

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Feb. 27, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

MUB 338

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order (10:00am)

- A. Present: Myles (Community), Andrea (Financial), Drummond (CEPS, by proxy [Andrea]), Carina (Grad), Beth (COLA), Sam (CHHS, by proxy [Beth]), Nate (External), Jin (VP), Dominic (COLSA, by proxy [Jin]), Jovana (President), Jordan (COLA), Gökhan (Paul), Rachel (Housing)
- B. Guests: Joe Gilbert (UNH LU), Megan Bresnahan (Life Sciences and Agriculture Librarian), Jen Carroll (Collection Management Librarian)
- C. Previous minutes approved

II. Nomination of Sumeyra Gok as new CEPS senator for remainder of 17-18 year: approved by unanimous vote

III. Committee Check-ins (10:05am)

- A. Communications (Jacob): created LinkedIn profile, and will begin duplicating social media posts there; will also add a medallion for the LinkedIn profile to the bottom of the *GSS Newsletter*
- B. Community (Myles): First Thursday is this Thursday; wear green...there may be prizes!
- C. Housing (Rachel): Student Accessibility Services is hosting a panel discussion on [“The UNH Experience for Students with Disabilities”](#) March 6, 4-5pm in MUB Theater II
- D. Health & Wellness (Beth): have heard back from HR regarding faculty dental plan; capped max benefit for employees; there is also a possible option at the Wentworth

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Feb. 27, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

MUB 338

Meeting Minutes

Douglass Community Dental Clinic ([there are regional and income-based eligibility requirements](#))

- E. Durham-GSS relationship (Jordan): good first meeting
- IV. Student Senate (undergraduate) report (Nate):** no real movement or response to continued requests by GSS for a name change reflecting the *undergraduate* focus of SS
- V. Barry Hennessey, Assessment Librarian** and Assoc. Prof: Megan (Life Sciences and Agriculture Librarian) and Jen (Collection Management Librarian) in Barry's stead to report on [graduate student resources](#), and share data showing the 2007-2017 average increases in Collection Budget (2.53%) as compared to Journal inflation (5.92%), Book inflation (3.31%), and overall US inflation (1.6%) – basically, each year the library has less and less purchasing power, especially for journal subscriptions; one possible avenue that avoids the cost of subscription is increased use of [open-access resources](#), not only for economic reasons but for intellectual reasons that urge wider and easier access to scholarly resources; also reminded us that there are [subject librarians](#) assigned to specific departments/divisions.
- VI. Motion to compose resolution opposing “campus carry” (Beth):** motion seconded, passed unanimously, and Beth will join ExCom next week to begin drafting.
- VII. Joe Gilbert to speak about UNHLU non-renewals** (former COLA Senator, current ESL Lecturer): the most direct and specific connection between the UNHLU and GSS bodies is that there are current graduate students who are also Lecturers; one of the Lecturers non-renewed holds a PhD from UNH, which has implications for future job placement of current graduate students; the decisions seem to have been made hastily, as evidenced by the non-renewal notice mistakenly sent to Joe (whose contract has one more year on it); the

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Feb. 27, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

MUB 338

Meeting Minutes

decisions were made with little transparency ; the ongoing adjunctification has implications for the job prospects of every graduate student with an eye on an academic career;

A. **Question:** *What is the plan for covering courses previously taught by non-renewed Lecturers?* In some cases they will be replaced by new hires with more credentials (though some who were let go were promoted to Senior or Primary Lecturer, even though they were eventually deemed not worth retaining)

Question: *What was the rationale for non-renewals? Were performance or student evaluations considered?* The non-renewal letters included only one explanation: budget constraints.

Question: *Is there any other identifiable factor, such as junior status, that contributed to non-renewal?* Demographics run the gamut: one Lecturer had been with UNH for two decades, and promoted to the highest rank possible, Primary Lecturer; others were much newer to the role. The

Question: *Is there any indication that the Faculty Senate will take up the issue?* Some are fired up, others more complacent.

Question: *Is the Faculty Senate only composed of tenured/tenure-track faculty?* No, there are Lecturers and Clinical faculty, too.

VIII. **Motion to compose resolution opposing non-renewals (Jacob):** motion seconded, motion passes with 2 abstentions

IX. **Adjourn (11:37am)**