bill.
9. If approved the money will be deposited into the ESGS's I-3 account. **SAVE ALL YOUR RECEIPTS!!!** In order to access this money you need to have all of your receipts as well as evidence that you presented at the conference. You must see the Comptroller, Lydia Quintana, in the ASNMSU office to receive your money. **THIS MUST BE DONE NO LATER THAN 3 DAYS AFTER RETURNING FROM YOUR TRIP.**
10. If the ASNMSU President vetoes your bill you need to contact your ASNMSU Senator to discuss other alternatives.

APPENDIX (E) Graduate Student Fees

	Full-time	fund	Part-time	fund	Total fund
Agriculture & Home Economics	164	5,904.00	91	3,048.50	8,952.50
Arts & Sciences	614	22,104.00	228	7,638.00	29,742.00
Business Admin & Economics	116	4,176.00	62	2,077.00	6,253.00
Education	291	10,476.00	799	26,766.50	37,242.50
Engineering	245	8,820.00	123	4,120.50	12,940.50
Graduate School (undeclared)	48	1,728.00	118	3,953.00	5,681.00
Health & Social Services	132	4,752.00	122	4,087.00	8,839.00
Total	1610	57,960.00	1543	51,690.50	109,650.50

total yearly fees collected for AGS: **\$219,301.00**

*Based on 2004-2005 enrollment numbers.

Fees include:

ASNMSU Student Activity	\$31.00 (full time equivalent)
ASNMSU Endowment	\$5.00
ASNMSU Maintenance fund	\$1.00

APPENDIX (F) Appropriations to grad accounts, FY: 04/05, 03/04 and 02/03

**FY
04/05**

SB#	ORG	AMOUNT
144	Earth Sciences	\$670.00
145	Earth Sciences	\$778.00
153	Astronomy	\$211.00
154	Astronomy	\$540.00
14	Anthro/Soc	\$324.00
26	GSC	\$815.00
123	Anthro/Soc	\$725.00
124	Anthro/Soc	\$547.00
125	Anthro/Soc	\$809.00
126	Anthro/Soc	\$867.00
127	Anthro/Soc	\$1,556.00
129	Psychology	\$573.00
189	Anthro/Soc	\$762.00
209	Earth Sciences	\$1,382.00
216	Earth Sciences	\$600.00
	ASNMSU Approp	\$11,159.00
	GSC Approp	\$14,619.88
	Total	\$25,778.88

**FY
03/04**

SB#	ORG	AMOUNT
10	Astronomy	\$125.00
11	Astronomy	\$337.00
74	Earth Sciences	\$763.00
74	GAGS	\$311.00
83	GAGS	\$1,024.00
92	Anthro/Soc	\$238.00
93	Anthro/Soc	\$171.00
94	Anthro/Soc	\$174.00
	ASNMSU Approp	\$3,143.00
	GSC Approp	\$14,095.50
	Total	\$17,238.50

**FY
02/03**

SB#	ORG	AMOUNT
81	Astronomy	410
82	Astronomy	103
127	GAGS	455
	ASNMSU Approp	\$968.00
	GSC Approp	\$9,023.00
	Total	\$9,991.00

***Information compiled by ASNMSU Comptroller**

ANALYSIS OF TUITION AND FEES
Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Funding Requests for Fee Supported Activities

Revenue	2004-2005 Estimate	Tuition/Fee Increase				Total 2005-2006 Budget
Total Tuition & Fees	\$53,121,460	\$3,612,300				\$56,733,760
Increase estimated @ 6.8%						
Less I&G Allocation	\$39,975,700	\$3,473,360				\$43,449,060
Increase estimated @ 8.7%						
Estimated Fee Revenue	\$13,145,760	\$138,940				\$13,284,700
Increase estimated @ 1.1%						

Expense	2004-2005 Budget	Comp Increase@ 2.25%	Other Increase/ Decreases	Total Increases	Total 2005-2006 Budget
Allocated to:					
ASNMSU Student Activity	\$787,300	-	-	-	\$787,300
ASNMSU Endowment	\$126,100	-	-	-	\$126,100
ASNMSU Maintenance Fund	\$63,200	-	-\$38,700	-\$38,700	\$24,500
Student Bus Service	\$104,800	-	-	-	\$104,800
Cultural Activities	\$17,200	-	-\$17,200	-\$17,200	-
Intramurals	\$305,800	\$4,700	\$33,800	\$38,500	\$344,300
Sponsored	\$74,250	\$100	\$42,650	\$42,750	\$117,000
Peer Counseling	\$54,910	\$100	\$29,990	\$30,090	\$85,000
Campus Tutoring Services	\$10,100	-	-	-	\$10,100
Corbett Center	\$1,057,000	\$9,200	\$31,900	\$41,100	\$1,098,100
Golf Course	\$190,400	\$1,600	-\$17,200	-\$15,600	\$174,800
Natatorium	\$423,400	\$1,800	-	\$1,800	\$425,200
Pan American Center	\$775,300	\$10,200	-	\$10,200	\$785,500
Health Services	\$1,740,600	\$26,000	-	\$26,000	\$1,766,600
Tennis Center	\$76,800	\$1,000	-	\$1,000	\$77,800
Athletics	\$1,786,900	\$19,000	-	\$19,000	\$1,805,900
ICT	\$516,900	-	-	-	\$516,900
Debt Service	\$4,434,800	-	-	-	\$4,434,800
Equipment Fee \$24FT	\$600,000	-	-	-	\$600,000
TOTAL FEE ALLOCATIONS	\$13,145,760	\$73,700	\$65,240	\$138,940	\$13,284,700

Note: Rates were set assuming a flat enrollment for FY2005-06

Source: NMSU Finance Office, March 21, 2006

APPENDIX (H) Headcount and Student Credit Hours by Level

New Mexico State University, Main Campus

		Undergraduate		Graduate		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Fall 2004	Full-time* Students	9,972	86.0%	1,617	14.0%	11,589	100.0%
	Part-time Students	3,015	62.1%	1,838	37.9%	4,853	100.0%
	Total Headcount	12,987	79.0%	3,455	21.0%	16,442	100.0%
	Student Credit Hours**	166,772.3	88.6%	21,414.5	11.4%	188,186.8	100.0%
Spring 2005	Full-time Students	9,044	84.7%	1,638	15.3%	10,682	100.0%
	Part-time Students	2,586	60.4%	1,699	39.6%	4,285	100.0%
	Total Headcount	11,630	77.7%	3,337	22.3%	14,967	100.0%
	Student Credit Hours	151,074.6	87.6%	21,405.2	12.4%	172,479.8	100.0%

Source: NM-HED Registrar's Reports, End of Semester version

*Full-time status based on credit hour load of at least 12.0 for undergraduates and 9.0 for graduate students

** The level of Student Credit Hours is based on the level of the course (not of the student taking the course)

APPENDIX (I) Estimated Funds Allocated to AGS

TOTAL Allocation to ASNMSU	\$976,600
ASNMSU Endowment	\$126,100
ASNMSU Maintenance Fund	\$63,200
Remaining Student Activity Fee	<u>\$787,300</u>

Based on Total Headcount Calculations:

ASNMSU Student Activity Fee = \$787,300

Average Total Graduate Headcount = 21.65%

Estimated Funds Allocated to AGS = \$170,450

APPENDIX (J) AGS Proposed Annual Budget

Expenses we will share with ASNMSU		
Shared Service Expenses	\$7,513.00	
Activities	\$13,730.00	
Comptroller	\$9,225.00	
Student Legal Aid Program	\$16,200.00	
Total		\$46,668.00
Graduate Student Professional Development		
Conference Travel	\$12,500.00	
Teaching Seminars and Institutes	\$2,500.00	
Grant Writing Workshops	\$1,000.00	
Thesis and Dissertation Workshops	\$1,000.00	
Total		\$17,000.00
Graduate Student Organization Funding		
Individual Research Funding	\$5,000.00	
Individual Creative Works Funding	\$5,000.00	
Publication Workshop	\$2,000.00	
Total		\$12,000.00
Graduate Student Organization Funding		\$24,000.00
Graduate Research and Arts Symposium		\$8,000.00
Graduate Student Achievement Award Programs		\$1,000.00
Distance Graduate Student Participation in AGS		\$1,500.00
Social Activities		
Fall Social	\$250.00	
Spring Social	\$250.00	
Total		\$500.00
New Graduate Student Orientations		\$250.00
Executive Officers and Lobbying Committee		
President: Stipend	\$3,000.00	
Vice President: Stipend	\$3,000.00	
Treasurer: Stipend	\$1,500.00	
Secretary: Stipend	\$1,500.00	
Lobbying Committee	\$1,000.00	
		\$10,000.00
TOTAL		<u>\$120,918.00</u>

Estimated Funds Allocated to AGS	\$170,450
Total Budget Allocation for AGS	\$120,918
Balance of Funds for AGS	\$49,532

APPENDIX (K) Shared Expenses Budget Justification Narrative

The following is a justification of the proposed budget for the Association of Graduate Students (AGS) of NMSU which itemizes shared expenses between ASNMSU and AGS. The expenses shared by AGS account for 21 percent of the ASNMSU itemized appropriation, which is in direct proportion of the graduate student population.

Expenses AGS will share with ASNMSU total \$81,648. AGS is favorably inclined to contribute \$7,513 to Services (Line 12 of the ASNMSU Budget) since it includes services such as the, Student Escorts, Computer Lab Assistants and other commonly shared expenses. The Aggie Shuttle is currently funded from the fees that are collected from the student fee review board, and thus all students already contribute to this service. Any additional, funds requested from the Student Bus service that is allocated by ASNMSU, AGS is not averse to the giving the direct proportion of funds for the graduate student populace. AGS has earmarked \$13,730 for Activities (Line 30) given that it includes funding for Homecoming, Special Projects, Cultural Sponsorship and Community Outreach programs. AGS is averse to funding Executive (Line 49) expenditures, since AGS aspires to establish a separated Executive branch. Currently, AGS is averse to funding Intramurals (line 38) because the frequency of graduate student use is very low and all students pay for Intramural as a student fee. Governmental Affairs (Line 106) will not be funded since AGS aspires to establish a separate Lobbying Committee. The ASNMSU Supreme Court (Line 119) will not be funded by AGS since AGS aspires to establish a separate Supreme Court. Currently, the proposed AGS budget does not include Special Events (Line 128) due to a lack of clarity of potential generated revenues and aspirations for self-sufficiency surrounding that committee. Public Relations (Line 151) will not be funded since AGS aspires to establish a separate Public Relations Committee. Under the assertion that KRUX (Line 164) and Roundup (Line 193) are self sufficient due to generated revenues through advertisements, AGS will not fund these expenditures. If either KRUX or the Roundup receives allocations from ASNMSU, AGS is willing to contribute the direct proportion of funds for the graduate student populace. Currently, the proposed AGS budget does not include funding for the Publications Board (Line 231). After considering information provided by the ASNMSU President along with personal interviews conducted by AGS, no justification was found that would conceivably influence graduate students to be inclined to sponsor the board. The ASNMSU Senate (Line 248) will not be funded by AGS since AGS aspires to establish a separate Legislative Branch. The ASNMSU Vice President (Line 255) will not be funded by AGS since AGS aspires to establish a separate Executive Branch. AGS is favorably inclined to contribute \$9,225 to Comptroller expenditures (Line 267) since it includes the services of fiscal specialists, and after personal interviews conducted by AGS, it was found that comptroller activities should vary only slightly from the current workload. AGS is favorably inclined to contribute \$16,200 to the Student Legal Aid Program (Line 288) for sustained access to legal services. The ASNMSU Election Board (Line 300) will not be funded by AGS since AGS aspires to establish a separate Election Board. Community Outreach (Line 306) will not be funded by AGS due to a lack of clarity concerning the allocation of \$10,000 on line 310 for "Items". Currently, AGS has not funded College Councils but is favorably inclined to do support student clubs that are composed of at least 50 percent graduate student membership. This will alleviate double dipping by organizations that seek funding from both AGS and ASNMSU.

