

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)  
11 February 2014, MUB 237  
Joe Gilbert, Vice President, Facilitating

- I. Call to Order: Joe Gilbert, Vice President, 12:42pm
- II. Roll Call and Introductions
  - A. Executive Committee
    - Members Present:
      1. Joe Gilbert, Vice President
      2. Deanna Silva, Treasurer
      3. Dan Tran, Clerk
      4. John McClain, External Affairs Officer
      5. Madhav Baral, Programs Coordinator
    - B. Executive Committee
      - Members Not Present:
        1. Ian Cohen, President
      - C. Senators Present:
        1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
      2. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
      3. Luke Dietrich, COLA
      4. Kei Saito, COLA
      5. Mike Verney, COLA
      6. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
      7. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
      8. Matt Smith, Graduate School
    - D. Senators Not Present:
      1. Myles Lynch, CHHS
      2. Jay Derick, COLA
      3. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
      4. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
    - E. Other Graduate Students Present: 5
- III. Approval of Minutes from General Meetings on 28 January 2014
  - A. M. Kurtz moved to approve the minutes as read.
  - B. M. Smith seconded the motion.
  - C. **The motion passes with 9 votes for and 2 abstentions. The minutes are approved.**
- IV. Special Guest Speaker: Stacey Hall, Director of Campus Recreation
  - A. Ms. Hall gave a presentation on updates of the renovation and expansion of Hamel Recreation Center as well as took feedback on the Campus Recreation mandatory fee.
- V. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
  - A. Vice President, J. Gilbert
    1. Graduate Council
      - a) Graduate assistantship stipends have been set for the next academic year. They are as follows: \$15,550 for level 1, \$16,580 for level 2, and \$17,800 for level 3. These are raises of around 3% from the current academic year's stipends.
      - b) The review of the Graduate School is mostly complete with the Dean's office awaiting the full written report.
      - c) A graduate certificate in curriculum and instructional leadership was created.
      - d) The Department of Family Studies has been renamed to Human Development and Family Studies, which also changes the degree name.
      - e) Regarding advising, program handbooks, and timely progress towards a degree, the Graduate School is taking more of a proactive stance in contacting graduate program coordinators to collect department handbooks. They will be looking for inconsistencies between the contents of handbooks and what students are being told as well as where they may not match what is stated in the official graduate catalog.
    2. Governance Committee
      - a) Nominations for the upcoming elections will open on March 4. Voting opens on March 18 and runs through the following Friday, March 28.
      - b) All positions are open. Current officers and senators are encouraged to run for the seat they currently hold, run for a different position, or nominate a replacement. Anyone who is currently not an officer or senator is welcome to run as well.

- c) General meetings of the GSS will continue to be held every other Tuesday during common exam time at 12:30-2:00pm.
      - d) Whether future/incoming graduate students are eligible to run will be a matter for the Governance Committee to explore.
    - B. Treasurer, D. Silva
      - 1. No report.
    - C. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
      - 1. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
        - a) The University System Student Board (USSB), consisting of all student representatives of the BoT, convened. At the next Board meeting, the USSB will be giving a presentation to the Education Excellence Committee on technology in higher education. In preparation, more focused technology questions will be elicited from respective constituents.
        - b) Also discussed during the USSB meeting were the two GSS resolutions passed on January 28, Resolution 2014:1, *A Resolution Highlighting the Important of Graduate Education* and Resolution 2014:2, *A Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Participation in the Election of Student Trustee*, with the latter being debated.
        - c) Resolution 2014:2 was generally well received by the BoT Governance Committee as they seemed to agree it was somewhat undemocratic for graduate students not being able to vote and/or run for the student trustee position; however, while the impetus for policy change is there, it is up to the USSB to figure out how this can be done.
        - d) A presentation was given on the GSS voting on next year's mandatory fees from November 19 and December 3. All mandatory fees were approved by the BoT. Another presentation was given on academic advising.
        - e) Future projects were discussed. The Gables will undergo an \$8-million renovation over the summer. Cowell Stadium is also being renovated into a state-of-the-art athletic complex, estimated to cost \$25 million.
      - 2. Governmental Affairs Ad Hoc Committee
        - a) A general invitation was received to consider joining the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS). GSS membership in the NAGPS may be looked in the long term.
    - D. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
      - 1. Programming Committee
        - a) Refer to "Announcements/Notes" below for upcoming events.
        - b) The committee will meet soon to discuss events in the remaining of the semester.
- VI. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
- A. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich
    - 1. Provost Lisa MacFarlane spoke about the last USNH BoT meeting (mentioned above).
    - 2. With Kendall Hall being renovated, they want to think about how that will affect research and lab space and faculty over the course of 7 or 8 years in the future.
    - 3. Two motions out of the Academic Affairs Committee were passed. One was to extend the online course registration to the end of the first week of classes, which will allow for students to register for classes during the add/drop period in which there are spaces remaining.
    - 4. The other motion made a recommendation urging faculty to use BlackBoard to post syllabi and schedules.
    - 5. Regarding the UNH Policy for the Protection of Minors, the question was raised as to whether anybody employed by the university with potential contact with minors should be required to undergo training and a \$70 criminal background check.

6. There are still concerns and questions about the policy. What constitutes a minor? To what extent does it matter if minors on campus are supervised or unsupervised? How would background check information be securely? How would background checks affect hiring and what are the costs?

VII. Old Business

- A. There is no old business.

VIII. New Business

A. Amendments to the GSS Bylaws

1. In Article I, Section III.1, the “Whittemore School of Business and Economics (WSBE)” will be changed to the “Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics (Paul).”
  - a) This reflects the name change of the college. There is no functional change to the Senate seating.
2. In Article I, Section III.5 will be added to read “UNH School of Law: One (1) Senator shall be elected by the matriculated graduate degree students in the School of Law, Concord campus.”
  - a) This extends representation to the newly incorporated UNH School of Law.
3. D. Tran moved to pass the amendments.
4. M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
5. Discussion
  - a) In regards to the Concord seat, MUB graduate assistant Conner McIver noted the difference in graduate representation on the GSS for namesake versus representation for input, citing that is not feasible for some to actually attend meetings. Proper steps should be taken so that representatives of satellite campuses can participate and be heard. J. Gilbert stressed that this is a logistical issue separate from the Constitution and Bylaws and the purpose of the proposed amendments is to have mechanisms in place to include all graduate students.
- 6. The motion receives 12 yay votes, 0 nay votes, and 1 abstention. The amendments do not pass and will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.**
  - a) Amendments to the GSS Constitution and Bylaws require a number of votes equal to at least two-thirds of total voting positions. Currently, there are 19 voting positions, meaning amendments require at least 13 votes to pass.

IX. Announcements/Notes

- A. Free MUB Lecture Series, Wednesday, February 12, 7pm
- B. Women’s Hockey, Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, Whittemore Center
  1. Both games are UNH vs. Vermont at 2pm. Free tickets have been made available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Email mb13@wildcats.unh.edu
- C. Trustee Panel hosted by the Student Senate, Sunday, February 16, 6pm, in PCB 165

X. Adjournment

- A. M. Verney moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned at 1:59 until the next general meeting scheduled on 25 February at 12:30pm in MUB 336.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Tran, Clerk, University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate