



Your
Paydirt Staff:

EDITOR IN CHIEF Skyler Matteson

@nmtpaydirt 

JOURNALISTS Evelyn Byrd
Katelyn Green

**SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTIONS**

PHOTOGRAPHER Samuel Baca

Scott Webb

**LAYOUT-
EDITORS** Jaime Mendoza

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PAYDIRT

Trouble in Paradise
p. 7/8

Shocking
January 27th, 2020



In This Issue:

General

SGA Rundown 1/2

Sports and Athletics

NMT Sports Highlights 3

Meet NMT's new swim coach-Graciela Garcia 4

Club/Student Spotlight

Physics Club 5

Christian-Rode NASA Intern 6

Miscellaneous

Trouble in Paradise: Conflict with the SGA 7/8

The Matulich Foundation Scholarship. 9

Socorro Women's March 2020 10

Peace Corps 11/12

Cabezon Peak 13

Survey 14

Skyler Matteson

Katelyn Green

Katelyn Green

Evelyn Byrd

Evelyn Byrd

Skyler Matteson

Skyler Matteson

Evelyn Byrd

Evelyn Byrd

Samuel Baca

SGA Meeting Rundown: 12/3/19

1. The Free Speech committee reported that they made 'great strides' to protect freedom of speech surrounding the upcoming election season.
2. A full supreme court, now paid positions, have been elected successfully.
3. Paydirt now has an Equipment Account. We will use this account to save up for expensive equipment, like cameras and lenses, to offer better quality news and pictures.
4. The PR committee presented a recommendation to the SGA regarding a 'lack of communication, a lack of following established procedures, [and the presence of] executive overreach regarding the inner workings of the Executive Cabinet.' An article more extensively covering this topic is present further in this issue.



READ BELOW TO WIN!

In Fall 2019, we sent out our first survey. We got over 25 responses, and received some valuable feedback that we are striving to capitalize on this semester. Seeing as that survey was a success, below is both a link and QR code to our first survey of Spring 2020. It should take less than 5 minutes.

We will be giving away 3 more Cards Against NMT decks, a Cards Against Humanity expansion pack created by Paydirt several years ago. To enter for your chance to win, include your email at the end of the survey.

The survey will be active for about 2 weeks, and if you won, you will receive an email from paydirtnmt@gmail.com.

Notice: Cards Against Humanity and by extension Cards Against NMT are satirical games and do not mean to defame any person, place, or entity in the card deck.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPXV8DH>



Miscellaneous

"I love being outdoors - hiking, biking, and swimming." - Lea Michele

Cabazon Peak



Photos by: Samuel Baca

"Cabazon Peak is a "must climb" for anyone in New Mexico." according to:
<https://iamnm.com/9-cabazon-peak-is-a-must-climb-for-anyone-in-new-mexico/>

SGA Meeting Rundown: 12/3/19

1. Standard Operating Procedures will be created for each office of the Executive Branch to increase efficiency and provide guides for further SGA members.
2. The streaming of Senate meetings was discussed in order to provide more information to NMT students.
3. The next Board of Regents meeting is Friday, Feb. 7th in Santa Fe. However, our Student Regent has office hours from 1-2pm Mondays and Wednesdays in Brown 21, so you can head to her to voice your concerns or ask questions.
4. The movie Deadpool will be showing at the SAC on February 15th starting at 7pm.
5. Three Votes of No Confidence have been held by the PR, Legislative, and Finance Committees. All passed, signifying each committee's lack of confidence in the SGA President. These are statements, and do not signify policy change.
6. The SGA spent several hours discussing whether or not they should approve or disapprove the proposed NM Opportunity Scholarship. Due to the lengthiness of the meeting, many details are omitted here. The SGA decided to table the matter for two weeks, at which the Legislative Committee will present a rewritten bill regarding the topic, using student input. Look out for a poll to give your voice on the matter.



Sports and Athletics

"I enjoyed being involved in team sports and making close friendships." - Brian McBride

NMT Sports Highlights

Men's Rugby

The men's team is training and gearing up for this year's season.