*The ASNMSU budget can be obtained at <http://www.nmsu.edu/~asnmsu/index.html>

APPENDIX (L) University Peers for the Four-Year Campus by State.

(As listed in the *Living The Vision* document, approved Sep 8, 2005.)

University of Arizona*
Graduate & Professional Student Council
<http://www.gpsc.arizona.edu/>

University of Arkansas*
Graduate Student Government Association, Inc.
<http://www.gsga-ku.com/>

Colorado State University*
Graduate Student Council
<http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/GSC/>

Iowa State University*
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
<http://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/gpss/home.html>

Kansas State University
The Graduate Student Council is funded mainly by the Student Governing Association.
<http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsc/index.htm>

Louisiana State University
The graduates are funded mainly by the Louisiana State University Student Government.
<http://sg.lsu.edu/>

University of Missouri*
Every department has its own GSA
<http://www.umsl.edu/~ccj/gsa/gsa/home.htm>
<http://www.umsl.edu/~polisci/gsa/index.html>
Etc...

University of New Mexico*
Graduate & Professional Student Association
<http://www.unm.edu/~gpsa/>

Oklahoma State University*
Graduate and Professional Student Government Association
<http://gpsga.okstate.edu/>

Oregon State University
The Graduate Senate falls under the Associated Students of Oregon State University
<http://asosu.oregonstate.edu/exec/index.html>

Clemson University*

Graduate Student Government
<http://people.clemson.edu/~gsg/>

University of Tennessee*
Graduate Student Senate
<http://web.utk.edu/~gss/>

Texas A&M*
Graduate Student Council
<http://gsc.tamu.edu/>

UTEP*
Graduate Student Association
<http://www.utep.edu/catalogs/1998g/serv/ser6.htm>

Utah State University
The Graduate Student Senate falls under the Associated Students of Utah State University
<http://a-station.usu.edu/asusu/>

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University*
Graduate Student Assembly
<http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu/>

Washington State University*
Graduate and Professional Student Association
<http://www.wsu.edu/%7Egpsa/>

University of Wyoming
Graduate Professional Student Association*
<http://www.uwyo.edu/GPSA/>

***14 of 18 peer institutions have successful separate graduate student governments, including UNM and UTEP.**

APPENDIX (M) Memorandum to the Graduate Faculty Council 5-3-05

May 3, 2005

Memorandum

From: The Graduate Student Council

To: The Graduate Council

Re: Proposal for Separation of Graduate Students from ASNMSU; Creation of AGSNMSU

Honorable Council:

Several serious problems have emerged this academic year that have led the officers of the Graduate Student Council and leaders of Graduate Student Organizations at NMSU to propose a separation of graduate students and their ASNMSU fees from ASNMSU. Under the proposal, graduate students would be represented, and fees distributed, by a new, independent body to be called AGSNMSU (Associated Graduate Students of New Mexico State University).

A sampling of the problems in the current system are as follows: (a) excessive and irresponsible spending of student fees to fund projects and trips that are probably not in the best interests of the wider NMSU student body, especially the graduate student body; (b) amendment of the longstanding policy which required students to go to their college councils for conference funding first, then to ASNMSU (the new procedure allows students to bypass their college councils and go directly to ASNMSU for funding, thus weakening student participation in college councils); (c) a marked reduction in funding for the graduate college council to distribute conference and research funding from \$1,500 per GSO down to \$500 per GSO per academic year, even with the special circumstances of graduate students, who attend a number of conferences and professional events; and (d) highly suspect election practices which resulted this semester in the disqualification of the sole graduate student candidate from the pool running for ASNMSU President. The ASNMSU Senate has struck down several graduate student organization requests for conference funding and for funding a tutoring/mentoring program that would have helped graduate student volunteers mentor and tutor undergraduate students in an effort to increase retention. In the latter losing cause, several ASNMSU Senators indicated that the large number of undergraduates who fail introductory courses “don’t want to pass anyway.” This is just one example of the uninformed thinking of the undergraduate Senators. The undergraduate Senators, as a unit, voted the proposal down, while the small minority of graduate Senators voted to fund the proposal.

