

**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)**  
**Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017; 9:30 – 11:00 PM; MUB 302**

**Draft Minutes**

**I. Opening Business**

- A. Greetings, Check-Ins  
Holland Prior, Rachel Coleman, Jin Lee, Evgeniya Dame, Jovana Milosavljevic, Andrea Jilling, Drummond Biles, Dominic Payne, Meagan Wengrove, Joseph Jensen, Ezra Temko, Alicia Marr, Nick (USS representative), Lindsey Williams, Terri Winters, Myles Lynch, Nate Stafford, Jochen Wirsing, Jordan Coulombe, Patrick Lacroix
  
- B. Approval of minutes  
Approved

**II. External Business**

- A. Undergraduate Student Senate
  - 1. Nick (USS) noted integrated housing for male and female students to allow the different genders to room together.
- B. Grad staff writer
  - 1. M. Lynch noted the 3MT tomorrow (1-3pm) and Friday from 9:30-11am in the MUB theaters.

**III. Internal Business**

- D. Biles noted that the next meeting is the last. Encouraged senators to bring their binders if they will not need for next year.
- A. Reports
  - 1. J. Lee discussed the faculty sub-committee on animals on campus and in class. Only service animals will be allowed in classrooms beginning next fall.
  - 2. J. Milosavljevic discussed faculty senate, specifically that Provost Targett acknowledged graduate students.
  - 3. A. Jilling noted that Executive Committee is considering a GSS logo. She welcomed suggestions. J. M. Suggested a brain since we represent the student body.
  - 4. D. Biles discussed sitting down with the library dean. Just from Elsevier ... roughly \$5M for roughly all of the publication packages. Goal is to utilize ILL which could expand access to resources.
    - J. Bolin asked if they will increase support for ILL to keep the wait time low. D. Biles responded many are already automated and ILL is across multiple colleges and universities which disperses the work.
    - A. Jilling suggested that students are more likely to want article immediately. D. Biles responded that there will be a campaign to inform students of the change and options.
    - E. Dame added that the Library Dean wants to organize a focus group to address the graduate student space in the library. Likely during the summer.

B. Academic Tech 9:45 – 10:05

T. Winters demonstrated new MyUNH portal.

- Currently the Blackboard portal, will be replaced by the end of June. Launch date of new portal may be in May to have overlap in transition.
  - The URL in the Blackboard Portal will forward students to the new platform.
  - Visiting myUNH you'll be prompted with directions on how to use/direct to resources.
  - Updated interface, mobile-friendly, and great search capabilities within the portal.
  - Log in to portal will automatically link to Outlook, Box, Canvas, etc. (not immediately but eventually).
  - More of a central place to direct you to resources externally, rather than pulling resources into portal.
  - "Task Centers" will provide user with clusters of helpful information.
  - Messaging through "Global Announcements" to communicate things going on campus.
  - Alerts will be posted at top of page (e.g., curtailed operations).
1. J. Milosavljevic asked if this is only a resource for students? T. Winters responded that this is open to the public. She added that once signed in you have a My Favorites section allowing personalization; also has a recently used by the individual user; Most Popular section displays most popular university-wide and updates every week. Each component has an information button that shows users how to use that particular resource.
  2. T. Winters reiterated that launch will be sometime in May.
  3. D. Biles asked about Wise Self-Service Payroll Information is available. T. Winters noted that it is an available resource but likely won't be a single sign on like others. One component allows for feedback on the platform for suggested resources.

C. Ad-Hoc Committee Meetings

1. D. Biles noted doing a review of the Ad-Hoc committees, discuss what they did, accomplishments, and if the work should continue on next year.

D. Provost and President 10:30 – 11:00

1. President Huddleston began with issue of how we enable free expression at the university. Incident on the wall in the MUB. When we act as university officials we have to withhold our personal partisan opinions. He sees that as only half the problem. The other half being how do we create space for dialogue. Will be reaching out to organizations on campus to solicit ideas.
2. M. Huddleston noted that this issue will not dissipate in the near future.
3. E. Temko noted the language guide as a tool kit to encourage people to be thoughtful about their language. M. Huddleston responded that the incident was problematic because the content was seen as representing the university without input. The content of the guideline led us to be ridiculed around the world, even New Zealand and India. He does not regret removing them and making a statement that they are inappropriate. Again, individuals can have those conversations but could not represent the university.
4. E. Temko noted that a VP was open to getting stakeholder input and reconsidering the language guide.
5. J. Jensen thanked their work to tackle the issue. N. Targett responded that they are trying to facilitate the difficult conversations. The issue is that it is grey.

6. J. Jensen suggested a civility guide rather than a language guide to facilitate dialogue because people may be offended by having these conversations but should remain civil. M. Huddleston would be fully supportive of that.
7. M. Lynch suggested incorporating ethical trainings within the career services with their new center. M. Huddleston agreed that it is not accomplished by bringing in a speaker and being done; continuing conversations.
8. M. Huddleston noted Paul College's Fire program would be a great avenue for such an idea for training.
9. N. Targett discussed a more rounded approach beyond academics. M. Huddleston added that this may not impact us as graduate students but definitely as faculty members.
10. J. Milosavljevic endorsed how great the Fire program and asked if there was a way to organize it for graduate students more specifically. M. Huddleston responded that currently graduate programs are silo-ed in departments. N. Targett added that this could be done through the graduate school.
11. J. Milosavljevic suggested an interdisciplinary program to come together and have that interaction. Graduate writing group is another place but that is where we come to do our work. So having an institutionalized program to learn about others' work that is facilitated by faculty members.
12. E. Temko asked about the optimal way forward in engaging with the President's Office. M. Huddleston responded that this is the typical format for meeting with stakeholders. N. Targett noted that the President is one person but can also work with her and can relay information. There is graduate student representation on many committees. Could communicate with SARC. J. Jensen added that there are also committees that we are unable to fulfill.
13. M. Huddleston noted that first he wants to expand the number of graduate students at UNH. Not expanding the programs, but utilizing the existing strong programs to attract students. A related part that is a hindrance is the way UNH treats graduate students. For years has been concerned about stipend levels, housing, etc. When he said we shouldn't focus on the fee process as the bigger issue are stipends and fees. N. Targett noted accomplishments in addressing tuition and fees; next goal is to work on messaging.
14. J. Jensen asked how he could help to improve the messaging of his highly rate program. N. Targett noted that graduate students should give the departments feedback. M. Huddleston responded that we are working from two directions - to have an architecture with some uniformity while also populating the information from the individual level.
15. J. Coulombe asked about traditional forms of funding and the increasingly tenuous situation. M. Huddleston agreed that it is a challenge and everyone is worried about it. The only good news he's seen recently is that even conservative members of congress see the value of scientific research. N. Targett added that someone will be visiting UNH tomorrow to discuss this very issue. She noted that we are monitoring it and are doing the best we can to position ourselves.
16. N. Targett noted that cutting overhead will still impact research indirectly.
17. L. Williams noted that the messaging on the website also helps promote students entering the job market.
18. E. Temko asked about expectations for students not on assistantships with stipends and fees. N. Targett noted that it is difficult to address now when we have flat level funding.
19. M. Huddleston noted his favorite type of ice cream is Ben and Jerry's chocolate chip coffee.

#### **IV. Upcoming Events**

- A. Three Minute Thesis  
Thursday 1:00-3:00pm  
Friday 9:30 – 11:00am
  
- B. First Thirstday!  
Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9pm  
Thirsty Moose in Dover, NH

#### **V. Check-outs and Evaluations**

Adjourn