Practice Times:

Mon and Friday at 6pm (Gym)

Tues, Wed, and Thurs Pitch at 3:30 (On the athletic field)

The first home game of the season is coming up:

February 1st vs the Albuquerque Aardvarks at 12:00pm. Be there!

Women's Rugby

The women's team needs your help. We need more players. Rugby is such a fun sport. Don't be scared to come try it out. We welcome all shapes, sizes, and skill levels. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Come be extraordinary and powerful with us out on the rugby field.

Practice Times:

Mon and Friday 6pm (Gym)

Joint practice with the mens team: Tues, Wed, and Thurs 3:30pm Pitch (On the athletic field)

Women practice only: Friday 4pm Pitch (On the athletic field)

For more information or to sign up contact:

Brisa Garcia

505-620-3598

brisa.garcia@student.nmt.edu

E-Gaming

E-Gaming is back in action this semester and are currently training for this season.

For more information on times that they meet contact:

Geroid Dunbar at gearoid.dunbar@nmt.edu.

Swimming

Join the new swim team! NMT has a brand new competitive swim team that just started up. Graciela Garcia of Venezuela is the new head coach. Everson Cruz is the new president of the team and practice for now are Saturday's at 9AM (subject to change). Come out and join! For more information contact the coach at: Ventritraining@gmail.com.

-Katelyn Green



Dr. Pias knew she wanted to spend time abroad from a young age, a desire which was inspired by a variety of factors. Her family hosted numerous exchange students when she was growing up. She also enjoys learning different languages, including Spanish and German. And her interest in ethics gave her the desire to experience life in places very different from the U.S. Studying abroad and participating in a program in France only served to reinforce this desire to see more of the world.



She decided to join the Peace Corps after graduating from Emory University with undergraduate degrees in Chemistry and Comparative Religion. The Corps seemed better than other options because of its established nature and the support it shows its volunteers. She was not intimidated by the requirements because she was "raised to think I could do anything," she explained.

She joined the first cohort to go to Bangladesh since the 1960's, which was a new and challenging situation. "There were situations we didn't understand well," she recalled,



such as misunderstandings of teaching schedules. Communications were difficult, both with language and also simply with interpreting what she was seeing. Living in Bangladesh was a "real eye-opener" and gave her a very different understanding of poverty and what a good life means. Dr. Pias also found that in Bangali culture, it was hard to be lonely in the same way that many Americans experience. And it gave her a respect for the creativity allowed by the U.S. education system, which contrasts with the rote-learning style of Bengali education.

After her return to the U.S., Dr. Pias obtained a Master's degree in religious studies. This included studying Sanskrit, a language related to Bengali. This experience unexpectedly came in handy later, when she applied for a bioinformatics job but did not know Linux-based operating systems. She was told, "If you can do Sanskrit you can do Linux." Her time in the Corps also made her "perceived as an emotionally resilient person," and has given her a great appreciation of the differences and privileges of U.S. life.

Now, Dr. Pias's research in computational chemistry still takes her all over the world. She has been to conferences in China, Spain, Germany, and Korea, and is looking forward to visiting Switzerland and Japan in the near future. Looking back, she is very appreciative of her experience in the Peace Corps and the perspective it gives her every day.

- Evelyn Byrd



Peace Corps

A Peace Corps recruiter, Maria Goodfellow, came to campus during the first week of classes. Students may have noticed her in Fidel Atrium around lunchtime, or may have heard from her as she presented in various classes. Interested in learning more about the Peace Corps and how it impacts volunteers' lives, Paydirt interviewed both Maria and Dr. Sally Pias of the Chemistry Department, who is also a returned Peace Corps volunteer (RPCV).

What is the Peace Corps?

The Peace Corps is a federal agency with a mission to "promote world peace and friendship." It sends U.S. volunteers to interested countries to train the people there, learn about their culture, and share U.S. culture with them. Individuals, organized in cohorts to a specific country, are trained and then spend two years in a specific community. They teach in different areas such as agriculture, health, and education. Benefits for returned volunteers include a stipend, reduced tuition for certain graduate degree programs, accelerated application for federal job positions, and the name recognition of the work done.