There are many benefits and few costs in creating a new AGSNMSU. Graduate student Senators would be elected from each of the Colleges by graduate students, creating fair representation. Those graduate student representatives would vote directly on the expenditures of graduate student fees, not only to fund conference travel, but to provide small grants for graduate student research projects at NMSU which would not receive funding from other sources, and for other worthwhile projects, such as cross-disciplinary research projects conducted by NMSU graduate students, following the Research Cluster model, for teaching colloquia, and for graduate-

undergraduate mentoring and tutoring initiatives to address retention, for examples. Graduate student participation in their college council would probably increase due to competition for funding and due to interest in the student government's focus on graduate student issues and needs. The Graduate Student Council would transition into the new body as the Executive Branch, merging with a Legislative Branch composed initially of the current Senators from ASNMSU, plus newly-elected Senators from each of the Colleges. A Judicial Branch composed of five elected graduate student justices would constitute the third Branch of the new body.

The Graduate Research and Arts Symposium would continue to be a premier event sponsored by AGSNMSU. Graduate students would present their proposals for conference travel and for small research grants and cross-disciplinary grants directly to the Senate. Their GSOs would continue to be required to conduct community service projects in order for graduate students to be eligible for funding, but graduate students not represented by GSOs would be able to request funding as well, if they performed some community service individually.

The cost of withdrawing from the current ASNMSU body is that there would be a perception of greater division between graduate and undergraduate students. Further, there is one program, the Escort Service Program, which is used primarily by graduate students, which would need to be co-funded by ASNMSU and the new body. It would be probable that an undergraduate ASNMSU would balk at continuing to fund a program that is used mostly by graduate students, and the new body would probably need to fully fund the program. Certainly divisiveness is not a positive aspect in this proposal, however the exciting prospect of funding graduate student research projects and other worthwhile projects, as well as allowing graduate student representatives to vote directly on graduate student conference travel, proposals, and programs, seem to outweigh the costs.

We would request that AGSNMSU be directly accountable to the NMSU Board of Regents, following the model in place at University of New Mexico. The Executive (now the Graduate Student Council President) or his or her representative would continue to serve on the Student Fee Review Board, on the Administrative Council as ex-officio member, and on the Graduate Council as ex-officio member. The Vice President would serve as leader of the Senate. The Treasurer would account for Senate appropriations, and the Secretary would take minutes of Senate and Executive meetings.

We would like to request Graduate Council support and cooperative direction to execute this proposal. We would respectfully request that the President of the Graduate Council appoint a committee to work with the officers of the Graduate Student Council and with the Graduate Student Senators from ASNMSU, as well as with the administration, to facilitate the proposed change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gary Bond, President
Graduate Student Council

INTRODUCTION

Due to the distinctive needs of the graduate students of New Mexico State University, it has become imperative for the graduate student body to separate from the Associated Students of New Mexico State University in order to establish a sovereign governing body that will represent the graduate student body. All student governments exist by virtue of the students represented. When a student government ceases to represent its full constituency and restricts the voices of its minority population, the students have the right to change their government in a manner that allows all voices to be represented equally and fairly.

It is the mission of the NMSU Graduate School to “facilitate the exchange of ideas and the creation of knowledge while fostering academic excellence...promoting a high quality-learning environment that embraces diversity”, and NMSU prides itself as being a research extensive university. With this in mind, graduate students require adequate resources to create knowledge and excel in their chosen career fields by means of research. If NMSU aspires to be a research enterprise for the 21st century, then graduate students need adequate funding, departmental guidance and development of close ties to state, regional and national business and government entities. Graduate students can better assist this university in achieving and maintaining these long term goals with the formation of a graduate student government.

A graduate student government will be an asset to having a nationally competitive research program at NMSU. The Research Cluster initiative enacted by President Michael Martin outlines a substantive program that will greatly benefit the university. It is recognized that this initiative will require cooperation amongst all faculties, institutions and students of the university. The proposed Association of Graduate Students (AGS) will assist in this research initiative by offering workshops in proposal development, student peer reviews of research proposals and refining research objectives. AGS will ensure that graduate students will be active in the community, publish collaborative research, produce original ideas and research, collaborate with other academics in their fields and interact with national graduate institutions of representation such as NAGPS.

Of our 18 peer institutions, 14 have highly successful graduate governments ([see Appendix L](#)). UNM established their graduate government in 1969. UNM has since

established several graduate funding organizations, and they hire and pay for their own lobbying committee. Graduate students at NMSU have been seriously entertaining the idea of forming the Association of Graduate Students since March of 2005, and now that graduate student enrollment has increased to over 3,000 students, graduate students feel that the current system of student government can no longer adequately represent them. Graduate students wish to form their own government that will better serve the graduates students' needs.

As stated in a memorandum* dated May 3rd, 2005 to the Graduate Council, [a] sampling of the problems in the current system are as follows: (a) excessive and irresponsible spending of student fees to fund projects and trips that are probably not in the best interests of the wider NMSU student body, especially the graduate student body; (b) amendment of the longstanding policy which required students to go to their college councils for conference funding first, then to ASNMSU (the new procedure allows students to bypass their college councils and go directly to ASNMSU for funding, thus weakening student participation in college councils); (c) a marked reduction in funding for the graduate college council to distribute conference and research funding from \$1,500 per [graduate student organization] down to \$500 per [graduate student organization] per academic year, even with the special circumstances of graduate students, who attend a number of conferences and professional events; and (d) highly suspect election practices which resulted this semester in the disqualification of the sole graduate student candidate from the pool running for ASNMSU President. The ASNMSU Senate has struck down several graduate student organization requests for conference funding and for funding a tutoring/mentoring program that would have helped graduate student volunteers mentor and tutor undergraduate students in an effort to increase retention. In the latter losing cause, several ASNMSU Senators indicated that the large number of undergraduates who fail introductory courses “don’t want to pass anyway.” This is just one example of the uninformed thinking of the undergraduate Senators. The undergraduate Senators, as a unit, voted the proposal down, while the small minority of graduate Senators voted to fund the proposal.

