

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Nov. 14, 2017, 10:30am-12:00pm

MUB 336

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order (10:33am):** Present: Jovana (President), Jordan (COLSA), Dominic (CEPS), Beth (COLA), Andrea (Fin. Aff. Off.; proxy for Nate [Ex. Aff. Off.] and Drummond [CEPS]), Carina (Grad), Jacob (Comm. Off.), Rachel (Housing), Pritha (UNH Manchester), Sam (CHHS), Della (COLA), Emily (COLA), Jin (VP), Mimady Basu (Guest)

- II. Minutes approval (pushed to next meeting; we didn't have quorum, then we did, then we didn't at the end)**

- III. Announcements**
 - A. Student Fees Digest (FKA Unit Directors Lunch) tomorrow (flyer passed around),
12:00-1:30pm Hamel Rec Center Rm 239

- IV. Discussion on FS smoke-free proposal (Marc Hiller presented 10.31.2017):** sounds like a good idea, but the practical impact of a non-enforcement proposal has some skeptical about the effectiveness; questions about how chewing tobacco fits into the scheme since it doesn't have the same kind of second-hand impacts as smoked tobacco; the overall proposal takes cessation as a central element, not just ceasing smoking but all forms of tobacco use, and this is intended to improve health not only of bystanders but current users; we should see case studies of other similar proposals and their impact/effect; we should ask whether affected populations were included in discussion/drafting (e.g., Veterans, recovering alcoholics/addicts, or those from other countries/cultures with more acceptance of smoking)

- V. Brief committee reports**
 - A. undergraduate Student Senate (Beth):

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1. conversation veered toward discussion of value/viability of running a graduate student for the voting BOT position that rotates to UNH for AY 18-19/19-20
2. lots of turnover in campus cleaning services
3. Rec Center access?
4. bus services on weekends?

VI. Tax changes (Jovana)

- A. NH Reps and Senators are already on board in opposition to tax changes that would treat tuition waivers as taxable income, so perhaps we can reach out to them to thank them for that opposition; and/or reach out to Reps and Senators in states where we did undergraduate degrees.
- B. Jacob noted differences between House and Senate plans, with the latter leaving graduate tuition waivers alone. For a brief review of differences, see [this *New York Times* article](#).

VII. Campus Climate Resolution (Nate)

- A. Moved to next GSS general session meeting

VIII. Provost Nancy Targett visit

- A. Provost updates: UNH still committed to the grad stipend increases agreed to last year; grad space is still an active discussion in SAARC; resources are an issue in general at the national level, and in particular at the state level in NH; the president of Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities [sent a letter](#) to Reps and

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Senators opposing the tuition waiver taxation (among other elements in the House and Senate plans)

- B. *How is the Grad School Dean search going? Where are we in the process?* We have not started the search on that. The idea might be to wait until after the next UNH President has been identified, which may be as early as March 2018; though the Dean search may not get underway until September 2018.
- C. *Forest Park issue regarding kids attending Oyster River Schools: Provost's opinion on the issue? Advice to offer? Is there a proposed solution?* The agreement is not a good one for UNH, and there is hope that it can be renegotiated. In any case, options for students with children need to be considered. Perhaps an arrangement with a Durham or area landlord to reserve apartments or flats for students with children, so that by paying rent they would be contributing to the tax base that funds public schools. Jacob reviewed the UNH/Durham agreement (that places responsibility , the revised Forest Park lease
- D. *Can anything be done to improve transportation Durham↔Manchester?* It might be worthwhile contacting VP Clement regarding possible ridesharing programs on campus.
- E. *Can anything be done to increase grad course options at Manchester?*

IX. Adjourn (12:09)