To learn more, visit peacecorps.gov or contact Maria at mgoodfellow@peacecorps.gov. Maria will also be back on February 3rd and 4th for a workshop on how to apply for the Peace Corps and for Career Fair.

Maria Goodfellow - Peace Corps Recruiter

Maria was born and raised in Albuquerque, and like many she was determined to leave New Mexico and see more of the world. She went to Cornell College in Iowa, despite knowing no one there. She studied biology with the intention of going to medical school. However, she changed her mind after shadowing in a children's hospital and disliking the rigid schedule and quotas imposed on the doctors.

Wondering, like so many seniors, "what comes next?", she recalled a book about the Peace Corps she had read in one of her classes. It seemed like a good option: an incredible experience, travel, and time for self reflection, all in a secure environment. She was also motivated by a desire to learn Spanish because of her Latino heritage. The two years away did not phase her, she explained, because she thought "about how quickly her freshman and sophomore years of college went by" and knew her time in the Corps would pass swiftly.

She applied, got in, and pretty soon was on her way to Para-



guay. There, she worked teaching English and good agricultural practices in her community. Language was her biggest challenge, and while she became fluent in Spanish she struggled with Guarani, a native language. She described "trying and trying to understand and feeling really stupid," which was "incredibly frustrating." However, she found learning Guarani important because doing so showed the community that she valued their culture.

One great thing about the Corps is the community, Maria found. "It is a great way to meet similarly minded people from all over," she explained, and to make "lifelong friends." In fact, during her interview Maria was on her way to visit a friend she had made in the Corps. She is also still in touch with her Paraguayan friends.

In all, Maria describes her time in the Corps as an "amazing, formative, life-changing experience." Volunteers are seen as resilient and able to get the job done, which is beneficial for the next stages of life. Now, as a recruiter, she gets to share her passion for the program with others and help them get in and have a successful time as well.

Dr. Sally Pias - Associate Professor of Chemistry

Meet NMT's New Swim Coach-Graciela Garcia



New Mexico Tech is expanding its sports program to give even more options for sports teams that students can join. Graciela Garcia is the new head coach for the swim team that just recently started up at New Mexico Tech. She can't wait to get this team up and running. Graciela is happy to be here and has big plans for the swim team and the community.

Graciela is originally from Venezuela, but her family moved to Socorro once her husband got a job as a professor in the mathematics department here at Tech. Graciela has her PHD in art and has been swimming since she was three years old. She grew up swimming her entire life. Her father introduced her to the pool when she was little and passed his passion of swimming onto her. She has been swimming ever since. She also swam at the University of the Andes in Merida Venezuela. She was a triathlete, swim official in Texas, and a swim instructor for the Fort Worth Area Swim Team.

After her swimming days were over, she worked with a company that sold sports gear for sports teams. She was a manager and held a marketing position for 21 years. She was and still is a personal trainer for people of all ages who are interested in triathlons. Graciela says Socorro is very different from Venezuela and that she was amazed that New Mexico Tech didn't have either a swim team or Triathlon team. She said, "Now it's time to do something for the town and engage everyone. I want more people to join so they can gain more knowledge and build their swimming skills. I want to introduce triathlons to this community as well." Graciela wants the community of NMT students to come together to build their social skills, swimming skills, and try new things.

Graciela wants to create a competitive swim team here at Tech that eventually competes against other universities. She says, "I

am not here to teach swim lessons right now, but I am here to help students who know how to swim build their knowledge and skills to get them to compete at a competitive level." Her goals for the swim team are to first establish the club, get more students to join the team, and compete against other universities. "If we engage more students, I think this will be great for the university to have more of a diversity in sports teams."

Graciela is amazed at the facilities on Tech campus. She says, "It's great that you can use the pool all year long. The weather in Socorro is very nice and that the sky is almost always blue and I love that about Socorro. I am amazed at how close the pool and other facilities are on campus and that students don't have to spend time driving long distances to get to practice." She hopes to eventually become apart of USA Master Swim Team to be able to compete and represent New Mexico Tech at swim meets.

Practices for the team are every Saturday at 9AM, but that could potentially be changed once the team is better established. Graciela is super excited to coach the swim team at Tech and can't wait to get a strong team established. She says, "When students are involved with a sports club, it is better for the students wellbeing, social skills, stress levels, and pressures that college students have to go through." Once a team is established, the university will pay for the membership for the students to be registred under the Master Swim Team for the state. There will be new gear and uniforms once the team is better established.

Right now, Graciela is focused on the students and the new swim team, but says she may teach swim lessons in the future to benefit the community. It would be great if swim lessons or a swim class was offered in the physical recreation class section that students could register for. Graciela loves helping and teaching people and wants to help New Mexico Tech as much as she can. She says with great excitement, "Step out of your comfort zone! Go be apart of a sports team! And think about joining the new swim team!"

For more information contact Graciela at: Ventritraining@gmail.com.

- Katelyn Green

Club Spotlight

"To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction." - Isaac Newton

Physics Club

In Workman there is a room full of dangerous and potentially deadly demos. They belong to Physics Club, a well-established student group. Interested? So was Paydirt.

To learn more, we talked to Aaron Lovato, club president, and Stephen White, VP. They told us about the variety of activities done by their group, from relaxing meetings to volunteering to conferences. Throughout it all, their commitment to physics, fun, and the community was clear.



Outreach is important to the club, which is no surprise given their plethora of science demos. They give students at the elementary and middle schools a taste of science before they would otherwise have the chance. This is important for the community and rewarding for the students. As Aaron explained, "you see the ones where it clicks, who are super excited; I really like those." The club also works with Dave Thomas of the Psychology Department to host the annual Faraday lectures at Sarracino Middle School. In total, the club reports to volunteer about 80 hours each semester.

Physics is "a little bit of everything," said Aaron, and this is shown by the club's wide variety of demos. They use items such as liquid nitrogen, a bed of nails, jumping rings, a bell in a vacuum, and an air cannon. There are also more "exciting" (or dangerous, depending on your point of view) demos, such as the Tesla coil, a railgun, and a recently retired Jacob's ladder, which was legitimately too dangerous to be used. We "push boundaries," explained Aaron. "This is not just a bunch of nerd shit."

In addition to educating the younger generations, the club gives its members a lot of professional development opportunities. Each semester, they try to go to a conference; this time their

destination is DC. This gives students exposure to more than Tech's specialties of atmospheric physics and astronomy. It is also a valuable networking opportunity, and gives students practice with the essential skills of communication and public speaking.

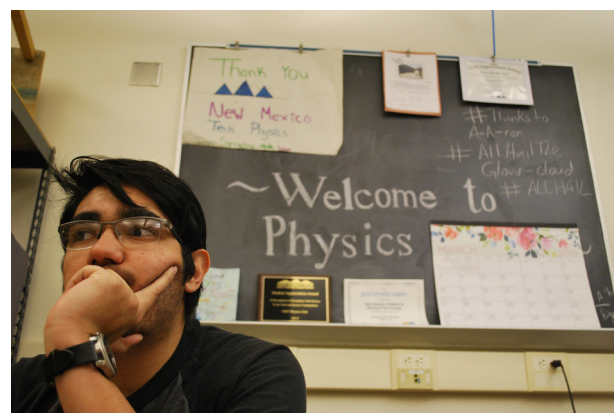
Additionally, weekly meetings offer a chance to hang out, eat pizza, meet people, and have a reprieve from school. "These were my first friends," Stephen said, explaining that he knew no one when he moved from California. The officers are committed to helping other students, no matter who they are. All majors are welcome, not just physics, and individuals from Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and CS tend to be present in the group. Women comprise half of the club officers, and they are looking into obtaining a "safe space" certification for the club room.

To further improve the Tech community, another project they started is a non-science lecture series by department faculty. Professors and graduate students, instead of talking about their research, discuss topics like their hobbies or experiences. This serves to humanize them and make it easier for students to ask for help, which is vital for success here.