**The full memorandum can be found in [Appendix M](#).*

ALTERNATIVES

The Graduate Student Council was offered several alternative solutions during the negotiation process with ASNMSU. The alternatives offered were: 1) graduate students can pay an additional fee that will fund only graduate students; 2) graduate student representation can be increased in the ASNMSU Senate by increasing the number of graduate student senators to create a Senate that is proportionally skewed in the favor of graduate students; and 3) graduate students can change the current system internally to facilitate the needs of the graduate student population. All three alternatives were discussed at length by the Graduate Student Council body, and all three alternatives were rejected unanimously for reasons discussed in the following paragraphs.

Graduate students are averse to paying an additional fee because they feel that the fees paid into ASNMSU are already adequate to fulfill their immediate needs. Graduate students feel that this solution is unfair for several reasons; first, because the increased fee is deemed unfair and unnecessary, and second, because this solution does not address the fact that graduate students will not have increased control over the original fee amount already collected by ASNMSU.

Graduate students are averse to forcing ASNMSU into increasing the representation of graduate students in the ASNMSU Senate for several reasons; first, because the increased representation only effects one branch of the ASNMSU government, second, because ASNMSU can easily revert back from this rule change if it sees fit, and third, because unfair representation is not a goal of the graduate student population. The graduate students' goal is, and will remain to be, increased freedom to allocate graduate student funds as graduate students see fit.

Finally, graduate students are averse to continuing in the current system to change the rules internally for what should be obvious reasons. The executive branch is, and always has been, run by undergraduates. The judicial branch is, and always has been, run by undergraduates. The Senate is the only place graduate students feel that they have any representation. Writing and passing legislation for the benefit of graduate students in this environment has proven time and time again to be difficult and even impossible to the point that graduate students are now actively seeking a remedy in this proposal to separate themselves from a system that simply does not work for them.

RESULTS AND BACKGROUND

Based on data from FY04/05 collected on September 26, 2005 graduate students contributed about \$110,000 to ASNMSU per semester (see [Appendix E](#)) with total yearly fees collected of approximately \$219,000. The total amount appropriated to graduate students during the fiscal year 04/05 equated to \$25,778 (see [Appendix F](#)) which accounts for only about 12% of graduate fees contributed to ASNMSU.

The Graduate Student Council created the AGS Constitutional Committee in May of 2005. Its mission was to draft a constitution which can be found in [Appendix B](#), and to conduct a poll of graduate students to determine whether or not they favored efforts to create a separate graduate student government. The poll was conducted September 9 through October 6 of 2005. The poll question was:

Proposition 1: Creation of Association of Graduate Students (AGS) of New Mexico State University and redirection of current graduate student fees from the Association of Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU) to AGS. AGS will formally be considered by virtue of this poll. When recognized, AGS will be constituted as a graduate student government with elected and appointed graduate students serving in executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Graduate student fees distributed to AGS will go to fund programs, events, activities, professional enhancement opportunities, graduate recognitions and ceremonies, conference travel, and other programs for graduate students.

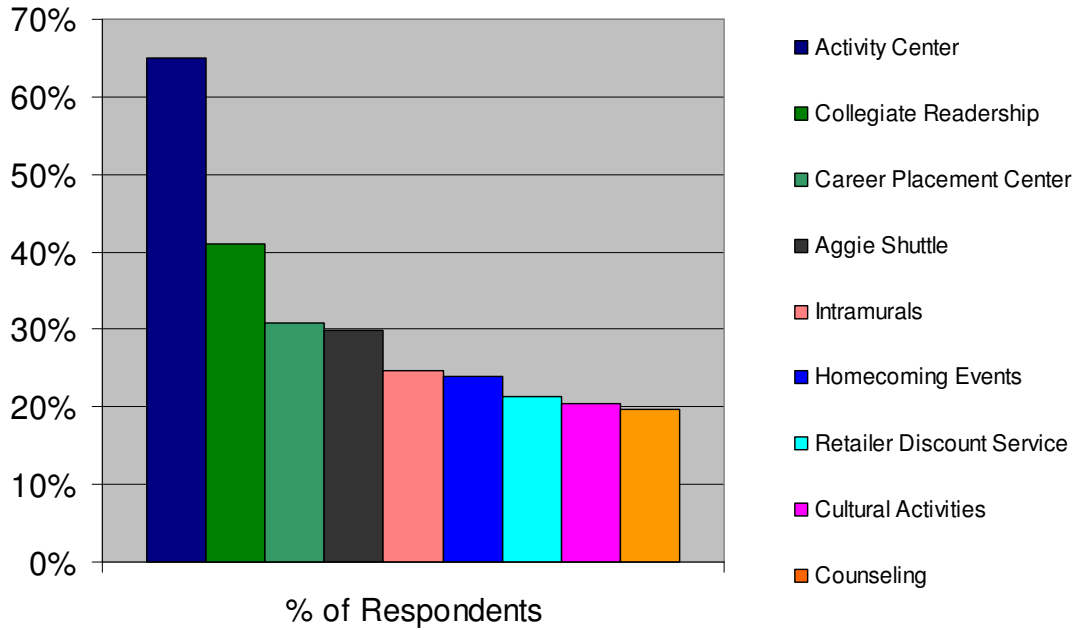
Proposition 1 Vote Count, October 6, 2005	
No:	19
Yes:	508
Total:	527
96% In favor	

Note: Only graduate student registered for Fall 05 voted. ICT can provide results on request.

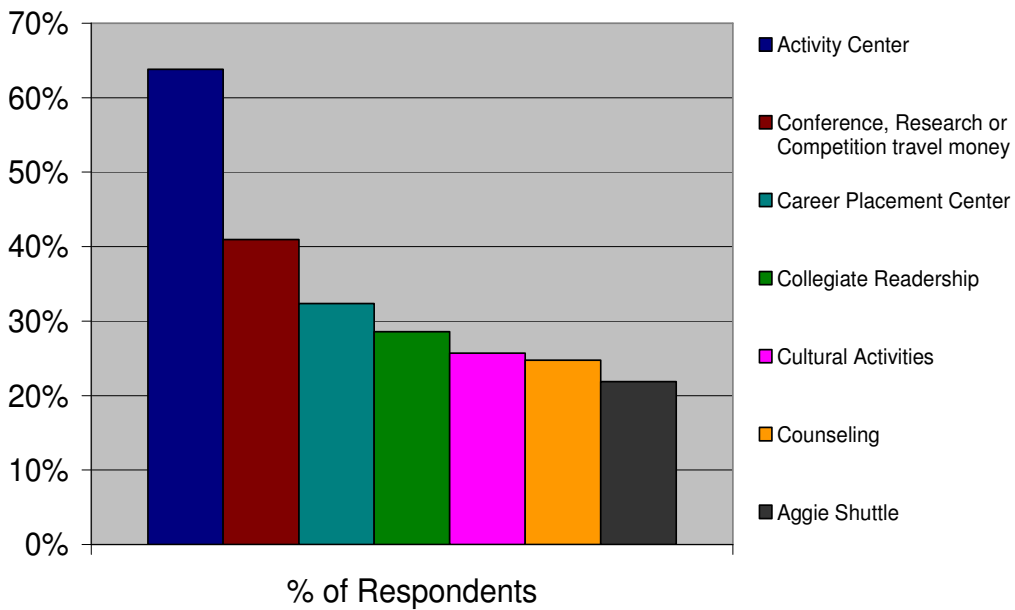
Based on the result of this graduate poll, the AGS Constitutional Committee was charged by the GSC with meeting with ASNMSU executives to begin negotiations. The Committee on Open Forums was formed in December of 2005 with graduate and undergraduate representation so that more input could be solicited from the entire student body. The committee was successful in setting up an unbiased survey for both graduates and undergraduates, and it hosted open forums for all NMSU students in early February. Responses from forum attendees can be found in [Appendix C](#).

