

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
25 February 2014, MUB 336
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. Dan Tran, Clerk
 4. John McClain,
External Affairs Officer
 5. Madhav Baral,
Programs Coordinator
 - B. Executive Committee
Members Not Present:
 1. Deanna Silva, Treasurer
 - C. Senators Present:
 1. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
 - D. Senators Not Present:
 1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
 2. Jay Derick, COLA
 - E. Other Graduate Students Present: 3
 2. Myles Lynch, CHHS
 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
 9. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
 10. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
- III. Approval of Minutes from General Meeting on 11 February 2014
 - A. D. Tran moved to approve the minutes as read.
 - B. M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
 - C. **The motion passes with 14 YES votes. The minutes are approved unanimously.**
- IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
 - A. President, I. Cohen
 1. Graduate Council
 - a) The Doctoral Committee of the Graduate Council met. They are working on a proposal for a PhD program in Molecular Sciences and Evolutionary Systems.
 - b) The proposed program generally received praise from an external review committee. It is an interdisciplinary program comparable to the PhD program in Genetics in that it includes more computational science. The next step is approval from the full Council before it can be implemented.
 - B. Vice President, J. Gilbert
 1. Faculty Senate
 - a) The Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate met. The main topic of discussion was the hidden costs of courses, which are not limited to costs of new and used textbooks but include having to pay for other supplies. Some costs, such as lab fees, are listed on the course catalog while students do not learn of others until they receive the syllabus.
 - b) Part of the discussion comes from a resolution put forth by the Student Senate to make this type of information more transparent and listed more ahead of time as part of the centralized book list.
 - c) The faculty has gotten this notification from the Student Senate regarding this issue; however, this was not communicated to graduate instructors and teaching assistants.
 - d) Open forums with three candidates for the position of Associate Provost for International Programs are being held. The goals of the position are international recruiting as well as sending domestic students out into the world.

C. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain

1. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
 - a) The next presentation that will be made by the University System Student Board (USSB) to the Educational Excellence Committee will be on the role of technology in higher education.
 - b) The Student Senate hosted a panel of BoT members as a way to present viewpoints and to improve their relationship to trustees. To some extent, the BoT has been looking for more student input.
 - c) At the panel, Chair Pamela Diamantis defined the role of the Board as fierce advocates externally for and harsh critics internally of the University System. The undergraduates asked questions on plans to build a new football stadium/athletics complex. The BoT justifies spending money on a new stadium, expecting need-based projects, like the renovation of Hamilton-Smith Hall, to be funded by state capital appropriations. The athletics complex will be paid for more immediately by internal borrowing and fundraising.
 - d) The Student Senate passed a resolution stating that they would like to see a move towards total cost of attendance instead of split tuition and fees. President Mark Huddleston apparently agreed with that sentiment. This will be a topic of debate amongst graduate students.

D. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral

1. The Women's Hockey games were a success in the sense that the free tickets for both games were claimed.
2. Most of the events and programs for the remainder of the semester have been finalized.
3. Refer to "Announcements/Notes" below for upcoming events.

V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports

A. Community Service, M. Kurtz

1. There will be at least one more fundraising event before the event on the night of Saturday, April 12.

B. Memorial Union Building Board of Governors (MUB BOG), M. Smith

1. MUB BOG is accumulating a list of potential performers to bring to the MUB next fall, not including speakers.

C. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich

1. Provost Lisa MacFarlane mentioned that the Faculty Senate and the Provost Office is collaborating on creating a panel on teaching and learning at UNH for which they are accepting nominations.
2. Tuck Pescosolido from Paul College presented on Campus Planning Committee. He was charged with thinking about guidelines for partnerships in building on campus, the tensions between academic and financial considerations in building, the outdoor pool, and tracking the development of the Campus Master Plan.
3. The Campus Planning Committee also had a resolution that any future building includes a department chair or someone designated by the department chair on that committee to improve poor communication between departments and builders.
4. Sean McGhee from the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) and Barbara White and Joe Onosko from the Education Department gave a report on the discussion of textbooks, course materials, and affordability.
5. Regarding promotion and tenure, Art Greenberg gave a presentation about engaged scholarship and how UNH values that. It is in the university mission but there is a question as to whether it is service or scholarship or some combination of both. They are moving on to think about the role of interdisciplinary teaching at UNH.

D. Space Allocation, Adaption, and Renewal Committee (SAARC), P. Lacroix

1. SAARC is conducting the review for FY2015 in terms of defining what physical space(s) are used by each college, school, institute, or administrative service. For perspective, it costs about \$25 to operate one square foot of space per year. This goes towards heating, ventilation, and general maintenance. This space is being determined right now.
2. While the review has received partial approval, there are concerns about what allocated space will cost for the Paul College, since it is a new building with unknowns with new technology integrated.
3. Kendall Hall will be gutted for renovation. Its library will be temporarily relocated to Dimond Library while the electron microscope will be moved to Parsons Hall.
4. The Psychology Department will lose 12,000 square foot from Conant Hall, Nesmith Hall, and 11 Brook Way, but will ultimately gain over 25,000 square feet by moving temporarily to McConnell Hall.
5. The location of the Carsey Institute is still unknown because they do not have revenue.
6. The town is partnering with the university for the creation of more crosswalks all around the periphery of campus for increased pedestrian safety.
7. An investment of close to \$300,000 was approved to repair damage caused by the first deep freeze from January, which mostly affected James Hall. Freeze damage is partly attributed to outdated heating/ventilation technology in older buildings that may require overhauls should funds become available or if there was a greater emergency.