In the end, it was clear that the Physics Club officers really care about their campus. They had a few last words for us all. Aaron wanted to tell students, "Don't put yourself down. Failing doesn't mean you're stupid, it's just hard material." And Stephen's advice? "Reach out to the people around you. Go to any club. We're all struggling, and it's okay; try to have fun and relax."

Students tend to need that reminder at some point. So, if this blend of shenanigans, fun, and learning sounds interesting, Physics club might be the place for you. They meet on Mondays at 6:00pm in Workman 101.

- Evelyn Byrd



Socorro Women's March 2020

The first Saturday of the semester marked the fourth annual Women's Marches. In Socorro and around the country, thousands of people marched for social and political change. Here in town, a group gathered at the end of School of Mines near Driscoll dorm. There, they made "pithy placards" and sashes, then marched down to the plaza to listen to a variety of speeches.

The sizeable crowd was a varied group. Small children toddled, strolled, or were carried alongside older individuals. Students, faculty, and town members were all present. And there was representation and support for minority groups, including queer and trans women. Tech's very own Dr. Michael Heagy of the Chemistry Department helped lead the way, playing tunes on his bagpipes, while drummers followed up in the rear.

One student, Jade Baca, went above and beyond in her participation in the march. She dressed as a suffragette, complete with dress, sash, glasses and hat. Jade, a senior majoring in Technical Communication, participated in the march before in 2017 as well. She participated this year because "this Women's March is about the right to vote, and with the next election coming I think it is important for all people, of all genders, to go vote."

The march echoed the mission of the national organization: "to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change."

-Evelyn Byrd

To learn more about the movement, visit womensmarch.com.



Miscellaneous

The Matulich Foundation Scholarship

Paying for school is a difficult part of the college experience for many students. It is often the case that even small amounts of money can help out financially struggling individuals. The Matulich Foundation Scholarship, a relatively new scholarship founded in 2018, can do just that.

The Matulich Foundation is “a small family foundation that offers scholarships to students in higher education.” In recent years, the foundation was created as a tax exempt charity. As such, it is required, by law, to give away 5% of its funding, and it is choosing to do so by offering scholarships directly to students.

The grant is given right to students, and will not be offered to institutions. The awards are small, at most being \$1000, and their requirements consist of filling out an application, filling out a survey, and writing an essay of 200 words or less. What sets the grant apart from others is that, according to their website, their “view of higher education is broad.”

In essence, as long as you are pursuing something that contributes to furthering your education, you will be eligible to receive the grant. “For example, a marine biology student volunteers to serve a summer internship in an aquarium. Matulich Foundation Inc. may consider such service as part of the student’s education that can be supported by a grant.”

Founded by the children of immigrant parents, “the Foundation is their way of honoring their parents for the opportunity to get educated and live the American dream.” After residing in a refugee camp for three years during World War II, and living in the Sinai Desert in a tent, Danilo and Josephine Matulich brought themselves and their family to the States for a better life. With a good education and future ahead of them, the children of Danilo and Josephine grew up to be successful, and are now giving back in the name of their parents.

- Skyler Matteson

The Foundation is now ready to accept applications for Spring 2020. The deadline is March 1st. Visit the link below to apply.
<http://matulichfoundation.org>

Drink Smart ASAP
NATIONAL STUDENT AWARD PROGRAM
PRESENTS
THE SEARCH FOR FACTS
January 27 - 31, 2020
Fidel Center, 11:00AM - 1:00PM

The Challenge

- Search around campus for our FIVE posters.
- Take picture of each one you find.
- When you find all five, present photos to the ASAP table in Fidel for a prize!

Contacts:
kirstina.ward@nmt.edu
575-835-5093

Student Spotlight

"Space is to place as eternity is to time." - Joseph Joubert

Christian Rode-NASA Intern

Christian Rode, a senior at New Mexico Tech majoring in Electrical Engineering with minors in both Optical Engineering and Mathematics, interned at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton Virginia this past summer. Christian applied to NASA a couple years ago and didn't hear anything back, however; He tried again and applied to anything he could find at NASA, landing a position for the summer. Christian's mentor chose him to work with her because of his interest in optics, which was what the internship was geared towards.

Christian worked with thin film materials to change the state of matter he was working with. He then took the amorphous mediums and heated them to make them more crystalline. The substance became more refractive, allowing him to look at different energy levels. Christian learned a lot about infrared spectroscopy, but the main purpose of his project was to look at the heat rockets produce using thermal imaging as they launch. Christian looked at energy changes using lasers and worked with a laser technician from Los Alamos National Laboratory to be able to learn about optical components. During his experience he learned a lot about optics, how light bends, and light refraction.

Christian learned not only about scientific topics, but also about important life skills. He gained experience in public speaking by preparing presentations, talking in front of large groups of people, and working with other interns. One important thing he learned was how

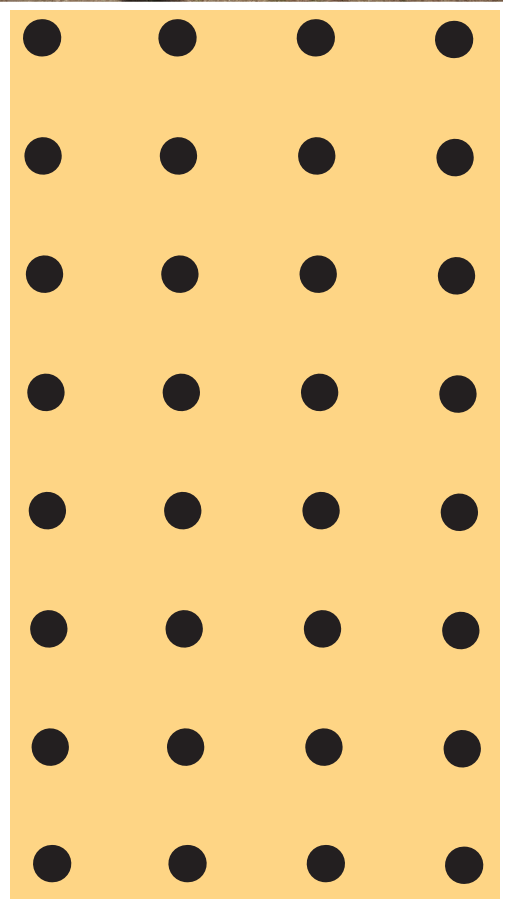
to work in a lab environment. Christian said he learned a lot from his mentor and even got to meet the research director of NASA. Christian got to meet a lot of other interns as well and said many of them were extremely intelligent.

Although he is unsure if he will intern at NASA again, he was offered a position to come back and said, "My experience at NASA was great." When asked about why he decided to major in Electrical Engineering, he talked about how growing up his generation has been heavily influenced by technology.

There were several areas that influenced his decision such as: video games, virtual reality, and other technological advancements that have opened up new opportunities within his field. "Everything having to do with technology requires electrical components and I want to be apart of the technological world we live in."

Christian had a few words of advice for the students of NMT. He said, "Apply to any and all internships you can." They are a great experience and you can learn so much from interning. You don't only get to learn about interesting scientific topics, but you also learn extremely important life skills that you will need in any work environment you may encounter. "There are so many different internships and you won't know what's out there until you look around and apply for them."

-Katelyn Green



Trouble in Paradise: Conflict Within the SGA

By: Skyler Matteson

If you are at all familiar with the United States government, you will know that a government is never run without its fair share of scandals, quarrels, and issues. These start rumours that can spread ideas about people or organizations that may or may not be true. As the Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt, I sit in on the SGA meetings that take place, and felt that I should write about some of the conflicts plaguing the SGA currently before any falsehoods circulate throughout campus.

The most prevalent interior conflict challenging the SGA right now, in my opinion based on what I have seen, is the relationship between the President and the Senate/Chief Financial Officer (abbr. CFO). As such, I have reached out to the above parties, as well as the Chief Justice and Vice President (abbr. VP), to get as much information as I can about what exactly is going on. PLEASE NOTE: Please read this article to the end. I am not intending to frame any party for any misconduct. This is simply a listing of information based on what I have gathered.

Although the conflict I have mentioned previously has been growing over the course of the school year, it boiled over in the December 3rd meeting. During the meeting, the Public Relations (abbr. PR) Committee brought up a recommendation about a “lack of communication” and “lack of following established procedure” within the SGA. Also listed was “executive overreach regarding the inner workings of the Executive Cabinet,” which seemed to be the most prevalent point in the discussions that followed.

The PR Recommendation also contained three recommended courses of action regarding the brought up problems, such as a meeting between the President, VP, and others with the Dean of Students, a creation of Standard Operating Procedures for all departments, and a recommendation for the Judiciary and Legislative Standards Committee to “work

with the Executive Cabinet to ensure each Executive Officer understand[s] their powers and responsibilities.”

The recommendation passed, but the reasons for the concerns were dropped, and much of the language within the recommendation specified towards the Executive Cabinet and President was also dropped. Notably, the statement: “We hope to establish precedent regarding issues such as this by submitting this recommendation in place of pursuing disciplinary action,” was cut from the document.

After the meeting, the Finance Committee, headed by CFO Quincy Bradfield, held a Vote of No Confidence (abbr. VoNC) in President Michelle Sherman. The vote passed, and both the PR and Legislative committees, over the following month and a half, held their own VoNC. Both also passed. Confused about what the PR Recommendation and VoNCs meant for the SGA, I talked to the Chief Justice Nickie Sheerin to discuss their implications.

Justice Sheerin said to me that a recommendation “is just that, a recommendation usually for the betterment of the SGA.” I also asked about President Sherman saying that she “never got a defense” to the recommendation. Justice Sheerin said “there is no defense needed. If she wanted to speak against it normally, she could have, provided she was given time from a senator.”

I also asked about the fact that some of President Sherman’s emails were not given. She said “they weren’t needed. It’s a suggestion from a group that is more experienced in their field. It was also explained by Senator Krajeck multiple times that the lack of the emails was a technical error.” The PR Committee, in my interview with them, also confirmed this error and explained that they had offered the full emails chains to any who inquired during the meeting.

I then asked Justice Sheerin about the VoNC. “To be honest it’s unprecedented,” said Justice Sheerin. “It has never happened before. Since it has happened, it means that something needs to change in order to move forward in function. It is usually saying ‘shape up.’”

With a good background in reference to the legal side of things, I went to the PR Committee to ask about how their recommendation and VoNC came about. They expressed that they had received multiple concerns about the topics listed above. These concerns were from Senators, Executive Cabinet members, and anonymous students.

The PR Committee stated that the goal of their recommendation was “to bring these issues to light and to try and address the issues before they got anymore out of hand.” The passing of the recommendation, which cut many of the reasons for the recommendation, made the PR Committee “[feel] like the President was trying to silence [them] and get rid of the recommendation, especially because it was regarding her actions.”

I then asked about the ‘actions’ the President had taken. “One example would be the Oct. 22nd, 2019 club packet fiasco, in which she extruded an unconstitutional executive ruling, and it appeared she didn’t expect the Supreme Court to review it. It was submitted at the very early hours of the morning, and Justices Aliser, Strobel, and Salazar had to spend many hours in the day working on their interpretation, in preparation for [the day’s] meeting.”

They also said that the CFO began receiving emails from President Sherman after the Finance Committee submitted a recommendation attempting to resolve the club packet issue. These emails were asking “‘under what authority’ the Finance Committee had to make the recommendation, as well as demanding names and positions of all associated.” It is

important to note that I was shown these emails physically; i.e, they were not forged by the PR Committee.

In my interview with Vice President Dallin Sobers, he seemed to back up this claim, “there’s a level of hypocrisy. I know in [the President’s] behaviour towards Quincy (the CFO) especially: demanding documents from him without any real reason, and then saying that Quincy needs to file a specific form to receive her documents. She will ask of documentation, in full by 5pm, whereas, she is demanding Quincy to go through legalese hoops.” It is important to note that I did not mention the PR Committee’s statements about Quincy’s emails when interviewing VP Sobers.

I also asked the PR Committee about their VoNC and their involvement with the Finance and Legislative Committee’s VoNCs. They stated that they “only found it fair to hold” their own VoNC after the Finance Committee, and that, although they communicated with Quincy and his Committee, they “voted separately.”

I decided to interview Quincy to see his viewpoint on the issues. He said that he agreed with the recommendation, saying that the points brought up “were fairly accurate in what they addressed.” I then asked him about why he held a VoNC within his committee.

“The President’s response to the recommendation was the last straw,” Quincy said. I asked him about what specifically caused the VoNC, and he listed several reasons: “failure to accept criticism, failure to accept that she might be wrong, overly emotional responses to a fairly measured statement (i.e, the recommendation), gross overreach, and failure to communicate with others within the SGA.”

I then asked Quincy if he had reached out to President Sherman about these issues before. He said that he initially did, but

“it did not end well. It ended with her targeting my (financial) department with overbearing commands.” He described the emails he received after presenting his recommendation, and said that he did not answer any of her questions as “the request was unconstitutional” and “anyone is allowed to make recommendations to the Senate.”

Harking back to my interview with the VP, he stated that President Sherman “seems like she is making herself a victim in every situation, regardless how it came about.” However, he was hopeful, saying that he is “looking forward to meeting with Dr. Phaiah and the Branch heads to work this stuff out and move forward.”

Of course, this would be a biased article if I did not include President Sherman’s viewpoint. There are two sides to every coin. Although I requested an interview with President Sherman, she informed me that she had been out of town, and would be unable to participate in an interview with me. It is important to note that I notified President Sherman of this interview Monday, January 13th. I mention this to assure readers that I did intend to interview President Sherman before the release date of this issue. Below is a statement from President Sherman in place of our interview:

Welcome back students to the second semester at NM Tech. You are halfway done and there will be sunny days ahead. New students, both undergraduate and graduate, I welcome you to our campus.

The fall semester was rough. Every SGA meeting was like the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. This Lady Sheriff somehow managed to survive. The law has charged me with nothing, and every SGA meeting wastes so much precious time for making positive changes for the real bosses, you the students of NM Tech.

My intentions are and always will be to protect your interests as a student, as a club, as a group, and as a University. You, the student body, voted me in as President with 72% of the total

vote. There are some senators in the SGA who really want to do the right thing for students and move away from the status quo. There are others who question everything I propose on your behalf.

The job my Executive team is doing for you is extraordinary. The Financial Dept. budget is balanced and has never been better. The Student Activities Technical Director (SATD) has opened the semester with a Marvel MCU Infinity Saga movie marathon that even I couldn’t resist. The Student Activities Director provided all the first week activities including the very successful and competitive Indoor Dodgeball Tournament. The Editor in Chief of Paydirt is back at work, preparing for the first spring issue. The Webmaster has created an exceptional SGA website. Check it out at: <https://www.nmt.edu/sga/>. They have some upcoming activities that will be a surprise for you.

These are the positions that I supervise. I set the direction and they build a vision to create something new for the student body. This is what a leader does. I encourage the performance of my staff and I praise them for jobs well done. I look for goals and improvements that would make our Student Government run more efficiently. I am fiscally conservative. We have reduced SGA spending and as of the end of the fall semester we actually saved money. My goal is to leave your next President with a well-balanced budget.

I need your help. I need you to come to the SGA Senate Meetings and voice your opinions on what you want. The meetings are every two weeks on Tuesday evenings at 8:00PM in the Library Tripp Room. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4th. The senate needs to hear from you if we are going to make any changes. I am proposing an agenda for Student Government improvements we can complete this spring semester. I will be sending out this agenda to the senate next week.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving as your Student Government President.

I would like to remind our readers again: this article is not intended to frame any party, the President or otherwise for allegedly lying, slandering, or any other form of misconduct.