SHARED SERVICES

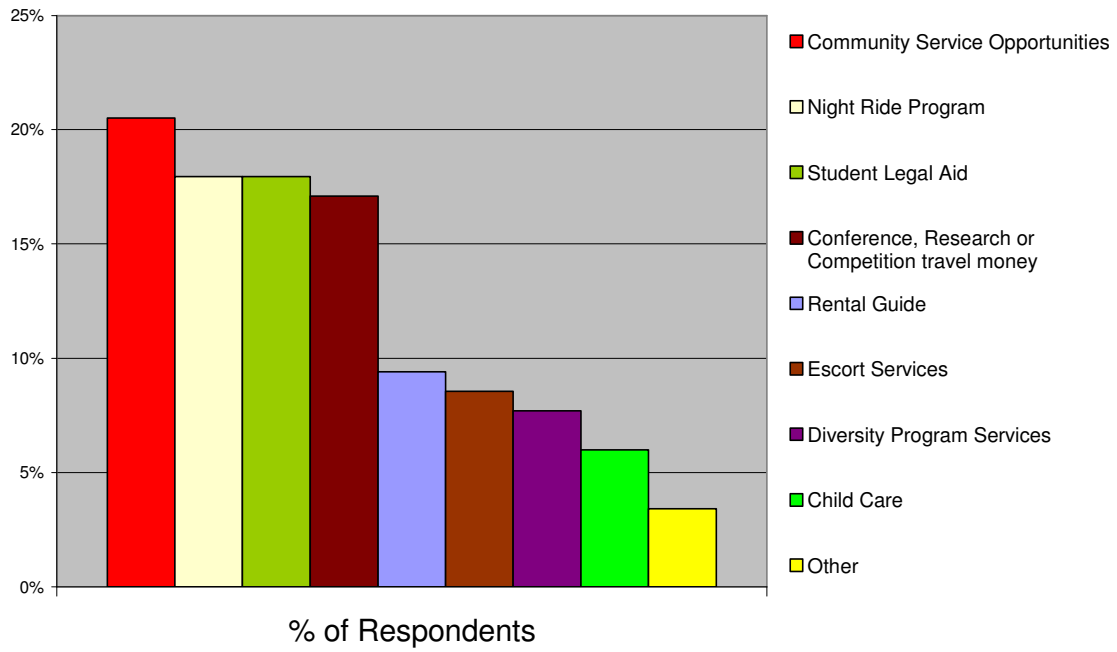
Undergraduate Frequently Used Services



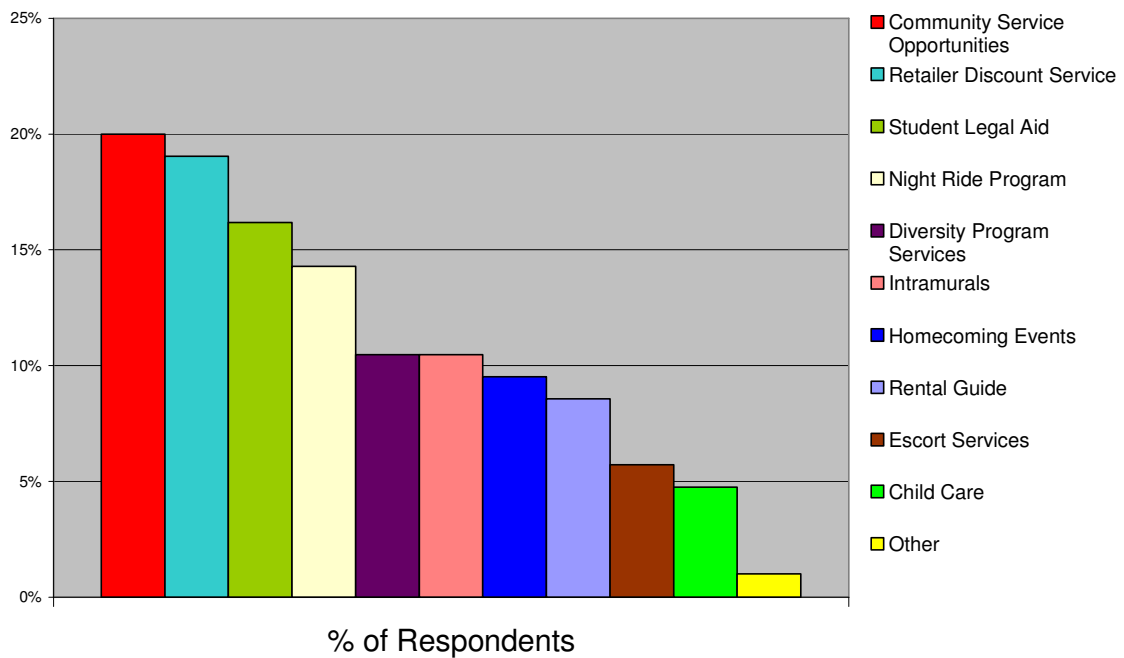
Graduate Frequently Used Services



Undergraduate Less Frequently Used Services



Graduate Less Frequently Used Services



The analysis examines graduate and undergraduate favorability of establishing a separate graduate student government, and it illustrates the frequency of use of available services provided by ASNMSU for both graduate and undergraduate students at NMSU. Determining the services that students use will aid in cooperative efforts between AGS and ASNMSU to fully fund and improve shared services. 57 of 113 total undergraduate respondents* indicated that they are considering NMSU for graduate study. Many respondents are also concerned about service disruption while AGS is being established. This survey will help aid AGS and ASNMSU in determining what needs to be funded jointly in order to guarantee that all NMSU students will continue to have access to shared services.

Both graduate and undergraduate students were asked the following question:

Do you feel that a separate graduate student government can be beneficial?*

	Respondents	Yes	DK/NA	No	% yes
Graduates	120	81	10	6	93%
Undergraduates	107	60	9	20	75%

Note: Only yes and no answers are calculated in % yes (DK/NA is excluded).

The above figures illustrate a statistically significant favorability by both graduates and undergraduates to establish a separate graduate student government.

On March 2, 2006, The ASNMSU Senate reconsidered Resolution #2, which reads, in part, “Therefore be it resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University that we support the graduate students in their attempt to form their own association that will allow all graduate students to be represented equally and fairly.” The vote count was 16 yes, 6 no and 6 abstentions. The result of the vote was not sufficient to pass the resolution, but it shows that a majority of ASNMSU Senators support the graduate students’ efforts to establish their own representative body. A copy of the resolution and results of the vote can be obtained from the ASNMSU Senate Clerk.

***Data collected March 24, 2005. The number of respondents may vary per question.**
****Please note that this survey is ongoing, and updates will be made available as new data is received. Complete survey results can be obtained directly from the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Linda Lacey.**

PROPOSAL FOR AGS

With the formation of AGS, the intent is that ASNMSU will continue to serve the undergraduate student body, and that AGS will serve the graduate student body. AGS holds the *One University* conceptualization of shared governance in high regard and seeks to uphold all steps and initiatives of the policy; therefore, it is necessary to jointly sponsor services between ASNMSU and AGS to meet the needs of all students. As outlined by the Constitution, AGS will streamline graduate representation by merging the Graduate Student Council in its present form into the Executive Branch of AGS, and ASNMSU Graduate Senators will form part of the AGS legislative branch, thus eliminating any functional redundancy. In operating under this Constitution, AGS will support the rights, issues and needs of graduate students at NMSU, and it will form a truly representative graduate student government for graduate students.

A significant complaint conveyed by graduate students during the open forums was that they do not currently control enough of their money to be useful for services that are specific to graduate student needs. Funding for conference travel, research grants for travel and expenses, grants and tuition waivers for current TA/RA/GA ships, a separate lobbying committee to lobby specifically for graduate students at the local, state and national levels are just a few of the critical resources necessary for a complete educational experience at NMSU, yet it is difficult for graduate students to get funding for these needs through ASNMSU (refer to the document, “How to Get Funds from ASNMSU” in [Appendix D](#)). The first conflict in this process is that all graduates are required to ask for money through a recognized graduate student organization. This requirement alienates many graduates from the student government altogether because some departments simply do not have a chartered graduate student organization. Another conflict is the mandatory meetings that students have to attend to receive funding. Students are required to attend Community Affairs, Rules and Finance committee meetings. Time conflicts emerge frequently because these meetings are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. when many graduate students are in class. For some graduate students, this means missing an entire week of school just to attend these meetings to ensure that their bill gets out of committee.

