



# FULL SENATE AGENDA

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025  
6:00 PM  
Student Union Building Lobo A/B

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## 1) Opening

a. Call to Order

b. [Land Acknowledgment](#)

"Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homeland of the Pueblo Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico, Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, since time immemorial have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations. And also acknowledge our commitment, our committed relationship to indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history."

c. Roll Call

18 Senators Present || 0 Absent

d. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to strike the "Election of Spring 2025 President Pro Tempore" from the agenda. The motion passed with no further discussion.

The agenda was approved after the motion.

e. [Approval of Minutes](#)

Seconded and Passed

## 2) Preliminary Business

a. Senator Accountability

None

b. Guest Speaker

None



c. Public Comment

Diego Nunez (Society of Automotive Engineers): Thanked the Finance Committee for their work and requested funding for travel costs related to their participation in an international collegiate competition in Michigan. They emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of the project, the time and effort spent by students, and the need for support in covering travel expenses such as gas, transportation, and lodging.

Gabriel Guterle (Mortar Board UNM Maya Chapter): Announced the addition of two new members, Hilaria Barragan and Hope Montoya, to the honor society.

Jonathan Martinez, Michael Kirby, and DDA Calderon (American Society of Mechanical Engineers): Requested additional funding for their 3D printing competition vehicle. The current \$75 funding for filament was deemed insufficient for their needs, as they require multiple types of specialized filament to complete their design report and prepare for the competition.

Asia and Abir Abilas Galberth (Delta Sigma Pi): Requested additional funding for a networking trip to New York from April 4-6, 2025. The business fraternity seeks funding for airfare to accommodate 20-23 attendees, noting that networking with Fortune 500 companies and businesses in the private sector would be a valuable opportunity for members.

Tristan Ober (Lobo Chess Club & American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology):

Lobo Chess Club: Emphasized the importance of food in the club's budget, explaining that it's essential for engaging members and keeping meetings productive, especially for long meetings. Highlighted the growth of the club and the success of teams in competitions. Requested full funding for the food budget, noting the increasing costs for catering and snacks.

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB): Explained the purpose of the club as a space for biochemistry students to connect, providing study nights and career development opportunities. Requested approval for travel funds and meeting tables. Clarified that they would like to strike the request for microscopes from the appropriation after further discussion among club members. Stressed the



importance of fully funding their meeting table and travel expenses, as these would help support the club's presence at conferences and the representation of UNM.

d. ASUNM President's Report

Budget Process and Pay Increase:

The president discussed the Student Fee Review Board (SFRB) and the budget process, emphasizing the importance of increasing pay for student reporters at the Daily Lobo, as the current pay is inadequate. The goal was to make pay more competitive and address equity issues by attracting students from diverse backgrounds.

- e. Wage Increase Impact: The increase in pay is crucial, as low wages deter low-income students from working in ASUNM, making the student government less accessible. The president expressed that increasing the pay would benefit the student government and improve accessibility.
- f. Budget Adjustment: The Finance Committee decided on a 50-cent increase across the board, which costs about \$14,521. Even with this increase, a surplus of \$38,479 remains in the budget, which could still be allocated to student organizations and events.
- g. Impact on Student Life: The president stressed that many ASUNM events, such as Silent Lights, Red Rally, and Fiesta, attract thousands of students. However, many ASUNM employees have to work additional jobs because of uncompetitive pay, which negatively affects their academic performance. Raising pay to a more sustainable level would help alleviate this issue.

Senator Questions:

Senator Ratcliffe asked when the last raise for the executive branch occurred.

The president mentioned that it's been over four years since the last pay raise for most senior ASUNM staff.



Senator McCloud asked how the proposed wage increase would impact ASUNM events and what it would mean for students.

The president explained that while the wage increase would not directly affect event budgets, the funding for salaries comes from balance forwards and the budget process. The increased pay for student workers helps retain and attract dedicated individuals who organize key ASUNM events that positively impact thousands of students.

Senator Doyle raised concerns about cutting event funding to increase salaries and how this might impact the quality of events.

The president responded that, regardless of the pay increase, students would still be interested in running the events. Additionally, event funding could be supplemented through appropriations if needed.

#### ASUNM Vice President's Opening Remarks

The president shared a personal story from their sophomore year, where they had to work 30 hours a week at a hospital, which led to academic struggles. They argued that on-campus jobs, due to their flexibility, are ideal for students. The president emphasized that paying students more (via a \$0.50 or \$1 raise) would allow students from low-income backgrounds to apply for positions, improving diversity and ensuring that motivated students get the chance to participate in ASUNM roles.

#### Impacts on Event Programming:

The president explained that paying students more would help ASUNM attract talent to run events, and that flexibility in work schedules would ensure students are still able to engage in academic activities. Additionally, the president highlighted that paying student workers properly would improve retention in critical roles, reducing turnover due to better-paying job opportunities elsewhere.

