

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
28 January 2014, MUB 302
Ian Cohen, President, Facilitating

- I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:44pm
- II. Roll Call and Introductions
 - A. Executive Committee
 - Members Present:
 1. Ian Cohen, President
 2. Joe Gilbert, Vice President
 3. Deanna Silva, Treasurer
 4. Dan Tran, Clerk
 5. John McClain, External Affairs Officer
 6. Madhav Baral, Programs Coordinator
 3. Myles Lynch, CHHS
 4. Jay Derick, COLA
 5. Kei Saito, COLA
 6. Mike Verney, COLA
 7. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
 8. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
 9. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
 10. Matt Smith, Graduate School
 - B. Senators Present:
 1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
 2. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
 - C. Senators Not Present:
 1. Luke Dietrich, COLA
 2. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
 - D. Other Graduate Students Present: 4
- III. Approval of Minutes from General Meetings on 19 November 2013 and 3 December 2013
 - A. M. Smith moved to approve both sets of minutes as read.
 - B. M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
 - C. **The motion passes unanimously. Both sets of minutes were approved.**
- IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
 - A. President, I. Cohen
 1. Graduate Council
 - a) An informal meeting was held with the external team reviewing the Graduate School, discussing the Graduate School's role and governance structure, as well as the roles that faculty, students, and the Graduate Council play.
 - b)
 - B. Vice President, J. Gilbert
 1. Governance Committee
 - a) The Governance Committee has put forth an amendment to the GSS Constitution & Bylaws. As per the Bylaws, the GSS needs to have at least one week's written notice before discussion opens on a proposed amendment.
 - b) The amendment updates the name of the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics and creates a senate seat for the UNH School of Law. Voting on the amendment will be held at the next general meeting of the GSS.
 - c) Elections are approaching. All positions are open for the next academic year.
 - C. Treasurer, D. Silva
 1. The GSS is currently on pace to be under budget.
 - D. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
 1. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
 - a) During the Board's next meeting, fees will be voted on for which there are motions to approve all of them.
 2. Governmental Affairs Committee
 - a) There are letters ready to be sent to multiple parties concerning the GSS endorsement of student loan refinancing.

- E. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
 - 1. Programming Committee
 - a) Refer to “Announcements/Notes” below for upcoming events.
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
 - A. Transportation Policy Committee, D. Tran
 - 1. As of early December 2013, UNH has been awarded grants for projects to be completed by August 2014 including Main Street bus pullouts and bike node construction by Morse Circle. Grants for costlier projects such as fleet replacement have been applied for.
 - 2. Ridership on the Rochester Wildcat Transit service has steadily increased since last May, with adjustments to the run schedule starting in this semester.
 - 3. Wildcat Transit and Campus Connector ridership has increased overall. The NextBus tracking has received over 130,000 hits, across platform, in three months. Parking numbers remain steady.
 - B. Community Service, M. Kurtz
 - 1. The “Obnoxious Office Object Fundraiser” for the GSS Relay for Life team is being continued from the end of the last semester. Obnoxious objects are placed on people’s desks and they pay to have them removed.
 - C. Carsey Graduate School of Public Policy Planning Committee, I. Cohen
 - 1. UNH alum Marcy Carsey donated \$20 million towards the development of a new school on public policy. The existing Carsey Institute will fall under the umbrella of this Carsey Graduate School of Public Policy as its primary research arm. The new school will only house graduate programs.
 - 2. The Academic Programs Committee met in December to discuss how the programs will be planned. A full planning committee meeting followed to discuss the framework of the proposal, which is due to the Provost in February.
 - 3. Programs can work one of two ways, inside-out or outside-in. With inside-out, students take a core set of policy classes first and then branch out to other sub-disciplines. An outside-in track works the other way around. Both options are outlined in the proposal but all programs will be created like all other programs on campus.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. There is no old business.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Resolution 2014:1, *A Resolution Highlighting the Importance of Graduate Education*
 - 1. M. Verney moved to pass the resolution.
 - 2. M. Smith seconded the motion.
 - 3. Discussion
 - a) The resolution was motivated by the latest external review of the Graduate School, which is third in the last four years. There seems to be questions from within the Provost office and at the BoT level about the need for graduate education, which runs contrary to President Huddleston’s statements saying that UNH is the main research university in the state of New Hampshire.
 - b) K. Saito asked for evidence supporting the claims that the Provost office has questioned the necessity of graduate education. I. Cohen cited the previous informal reviews of the Graduate School by former Provost John Aber. Provost Aber investigated eliminating teaching assistantships, despite both reviews yielding positive feedback from faculty and students on the Graduate School. Under Provost Lisa MacFarlane, a formal review was brought in that will likely be favorable for the Graduate School. J. McClain added that reducing the number of assistantships may more of a matter of quality over quantity rather than an attack on graduate education.

