

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Sept. 19, 2017, 10:30am-12:00pm

MUB 336

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome and Check-Ins

B. Present: Jovana (President), Jacob (Communications Officer), Jordan (COLSA), Rachel (Housing), Beth (COLA), Andrea (Finance Officer), Dominic (CEPS), Nick (CEPS), Drummond (Prev. Pres., CEPS), Sam (CHHS), Gökhan (Paul), Aliza (Community Coord.), Nate (External Rel. Officer), Emily (COLA), Della (COLA), Jin (VP), Myles (at-large)

II. Approve Minutes

A. Approved

B. Revised this week's agenda so that we begin with Social Media Policy discussion.

III. Social Media Policy review (draft sent by Dean Kirkpatrick)

A. Concerns that this policy runs afoul of case law regarding First Amendment, and that it reads like a civility code that would not meet constitutional muster (Jacob); suggestion that the policy is a guideline more than a legal document (Drummond); thought of it as a guideline at first, but isn't sure now (Sam); curious if the purpose of this document might be met by a training program or orientation (Beth; others concur); suggestion that the policy, if it is a guideline, ought to be briefer (Jordan); there is a first-year program already underway regarding community engagement (Jovana) [these minutes are amended to reflect subsequent confirmation that there is no such "cultural competency requirement" as yet (Andrea)]; question as to why this kind of response is so late in arriving, given the many instances of racially-motivated incidents last year (Rachel);

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concern raised that this policy (if it is a disciplinary policy) might violate privacy rights, especially if a violation occurs off-campus, and off-network, but simultaneous underscoring of how important it is to combat harassment (Beth); note the fact the we are having difficulty deciding liability reinforces the need for some kind of clarity, a clarity that is lacking society-wide and not just at UNH (Jordan).

B. Takeaways: *Is this a disciplinary policy or a communications guideline?* If it is the latter, then some of the language regarding violation, evidence, and mandatory action might need revising. *Can this be abbreviated? Can this be folded into training or other programming?*

C. Vote: *As the policy is currently worded, would we support it?*

Yay: 0; Nay: 6; Unsure: 4.

IV. Presidential Search Hearing feedback

A. Nate reports back on issues raised during hearing sessions he attended (undergrad, grad, as well as search committee): increase retention rates; increase revenue generation (e.g., 1- and 2-year certificate and graduate degrees); Responsibility-Centered Management; presidential presence in the community, in a physical sense (e.g., immediate/noticeable visibility in aftermath of racially motivated harassment); increase Carnegie classification to Research - Very High, and increase visibility of the research being done.

B. Feedback: the UNH brand/identity seems to be “hockey,” but it could be more focused on interdisciplinarity (Myles); one way to increase on-campus visibility

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of research is to coordinate more among colleges (Rachel); the two problems noted above seem to be PR- and culture-based, respectively, and the latter seems more important (Aliza).

V. Forest Park

- A.** Request has been made for free parking for Forest Park residents, who are mostly international students on visas prohibiting/limiting employment/income; current cost is \$; alternative parking at West Edge means either 30-minute walk or waiting for bus; there is a loading-only section at Forest Park reserved only for residents (or guests).
- B.** Process for naming on leases for residents is going to change so that all residents will be on the document (and therefore all will be liable for damages, etc.);
- C.** Residents with children who will attend public schools in Durham will be billed \$17,000 per child, per year. Perhaps we should make a statement of our concern as an organization (Jovana).

VI. A-Lot closures for “special events”

- A.** Not discussed during this session.

VII. Committee Invitations

- A.** Delegation of committee appointments continues (placing GSS members on Internal and Faculty Senate committees).
- B.** There will be a sign-up sheet for attendance at undergraduate Student Senate sessions, as we continue to build relationship between organizations (Jovana).

VIII. Adjourn