Senator Doyle raised a question regarding the justification for the lower stipends for senators compared to executive directors. They pointed out that many senators have to work other jobs and struggle with balancing their duties.

The president responded by acknowledging the difference between stipends



(which are considered awards for service) and salaries (which are hourly pay). The senator stipend is historically seen as a token for service to the university. However, the president acknowledged the issue with low senator stipends and noted that efforts were being made to increase those payments. There was also mention of additional funds (such as a \$250 scholarship) for senators, though the amount still didn't seem to match the workload.

#### Finance Committee's Approach:

The president clarified that while senators aren't officially employees of ASUNM, the Senate could be considered a form of volunteer service. Adjusting senator pay would be more challenging because of the structural issues related to employment regulations. But, the president said they were open to discussing adjustments to help senators with their workload.

- AG's Stipend and Executive Director Stipends:  
AG (likely a specific position) was also mentioned, with their stipend being \$1,000 per semester. The president defended the distinction between executive directors and senators, stating that executive directors handle large-scale events like Red Rally and SSE, while senators serve in different, less event-oriented capacities.
- Plus Budget and Pay Increase:  
There was a discussion about how the proposed \$0.50 increase (or \$1 increase) for executive directors and other staff would be funded. The additional funds required for the raise would amount to \$14,521. The CERB Plus budget for Spring 2025 would be used to cover this, which is separate from event programming.

#### h. Joint Council

Updates from various organizations:

Intramural Sports: Dunking contest on March 20th.

School of Engineering: Pi Day event on March 15th.

Residential Life and Housing: Blood drive on March 28th and National Residence Hall Honorary awards.

Honors College: Preview Night on March 31st.



American Indian Student Services: Internship and job search workshop on March 31st, Moving Off-Campus Workshop on April 1st, and American Indian College Day on April 9th.

Thrift Store for Professional Wear: Update on the pop-up store for professional attire donations, with a call for support.

- i. Boards & Committees Report
  - j. Director of Student Organization Relations
  - k. Director of Environmental Affairs
  - l. ASUNM Senators
  - m. Attorney General Law Book Edits
- 3) New Business
- ~~a. Election of Spring 2025 President Pro Tempore~~
  - b. Finance Committee
    - i. [Spring 2025 Budget Bill](#)
    - ii. [Appropriation #25S](#)

Authorship speech:

The core of this appropriation request is for travel to the FSAE competition in Brooklyn, Michigan. The competition dates are June 17th - 21st. We need to tow a trailer with the car to the competition which takes about 2 days to take the appropriate breaks required by UNM. For this we anticipate the full trip taking from June 14th to June 23rd. Our request is for gas mileage, per diem, and airfare for 10 students. This split travel will help us to get more students to the competition. The second part of our request is for food for events and meetings. We use this for our drive day events where we test the cars with SAE members (anyone can join). The last part of the request is for a professional printing service for t-shirts. In preparation for our trailer wrap, we have partnered with UCAM to create an updated graphics package for our club. We would like to put this onto shirts for our members to wear at events out in the community. We already have some shirts which we give to members for the event and then collect at the end of the day to store in the SAE computer lab. The final item is for a canopy for drive day. Please consider this if the shirts are cut from the request.

- iii. [Appropriation #26S](#)

Authorship speech:

More funding is needed for our end of the semester events and other meetings this Spring 2025.

- iv. [Appropriation #27S](#)

Authorship speech:

Food and other supply costs to build their robots.

- v. [Appropriation #28S](#)



The regional American Institute of Chemical Engineers conference will be in Bozeman, Montana this year. The travel window will be from April 10-13. This is a valuable time for our members to network and engage with the professional/industry community. It will provide a glimpse into emerging growth areas in chemical engineering, cover new technologies, and present cutting-edge research for our members to learn. The UNM Chem-e-car team will also be competing in the regional competition for a spot in the national competition to be held next fall.

vi. [Appropriation #29S](#)

We are requesting funding for travel that includes flights, fees, food, gas, and lodging for 10 students to attend one of the Efx series competitions taking place April 25-27 in St. Louis, MO. We will be spending almost all resources this semester on this event, and students will be working twice a week toward optimizing our competition vehicle. For this, we need funds for advertisement of our organization (including professional services toward a retractable banner and team shirts for competition day/outreach) along with funds for final pieces of soldering equipment and tooling.

vii. [Appropriation #30S](#)

For this request, we are looking to obtain travel for one student to present their research at the ASBMB 2025 Conference in Chicago, IL from April 12-April 15th for both the outgoing and returning flight. We are also looking for one-time capital outlays for a microscope with digital display to hold demonstrations of cell and molecular biology for classes of 30+ students, and a table cover for presenting our club at welcome back days.

viii. [Appropriation #31S](#)

Members of our organization will be attending the National Association of Chicano and Chicana Studies conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico April 2th-5th. We are requesting funding for conference fees.

ix. [Appropriation #32S](#)



Funding for outdoor sporting events, table booths, coolers, canopy, Holi supplies and food, and rental equipment.

x. [Appropriation #33S](#)

This request is so the DSP chapter can have the necessary funds to pay for air travel, food, and lodging in order to hold a professional networking trip to New York City from the dates of April 4th through the 6th, which would be the same days that we fly to and from New York.