E. Carsey Graduate School Planning Committee, I. Cohen

1. The Planning Committee's proposal has been completed and sent to the Faculty Senate.

VI. Old Business

A. UNH Policy on Sexual Assault

1. Amanda Daly, a graduate representative on the UNH President's Commission on the Status of Women, expressed concerns about a change on the university's policy on sexual assault that could run contrary to federal regulations and adversely affect victims.
2. As a follow-up, UNH's Title IX Coordinator Donna Marie Sorrentino responded saying that there were inaccuracies in the original email sent on the sexual assault policy. Ms. Daly and Ms. Sorrentino would presumably meet to clarify the matter.
3. The GSS Executive Committee decided that it would be best for the GSS to wait and learn more before discussing the matter and potentially taking any action.

B. Amendments to the GSS Bylaws

1. Discussion on amendments to the GSS Bylaws was tabled at the previous general meeting of the GSS on 11 February, after the amendment failed to pass due to the lack of required YES votes. The amendments in question are as follows:
 - a) In Article I, Section III.1.a, the "Whittemore School of Business and Economics (WSBE)" will be changed to the "Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics (Paul)."
 - (1) This reflects the name change of the college. There is no functional change to the Senate seating.
 - b) 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."
 - (1) This extends representation to the newly incorporated UNH School of Law.
2. M. Verney moved to pass the amendments.
3. M. Smith seconded the motion.

4. Discussion

- a) P. Lacroix wanted clarification on how relative proportion of delegation between different schools was determined. J. Gilbert explained that the numbers were set when the Graduate Student Organization became a Senate. It is unclear as to how they were determined but they correspond roughly to enrollment numbers and will be considered for reevaluation by the Governance Committee. The priority was to create one seat for the School of Law. J. McClain and M. Kurtz added that some students would receive double representation if they also live in a housing unit. P. Lacroix posed the question of what is meant that senators from graduate housing units are elected by their respective hall councils; however, not all graduate students in these housing units are in the hall council. This does not accurately reflect how senators from housing units are actually elected.
- b) A friendly amendment to the proposed amendments was proposed to change “Senators from graduate housing units shall be elected by their respective Hall Council” to “Senators from graduate housing units shall be elected by their respective graduate residents.”
- c) Another friendly amendment was proposed to remove instances where a distinction was made between UNH and UNH Manchester, which perpetuates the idea they are separate entities when they are both part of the same university. This occurs in Article IV, Section I of the GSS Constitution and Article I, Section III of the Bylaws.
- d) D. Tran stated that if this amendment passes then constitutional amendments from this point forward will require fourteen (14) YES votes, regardless of filled voting membership in the GSS, due to the creation of a new seat.

5. The motion receives 13 YES votes. The amendment passes.

VII. New Business

A. “Single-Price Initiative”

1. The Student Senate passed a resolution pushing for having a single, total cost of attendance at the university that includes all fees and tuition. This is not necessarily something that all graduate students would support.
 - a) Consolidating of all costs into a single price may reduce transparency. An advantage of seeing how costs break down is the understanding that tuition goes towards academic costs and fees pay for other individual services provided. There are additional concerns when considering doing this for graduate students since they do not all pay the same fees let alone the same fees as undergraduates. Some graduate students are also eligible for fee waivers.
 - b) The GSS is again reacting to a resolution after it has already been passed by the Student Senate, so this is an opportunity to reach out to the undergraduate students and formalize some level of communication between senates. This would allow for future collaboration on issues or give each body the opportunity to voice concerns.
2. Discussion
 - a) P. Lacroix questioned the benefits for having a single cost of attendance, suggesting that it is a way for the university to get around the tuition freeze for in-state students by raising this single price and attributing it to increased fees. This could hurt UNH’s marketing efforts when the price is compared to other institutions. M. Kurtz speculated that the reason for that the resolution was put forth because fee information is, though public, not easily accessible. M. Verney added that it does not seem to be an issue just to make the effort to find the fee information and do the math. I. Cohen reminded that the GSS has not seen the resolution so the motivation for it is still unclear. What is the effect on graduate students with assistantships and

their advisors as to what can be charged to a grant? J. Gilbert expressed concern that a single cost could potentially undo work that the Graduate School and the deans have done to allow for graduate students to waive fees or not have to pay the Athletics fee, for instance. It is reiterated again that all of the fee information is already transparent as it stands. J. McClain brought up that many of the negative sentiments surrounding this lies are related to the RCM model, which is slated for review, and the difficulty of separating costs.

- b) The goal here to receive the language laid out in the undergraduate resolution which might help to answer some questions asked. As soon as more information is received, the GSS can draft a response that details the concerns discussed.

VIII. Announcements/Notes

- A. GSS Election nomination period opens, Tuesday, March 4, 12pm
- B. First Thursday Happy Hour, Thursday, March 6, 5-7pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill
- C. Snow Tubing, Sunday, March 16, 4-7pm, at Amesbury Sports Park, in Amesbury, MA
- D. GSS Elections begin, Tuesday, March 18, 12pm

IX. Adjournment

- A. J. Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. P. Lacroix seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned at 2:03pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 18 March at 12:30pm in MUB 336.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire