

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

March 20, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

MUB 338

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

- A. **Members present:** Jovana (Pres.), Jin (VP), Myles (Community), Jordan (COLSA), Drummond (CEPS), Beth (COLA), Sam (CHHS, proxy to Dominic (CEPS), Sumeyra (CEPS), Carina (Grad School), Emily (COLA)
- B. **Guests:** Jake Adams (undergraduate Student Senate rep), Chief Paul Dean (UNH PD), Dean Heidi Bostic (COLA), Sofia Lemons (UNH LU)
- C. **Approval of minutes:** passed unanimously

II. A Resolution in Support of Maintaining UNH's Current Firearms Policy

- A. Beth reviewed the impetus to draft a resolution: existing UNH/USNH policy safeguards students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus(es), and also respects 2nd Amendment right to bear arms (there are lockers supervised by UNH PD for students etc. who have firearms); case law in NH allows for the kinds of policies that USNH, CCSNH, and all their campuses have regarding firearms, and counters the Governor's recent claims that such "local control" presents a slippery slope; last year's repeal of licensing requirements increase our sense of urgency, as does the ongoing spate of mass shootings across the country
- B. Comments: Drummond noted that he has known and knows students who have abided by existing UNH/USNH policy and not felt overburdened; Jordan asked if there has been any administrative support for such a resolution, and Beth answered that Jake (undergrad rep) wants to share the resolution with his group and see about co-sponsorship or mirrored resolution in that body

III. Anti-Discrimination in HUD Mission Statement

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- A. Impetus: the National Fair Housing Alliance is asking for co-signers to [a letter](#) they've drafted to Housing and Urban Development Sec. Dr. Ben Carson, asking that he halt plans to remove anti-discrimination language from HUD's mission statement; Jacob has asked the GSS whether or not we should sign as an organization, and offers as rationale the history of federal housing policy as perpetuating segregation as well as the specific legal requirement of HUD to avoid discriminatory policies or practices
- B. Comments/Questions: Beth wonders whether there is any requirement of GSS attending the meeting mentioned in the end of the letter, and Jacob answered that the meeting is intended to be between the NFHA and HUD; Drummond offered for consideration the specific link between Fair Housing and student housing issues; Jacob agreed with making this link explicit, especially in light of his opinion that the former inclusion in Forest Park leases of the \$17,600 fee for families with children is a violation of state and federal fair housing law; Jordan also offered the historical perspective that student organization protest in the 1960s helped lead to drafting and passage of law creating HUD in the first place
- C. Vote on signing letter: 11 yays, 2 abstentions
- D. Vote on accompanying statement: 11 yays, 2 abstentions

IV. New issue:

- A. Consideration of GSS agreement with and financial contribution for changing the decal in the MUB government complex, as the current decal represents "Student

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Government Association”; undergraduate Student Senate offered to design and pay for a new sign, designating “Student Government Complex”

- B. Comments: Drummond asked if we could suggest removal of “Complex” from the sign; Jacob countered that we might suggest “Offices” instead;
- C. Feelings were registered in favor of support for redesigning the sign, designating “Student Government Offices,” and in favor of providing financial support for the cost

V. UNH Police Chief Paul Dean

- A. Chief Dean offered his thanks for the invitation and suggested making a regular habit of visiting GSS, perhaps once a semester to update on safety and other issues, such as the RAD self-defense workshops for women and perhaps extending to men, as well, citing a Plymouth State University 1-credit course as a possible model for something to create at UNH
- B. Jovana asked whether Chief Dean could comment on or offer support for the previously voted-on resolution regarding “campus carry,” and the Chief replied affirmatively, including that he has, for 6 or 7 years, testified in front of the state legislature that USNH ought to maintain its autonomy to enact and enforce policies such as the current firearms policy
- C. Jovana also asked Chief Dean to comment on any trainings on how to respond to active shooter situations, and he replied that there are trainings and that the basic premise is “Run, Hide, Fight,” which prioritizes actions for non-law-enforcement students, staff, and visitors in case of such a scenario; Chief Dean also suggested that

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if more funding were made available to counteract mass shootings, he would put it into behavioral intervention, including training not only in the area of health and counseling services but also teaching assistants and residence hall staff who work with students “literally on the ground floor,” highlighting the “conspiracy of care” that is required to identify any manifestations of violence or violent ideation; he said that 100% of the students who have been identified and then asked to take a leave, have taken that leave and taken advantage of services made available, and then returned to their studies and been successful; “by the time a shooting is happening, it’s too late,” so the funneling of resources must be prioritized at the prevention stage and done so in a broad manner.

- D. Myles asked follow-up questions regarding lockers for firearms on campus, and Chief Dean said that there are no restrictions on the type of firearms that can be lockered; Drummond asked if UNH PD checks permits, and Chief Dean replied that there are no state laws requiring the permitting of firearms (though rocket launchers would probably garner FBI attention); Chief Dean also said that there is a check for stolen firearms, and that there is a check for charges like domestic violence or other reasons someone may not be legally allowed to own a firearm (according to state law); Chief Dean also suggested that one obstacle are HIPAA regulations that prevent a check with PACS, though he also stressed that he wouldn’t want a situation where students are less willing to seek help if they knew their mental health issues would be shared outside PACS.

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- E. Dominic asked if UNH PD offers gun safety trainings, but Chief Dean said that due to liability they do not, but do offer information on local options

VI. Dean Bostic to speak about UNHLU non-renewals

- A. 16 lecturers were non-renewed in January; factors for non-renewals included “cratered enrollments”; admitted some mistakes in the communication of the decisions, has held meetings with individuals and departments, and also suggested that the four months’ lead time for those non-renewed is much more than in other industries, where 2 weeks’ notice is standard; she hopes that budgeting at the system and UNH and department levels will become more transparent; said VP of Finance and Administration will also be meeting at the department and program level
- B. Jordan asked if there is any idea about how to address budget issues given appropriations from the state; Dean Bostic suggested that better access to reliable data from the institution will help a lot
- C. Drummond commented on the timeframe of 3-5 years cited by Dean Bostic, and asked whether that period is determined by collective bargaining agreement; Dean Bostic said yes
- D. Jovana asked about the future of the ESL center, given that several faculty and the director were non-renewed or otherwise not returning, and Dean Bostic suggested direct enrollment rather than through a group like Navitas, etc., may be more effective in keeping enrollments up; she is also worried that federal discourse, including from the President of the United States, worries her and sends shockwaves of concern across higher education where international student enrollments are vital

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- E. Beth asked if there are any plans to recuperate the reputation of COLA in the wake of so much bad press, and Dean Bostic identified the Grand Challenges Initiative, Center for the Humanities receipt of grant monies from Mellon to hold summer programs for “public humanists” and also to recruit from community colleges
- F. Drummond asked if there was a plan to revise usage/assignment of TAs, and Dean Bostic suggested that there are plans to study assignments in order to maximize and hopefully increase
- G. Jacob asked about the language in the non-renewal letters, and whether any letters stated reasons other than budget constraints, citing discrepancy in public statements that suggested lack of terminal degrees were part of the consideration; Dean Bostic answered that all letters were identical (barring names, titles of recipients) and cited budget constraints, and suggested that the decision to send uniform letters was to avoid “twisting, pretzel-like contortions” in explanations, and that public and after-the-fact suggestions that other considerations could be indirectly linked to budget issues

VII. Adjourn (11:36am)