This unique opportunity would allow the organization to support its members with traveling for the business purposes of networking with acclaimed Fortune 500 companies, touring their offices in the area, and having insightful Meet-and-Greets or Q&A's. We will also be able to utilize connections within DSP alumni and other partnerships. Besides the trip, we also need funds for the purchase of a venue, food, and a DJ to host our biannual semester "Rose Gala" which is a professional event that also recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of seniors graduating from our local chapter Gamma Iota. We also invite several other members of the UNM community to attend (specifically other student orgs such as IFC and Panhellenic).

c. Steering and Rules Committee

Emphasis on decision-making that benefits the entire student body rather than addressing short-term concerns.

Acknowledgment that student positions change yearly, necessitating sustainable policies.

Pay Raise Considerations:

A \$0.10 increase was proposed as a middle ground instead of the originally suggested \$0.50 increase.

Discussions on fairness in compensation between the Executive and Legislative branches.





Comparisons made to other universities' wages, including Las Cruces' minimum wage of \$12.65.

#### Financial Constraints:

Urgency to finalize the budget due to SGO's processing deadlines.

Acknowledgment that further amendments can be made in the next legislative session if necessary.

#### Outcome:

Motion passed to increase the pay of all Executive Branch hourly employees by \$0.10.

Budget adjustments to reflect this increase were delegated to Senator Montoya for accuracy.

#### Appropriations for Student Organizations

##### Funding Allocation:

Proposal to allocate \$700 to each student organization with an approved budget.

Debate on whether to use the entire \$53,000 general fund surplus for this purpose.

##### Clarifications on fund reallocation rules:

Unspent funds from appropriations carry over to the next semester's budget process.

Balance boards exist only for agencies, not student organizations.

Agreement to use remaining funds after pay increases for student organizations.

Final figures calculated to ensure equitable distribution.

#### Clarifications and Procedural Concerns

##### Point of Order:

Reminder to follow formal procedures for motions and discussions.



Concerns raised about using "point of information" as an informal debate tool.

Encouragement for Senators to make formal motions rather than engaging in side discussions.

#### Final Notes:

Emphasis on ensuring agencies serve the broadest student base while student organizations serve niche communities.

Agreement that pay raises and student organization funding can be adjusted in future sessions as needed.

Urgency emphasized due to time constraints and the need to finalize financial matters before adjournment.

- i. [Bill #8S](#)
- ii. [Bill #9S](#)
- iii. [Bill #10S](#)

#### 4) Closing

##### a. ASUNM Closing Comments

Senator Griffin emphasized the importance of having diverse viewpoints and meaningful discussions. He acknowledged the importance of disagreement in making progress.

Senator McCloud praised Senator Casals for the mental health event and encouraged continued productive disagreements.

Senator Solorzano congratulated everyone on making it through the evening's agenda.

Senator Yangelesletty called for more volunteers for SSE's upcoming events and stressed the importance of supporting student organizations.

Senator Williams reminded those running for upcoming elections to be mindful of volunteer opportunities during the election period.

Senator Yangelesletty reiterated the value of kindness, respect, and respectful disagreement among members.

##### b. ASUNM President Pro-Tempore



The Chair provided updates on upcoming events:

March 24th: Education Event with Vaintea.

High-five event for volunteers.

April Fools' Event: Likely a dunk tank

Earth Day Event: Planting plants and providing burritos.

Student Success Week: Planning in progress, with suggestions welcomed.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the Senators who helped at the event.

Senators were encouraged to reach out if they have ideas or want to assist with events.

c. ASUNM Vice President Closing

The Vice President commended the Senate for their hard work and commitment:

Acknowledged the performance of committees, particularly the Finance and Only Committees, for their diligent work.

Expressed personal gratitude for the Senators' dedication, even when it feels discouraging or late in the day.

Gave a shout-out for the work done across the board and encouraged Senators to give themselves credit for their contributions.

The Vice President expressed appreciation for the Senators and reassured them that they are a resource for any concerns, particularly regarding respectful treatment.

Reminded everyone to keep an eye on emails from the President and Vice President regarding upcoming outreach events.

d. Adjournment 9:58 PM