The needs of graduate students differ greatly from the needs of undergraduate students in many respects. The fundamental differences in graduate and undergraduate legislative priorities make it abundantly clear that it is rational to establish an AGS.

Some identifiable differentiating needs of graduate students are listed here:

- An organized voice with increased visibility to the university and community
- Access to research funding, materials and travel
- Increased funding access for conference and employment (interview) travel
- Grant writing and academic interviewing simulations workshops
- A graduate office in Corbett Center
- Representation and lobbying abilities at the federal, state, and university levels
- Increased funding for GA/TA ships
- Tuition waivers for GA and TAs
- Awards for graduate students
- Graduate Computer Lab
- Evening Daycare
- Increased cultural activities for graduate students
- Implement programs that work closely in community development projects

To fulfill the above stated needs, it has become essential that graduate students have greater discretion in the allocation of their student fees. Graduate students assist NMSU in receiving recognition from the caliber of research generated by the university.

Research is paramount in influencing the quality of education at NMSU, and it is essential that graduate students receive their fair share of their own student funds to help alleviate graduate financial difficulties in research funding and to provide funding for developmental programs if they choose to do so. The Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Linda Lacey, has recently contributed 10 percent of her operating budget to help in alleviating the shortage by funding graduates students for \$11,665 last year alone.

The general goal in forming AGS is to develop a means to better serve the needs of graduate students by ensuring that graduate students have greater access to programs and initiatives that will help develop and refine their professional skills. To facilitate access to programs, Graduate students have drafted a proposed budget along with a justification narrative ([see Appendixes J and K](#)) which outlines the initial budgetary priorities of AGS. The proposed budget outlines funding priorities which include:

- Shared expenses with ASNMSU
- Lobbying expenses
- Graduate Student Professional Development
- Graduate Research and Arts Symposium

- Recognition Programs
- Social Activities
- Executive, Legislative and Judicial expenses

The balance of \$49,532 (see [Appendix J](#)) will be allocated after the formation of the new AGS according to the needs explicitly addressed by AGS, a joint committee with ASNMSU and the overall needs of the NMSU students.

It is necessary that graduate and undergraduate students work together to represent and provide for the student body. By allowing more control to be passed on to AGS for graduate students, ASNMSU can focus the majority of its time and efforts on improving undergraduate programs and services. AGS will likewise spend the majority of its time and efforts on the needs of graduate students. Both government organizations must continue to focus on the overall student populace and ensure that student representation and enhancement of student services continue to be shared goals.

Student fees should be distributed to AGS and ASNMSU based on full-time and part-time headcount numbers for the previous year for graduate and undergraduate students (see [Appendix H](#)). AGS will pay the same percentage to ASNMSU for all aspects of shared service programs including director salaries. The AGS President should consult with the ASNMSU President on hiring decisions to later be confirmed by the ASNMSU Senate. New services or programs will be jointly agreed upon between AGS and ASNMSU.

4 YEAR TRANSITION PLAN

1st Year

- Rename the GSC to be the Association of Graduate Students.
- Operate under ASNMSU as before, and work to prepare for upcoming changes.
- Advocate for AGS representation and student participation.
- Establish a budget committee to modify and approve the proposed budget for year 2.

2nd Year

- Adopt the AGS Constitution.
- Designate AGS as its own department.
- Transfer fees to AGS as proscribed in this report.
- Implement the AGS Budget.
- Hold Elections for offices under the current ASNMSU electoral system unless a viable alternative is contrived and approved.
- Adopt and develop measurable goals and objectives for the proposed AGS.
- Develop graduate student fee oversight committee that will advise the President of AGS of possible action that needs to be adopted by the Student Fee Review Board to increase funding for several new positions for graduate students on campus in all departments and in the administration.
- Work closely with Student Review Board and other administrative departments to split graduate fees from undergraduate fees and direct graduate AGS Senators to deliberate and decide upon the fair distribution of funds to devote to shared services with ASNMSU.
- Establish a lobbying committee that will outline university, local, state and national legislative priorities for NMSU graduate students.
- Renew NAGPS membership, and attend NAGPS regional and national conferences.
- Host annual open Spring Forums co sponsored by both ASNMSU and AGS to gather student opinions on services that should be implemented or changed.
- Identify and clarify graduate student needs through continuous online survey.
- Make adjustments to the allocation of student's fees and create election and other Bylaws that are beneficial to the sustainability of AGS.

3rd Year

- Hold separate elections under AGS rules approved by the AGS Senate.
- Advocate for an Ex-Officio Membership on Board of Regents.
- Host 'New Graduate Student Orientation' to expose new and continuing graduate students to campus and community resources.
- Develop online newsletter and informational AGS website for graduate students.
- Up-date bylaws to adapt to the changing needs of graduate students.

4th Year

- Proposed establishment of a Professional Opportunities Development (POD) fund that would be available to all graduate students who do not present at conferences, and to graduate student organizations that sponsor professional conferences or bring in speakers.
- Evaluate goals and objectives of the proposed AGS.
- Continue to up-date bylaws to adapt to the changing needs of graduate students.
- Continue to support the NMSU administration's objectives for growing the graduate student population to 8,000 students by establishing a graduate student recruitment subcommittee.