From the BoT perspective, they question the research mission of the university as well as how graduate education benefits the state and it is important for the resolution to emphasize this. I. Cohen summarized that graduate education will not likely be eliminated while there being a small chance that the centralized Graduate School may be in jeopardy.

- c) A consensus was arrived at to emphasize the importance of graduate education. From that the GSS can figure out what is more specifically desired from the administration and Graduate School. Friendly amendments were passed to remove the last “WHEREAS” paragraph and the first “Be it RESOLVED.”
4. The motion passes unanimously. The resolution passes with amendments.
- B. Resolution 2014:2, *A Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Participation in the Election of Student Trustee*
 1. M. Kurtz moved to pass the resolution.
 2. M. Verney seconded the motion.
 3. Discussion
 - a) The BoT charter states that there should be two student trustee positions that rotate among the four USNH institutions. Student trustees are to be elected by their respective student bodies; however, they must be an undergraduate and can only be elected by those who are eligible to vote for Student Body President. At UNH, this excludes graduate students from voting and running for the position. A graduate student with experience on the Board or a former undergraduate representative who is now a graduate student would not be eligible for the position. It does not seem fair to exclude 15% of the student population.
 - b) The resolution would be brought to the BoT Governance Committee and then run by the University System Student Board (USSB) which comprises of all of the BoT student representatives.
 - c) The position is generally uncontested by undergraduate students with only one nominee running unopposed. The student trustee represents the school on the BoT and ideally it would be a graduate student who was an undergraduate at UNH.
 4. The motion passes with 12 votes for and 3 votes against. The resolution passes.
- C. Resolution 2014:3, *A Resolution Addressing the Disambiguation of Student Government Roles at UNH*
 1. M. Verney moved to pass the resolution.
 2. M. Smith seconded the motion.
 3. Discussion
 - a) M. Kurtz noted that the resolution has a combative tone. J. McClain agreed that something like this should be done over a longer period of time. J. Gilbert added that while the previous resolution has practical implications, this resolution may be perceived as a waste of time. M. Smith and M. Verney both suggested discussing this directly with the undergraduate Student Senate, adding that it looks like the GSS is trying to go above them and appeal to a higher authority.
 - b) Friendly amendments were made to replace “strongly encourages” in each “Be it RESOLVED” paragraph with a “respectfully requests.”
 4. The motion does not pass with 5 votes for, 6 votes against, and 2 abstentions. The resolution is defeated.

VIII. Announcements/Notes

- A. Graduate School Social, Thursday, January 30, 5-6:30pm, at Libby’s Bar & Grill
 1. Free appetizers will be served, courtesy of the Graduate School.
- B. First Thursday Happy Hour, Thursday, February 6, 5-7pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill

- C. NH Listens Public Engagement Workshop, Friday, February 7, 3-6pm???
- D. MUB Lecture Series with filmmaker Lee Daniels, Wednesday, February 12, 7pm, in the MUB Granite State Room
- E. Women's Hockey Games, Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 2pm
 - 1. Ten free tickets have been made available for each game, both against Vermont, and will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - 2. Tickets are \$5.00 each after that. Email Madhav at mb13@wildcats.unh.edu.

IX. Adjournment

- A. D. Silva moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. D. Tran seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned at 2:03pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 11 February at 12:30pm in MUB 237.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Tran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire