

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)
Wednesday, March 22th, 2011; 9:30 – 11:00 PM; MUB 302

Minutes DRAFT

I. Opening Business

A. Greetings, Check-Ins

Holland Prior, Gökhan Kumpas, Myles Lynch, Andrea Jilling, Evgeniya Dame, Joseph Jensen, Dominic Payne, Nick Marino, Drummond Biles, Nate Stafford, Jessie Bolin, Ezra Temko, Jin Lee, Jordan Coulombe

B. Announcements

1. G. Kumpas announced an event with Paul College. Timothy Smeeding is speaking on Intergenerational Mobility in an Increasingly Unequal World on Wednesday, March 29th from 3 to 4:20pm in MUB Theatre 2.
2. E. Temko noted Sociology colloquium on Thursday, March 23rd from 12:40 to 2pm and a Stata workshop on Friday, March 24th from 12:40 to 3:30pm.
3. M. Lynch noted the GRC needs volunteers for poster set up on April 10th at 9:30am, usually five to 10 people; also, needs moderators for oral presentation the following day. Sessions are an hour long, moderators ensure speakers don't go over time (15 minutes). Both volunteer opportunities will receive free lunch pass on the day.

C. Approval of minutes

Tabled for next meeting due to speaker.

II. External Business

A. Undergraduate Student Senate

B. Grad staff writer

C. Presenter: Jaime Nolan, Associate Vice President
Office of Community, Equity and Diversity

1. J. Nolan noted that GSS's resolution was a thoughtful action; asked how we would like to proceed.
2. E. Temko asked her to speak to the current issues.
3. J. Nolan discussed how the current political climate has emboldened people, noting that she hasn't seen much of an uptick in general, although right after the election there was an increase.
 - There were a series of workshops focused on difficult dialogue in the classroom, equipping faculty with tools to handle that discussion.
 - The law school just created their version of an inclusive committee. Graduate and undergraduate students are represented. Noted the difficulty with coordinating with law school in Manchester.
 - Considering doing a summit on community - here's what Manchester is doing, the law school is doing, etc. Use technology (video conferencing) to have everyone present.
 - Ongoing series to connect that professional development series for faculty and staff, including graduate students, with social justice educators. Make clear that there is a toolbox that can be drawn from. Use case studies based on real experiences from the classroom.

- Recruitment and retention committee that focuses specifically on graduate students, faculty, and staff.
 - Task force on the upcoming campus climate study. Include all faculty, students, and staff on all three campuses. Consider the multiplicity of identities within a survey. Task force will review the questions and since it is so comprehensive there will likely be groups looking at different parts or specific areas. Graduate students could have representation. Participation in the study is critical (need 33%+) and will likely have incentives for participation. Results will propose two or three broad things rather than fifty things.
4. N. Stafford asked about the campus climate study at different colleges and universities in the system (outside of UNH). J. Nolan responded that she's been working at the system level on Title IX, and this has come from that. Keene already had a climate study in place and Plymouth's change in curriculum is tied closely to their climate study.
 5. D. Biles asked if this will be inclusive of both graduate and undergraduate students? J. Nolan responded yes, but the survey will direct graduate students to different questions. There will be some general questions though.
 6. M. Lynch asked if they have considered other schools that have mechanism in place, look for effective models? J. Nolan responded that the term "best practices" has become increasingly problematic; however, there are better practices. UNH has pieces in place (engaged student governments, commissions, etc.). The reality, however, is she's putting out fires while trying to be proactive. She wants this climate study to be more comprehensive and rigorous than ones done in the past at UNH. She welcomed suggested models.
 7. J. Nolan invited graduate students to the breaking bread program on March 28th from 5-7pm in the Stratford Room; President and Provost will be present. Idea is to bring groups together that wouldn't have worked together: students from Christian groups, veterans, democrats, Muslim, etc. Event previously had diverse students prepare a menu, cook, and eat together. Goal is to create an experience rather than intellectualize the topic. Encouraged representatives from GSS. Could be a core component of what would be a center on campus; a new position with internal-facing roles and responsibilities. In the current budget climate, it may be difficult to do more than build on what we have. Send some people to the 'Sustained Dialogue' which teaches facilitation to continue conversation rather than just hold a forum; funded through Bridge and her department.
 8. J. Nolan also noted that UNH is changing single user restrooms to be gender inclusive. Prioritize for those currently not having needs met (ex. Transgender faculty without a single occupancy restroom in their building).
 9. E. Temko clarified that our previous resolution about those restrooms, it was more a concern about access than language. J. Nolan responded that we need to do both.
 10. A. Jilling noted that their mission or goals could build on GSS's campus planning for a graduate student center. J. Nolan responded that building community is a critical part. Graduate students could be a great model for building interdisciplinarity. She noted the importance of maintaining momentum, and would support the center through her position on the President's cabinet.
 11. E. Temko asked how the Language Guide could play a role? J. Nolan responded by noting the violent incidence at other universities and UNH's preparation for such an event. The Language Guide could bring focus; however, would not be well received by Huddleston if we reintroduced the Biased-free Language Guide. Tension between free speech, academic freedom, institutional protections. Protections for academic freedom, especially as a

- graduate student instructor or TA. Policy needs to provide clarity around more ambiguous circumstances for grad students (labs, class sections, etc.). Suggested inviting UNH lawyer, Charlie Putnam, to share his wealth of knowledge.
12. E. Temko noted that students would gladly review the Language Guide but don't want it to be thrown out by Huddleston. J. Nolan responded that she can revisit it. UNH is updating the website so the Community, Equity, and Diversity will change to just Community. Language is power, and there should be a level of awareness. Could make the guide more accessible online as a tool.
 13. M. Lynch suggested defining the word community since her work is very philosophical at its base. He noted that GSS's recent resolution represents community. J. Nolan responded that community is interpreted differently, but has commonalities. Added that she did not want to limit with a definition either since community operates at diverse levels.

III. Internal Business

- A. Reports
Tabled for next meeting.
- B. GSS elections and events
 1. D. Biles addressed elections, and encouraged people to nominate themselves
 2. D. Biles mentioned UNH's Anti-Violence Rally and Walk organized by SHARPP for Thursday, April 13 from 12:30 to 2pm on the Great Lawn. He added three ways for GSS to be involved: co-sponsor, co-sponsor/attend, co-sponsor/attend/have a table.
 - o N. Stafford noted that last year GSS had a banner.
 - o General feelings to co-sponsor and attend event: positive
 3. D. Biles mentioned potential for GSS to support state-based advocacy. Organize an event with the UNH Works team, identify and share best practices for graduate students to pursue effective civic engagement. Training with time to draft letters or emails to representatives. Asked people to contact him if interested in planning an event, perhaps mid-April.
 4. E. Dame noted new date to meet with library Friday, March 31 at 10am in Diamond Library room 345. She will send email to remind senators and encouraged attendance so GSS fully understands the issue.
 5. D. Biles noted that next GSS meeting will have Provost; following meeting will have Provost and President. Encouraged senators to prepare questions he can share with them prior so they can come prepared to speak on particular issues.
 6. M. Lynch noted that during the GRC poster session graduate students can take head shots. Do not need to be presenting; will put in a Box account for students to access.
- C. Committee Meetings

IV. Upcoming Events

- A. First Thursday!
Thursday April 6th, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Thirsty Moose Dover, NH
- B. Graduate Student Appreciation Week!
April 10th – 14th

V. Check-outs and Evaluations

Adjourn