

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Jan. 30, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

MUB 338

Meeting Agenda

I. Call to order (10:00am)

- A. *Present:* Jovana (Pres), Myles (Community Coord.), Nate (Ex. Relations Officer), Dominic (CEPS), Jordan (COLSA), Drummond (CEPS), Beth (COLA), Andrea (Financial Officer), Jin (VP), Carina (Grad School), Rachel (Housing), Sam (CHHS, proxy given to Jacob to approve minutes)
- B. *Guests:* undergrad Student Senate visitors Jake (Student Activity Committee), Audrey (Academic Affairs), Tyler (historian)
- C. Previous minutes approved

II. Fall semester overview and spring semester plans

- A. *Fall review:* 3 welcome events coordinating with a variety of on-campus and off-campus and health services support; fundraising for Puerto Rico (e.g., money for dehumidifiers for flooded labs); student fee lunch w/ unit directors and students/review of fees changes; Forest Park/Oyster River district tuition issue; tax reform discussions and SNHU/Sen. Shaheen event; Campus Climate Review (USSB project to survey students on USNH campuses; PACS issue of limited mental health visits; instituting monthly meetings w/ UNH President and GSS Pres/VP; interim grad student space in the current OISS offices in T-Hall (continued work on arranging permanent space); work on printing discrepancies between and among departments and colleges; review of Faculty Senate smoking policy (will offer feedback this semester); review and feedback on the Social Media Policy that was just put in place at the beginning of the Spring 2018 semester.

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- B. *Spring preview* (focusing on issues directly impacting graduate students): last year we were able to secure stipend increases and fee cuts for those on assistantships, but this achievement does not impact grad students not on assistantship; recruiting new GSS senators

III. GSS committee reports on action plan items for the spring semester

- A. *Governance Committee*: preparing GSS elections; developing communications between GSS and academic departments, partly to identify students active in their departments;
- B. *Finance Committee*: subsidizing fees for grad students not on assistantships (only about 40% have assistantships); creating emergency fund for students experiencing financial hardships; tapping into Alumni funds/“scholarships” for graduate students; developing financial management seminar/workshop (possible to coordinate with Grad School); STAF/DYF funding; acquisition of software designed to help grad students navigate their program and identify resources; thinking about conducting another Finances Survey
- C. *Community Committee*: keeping the multiple meanings of “community” in mind, creating intentional, multidisciplinary, spaces (not just promotion of “events”); some upcoming community space creations include 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) practice and competitive rounds, social events (First Thursday); alum lecture series
- D. *External Relations Committee*: development of local gov’t liaison role; continued discussion over issues of confusion related to the use of “Undergraduate Student Senate” (e.g., elections announcements for the GSS and [U]SS, etc.); integrating

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USSB with student/admin leadership on each USNH campus; campus climate survey to help determine what kinds of training/development around inclusivity (i.e., above and beyond mandatory Title IX training)

- E. *Advocacy Committee*: secured Graduate Student space; looking to furnish and establish our presence in that space; working to develop a GA position in the Grad School to be tied to GSS seat for Graduate School, and to manage/oversee the Grad Student space; working on screen for streaming meetings for those
- F. *Housing Committee*: looking into discrepancy between some residences regarding WiFi access; locks on Forest Park windows; working on transparent billing and payment options; Forest Park/Oyster River tuition issue is ongoing; setting meetings with Housing Director to discuss these issues
- G. *Communications Committee*: new GSS Twitter handle [@UNH_GSS](#); cleaning up of MailChimp account (in order to communicate to subscribers via *GSS Newsletter*, etc.); cleaning up of GSS Exchange email inbox; creation of Communications Officer pamphlet for smoother, more efficient transitions after elections/changes in roster
- H. *Health & Wellness Committee*: big push to explore dental as an opt-in for graduate students; working on committee to collate information about healthy dining/cooking/nutrition for grad students; working on better/more options for childcare; how to support grad students if/when they have exhausted their allotted PACS visits
- I. *Diversity & Inclusion Committee*: continuing to develop events/support systems, “expanding the parameters of diversity” to include disability in such consideration

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IV. Adjourn (11:30am)