

**Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
Thursday, September 8, 2016  
Drummond Biles, President, Facilitating**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** Drummond Biles, 11:35am.

**II. Greetings, Check-Ins, Introduction of Guests**

1. D. Biles asked attendees to introduce themselves – name, GSS position, graduate program and corresponding year.

**III. Orientation**

**A. Purpose and Function of GSS**

**B. Acronyms/Org Chart**

**C. Committees**

- Internal

- External

- Report Process

1. E. Moschella requested a sign-up sheet for committees. D. Biles directed senators to email chair of committee to join.
2. M. Lynch solicited senators to join the Planning Committee he chairs, and described it as the most fun committee. He also noted a potential social gathering at Flight, a café in Dover; he welcomed any other suggestions.
3. J. Milosavljevic asked if Faculty Senate counted as a committee; D. Biles confirmed it does count.
4. D. Biles elaborated on submission of committee reports through Canvas: write a brief summary after attending a committee meeting, including anything that deserves discussion; submit a report on Canvas by posting as a discussion item and others can post questions/comments. He added that this process change to Canvas should result in a smoother transition year to year and better record keeping. Asked senators to email him if lacking access to Google Drive and Canvas.

**D. Constitution and Bylaws**

1. B. Sheckler discussed constitution and encouraged participation in Government Committee. She also clarified that bylaws do not get approved by UNH President Huddleston and Graduate School Dean, Carrie Moorhead.

**E. Feminist Process**

1. D. Biles and B. Sheckler demonstrate hand gestures used in feminist process (e.g. clarifying questions, direct response, process suggestion). B. Sheckler noted she wants to see beautiful *p*'s when GSS reconvenes.
2. A. Jilling asked who is responsible for maintaining stack. D. Biles described what the 'stack' is and responded that he will maintain it.

**IV. Internal Business**

**A. USS sign-up sheet**

1. D. Biles distributed a sign-up sheet for GSS attendance at (undergraduate) Student Senate (SS) meetings. He encouraged equal distribution of representation by all senators since meetings are Sunday evenings for usually three hours. He also noted that the point is to understand what they are doing and enhance communication between the organizations.
2. E. Temko asked about last year's motion for SS to change their name. President Biles replied that SS did not address the motion, stating it would take much more than their organization to change the name. E. Temko and D. Biles agreed it is not worth expending more effort on the issue. E. Temko suggested GSS refer to itself as Student Senate (SS).

**B. Appointing Committee Members**

1. D. Biles noted that senators should email him any committees they want to join and anyone who is not a senator can participate by joining a committee.

**C. Upcoming Events**

**- U-Day**

**Wednesday, September 13th, 3:30-6:30 pm**

**Thompson Hall Lawn**

1. D. Biles noted GSS will have a table if anyone wants to represent the organization during U-Day.
2. N. Stafford clarified that the date is actually *Tuesday*, and rain day is Wednesday the 14th. This corrects the date detailed on the agenda.
3. D. Biles noted homecoming as an upcoming event; GSS will set up a table with the Graduate School.
4. M. Lynch clarified homecoming tickets were \$30 each last year, a price at which GSS could not afford. He will inquire about this year's ticket prices.
5. M. Lynch also mentioned Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> is a graduate student welcome session hosted by the Graduate School to discuss program offerings. He added the event will take place at noon in Board of Trustees room with lunch provided. He will send out an email and clarified that there is an RSVP link online.
6. J. Milosavljevic added there will be a meet and greet in same room on the same date.

**D. Approve meeting minutes**

(Done retroactively later in meeting)

**E. Website Info**

- picture, info blurb sent to Jessie

1. J. Bolin noted GSS will keep the website and requested Senators send her a description and photo. D. Biles added we will resort to photos found on social media if we needed.

**V. Current Issues**

**A. Dental and Vision benefits**

1. D. Biles noted GSS currently lacks a rep on the Health Committee and sought to fill the seat on that particular committee. He added that hopefully GSS can get a sense of prices and figure out if dental and vision benefits are a feasible option since this is a major issue for many graduate students.

**B. Departmental Meetings**

1. N. Stafford stated the goal (referencing the second page of the agenda) was to get a representative or liaison at departmental meetings. One student for each department would serve as a direct line of communication with the aim of enhancing transparency and dissemination of information. He concluded we should review current status.

**C. Financial Survey**

1. A. Jilling addressed the financial survey released in May to UNH graduate students. The survey asked basic questions like demographics, as well as more specific questions like debt load and corresponding feelings. She noted the survey had a good response rate and is rich in qualitative information, soliciting others to identify (code) themes. A. Jilling mentioned that stipends is the top issue; the Graduate School has a survey as to why potential students rejected offer at UNH and a lot had to do with stipends. GSS will distribute the survey again but is waiting for an event to pair with. She noted it would be nice to have a larger pool of responses and data to draw from when we enter the fee review process in October and November as the fee review letter is due December 1<sup>st</sup>. Better to be proactive since the letter needs to reach the top at the Board of Trustees and have data to support position. Therefore, GSS should summarize survey results, especially the qualitative responses, as soon as possible.
2. A. Jilling noted she will be away in November for conference and is looking for help attending committees and participating in the fee review process. There will be many Space Allocation, Adaption, and Renewal Committee (SAARC) meetings which are part of the review process and determines how much space is allocated to groups. E. Temko added that the committee also decides about future building projects; last year SS sent a top ten list of what projects they wanted done.
3. A. Jilling mentioned next week is state primary for gubernatorial races (Sept 13), and would be a good opportunity to advertise on GSS Facebook page. She also noted that presidential debates are coming up and GSS hosted debate watching parties last year. Solicited others to coordinate a similar event this year.

#### **D. Graduate Student Space**

1. D. Biles noted a general survey of graduate students identified beer and a designated space as top issues; he is currently in discussion with Babcock Hall and housing in general for space to use. D. Biles specified next step is to receive approval of Babcock residents for graduate students to use the space which hopefully results in a fall barbeque at Babcock Hall. The goal is to identify an interdisciplinary space, however, the beer issue may not be addressed anytime soon. Welcomes ideas or help. M. Lynch asked clarifying question of likelihood gathering could include beer since Babcock Hall residents are age 21 and older. D. Biles responded that the short answer is yes, long answer is no; GSS should focus on event rather than beer.
2. D. Broadbent mentioned another potential gathering space is the Freedom Café. H. Prior added that the café has run various events after hours and the only issue is parking, but attendees can park in C Lot if the event is later; she knows several of the café's board members and will reach out.

#### **E. Dissemination of GSS information**

1. D. Biles noted dissemination of GSS information in the form of a monthly newsletter. He added that Interim Graduate School Dean, Carrie Moorhead, hired a TA to write on graduate student issues for the paper and D. Biles would like someone from GSS working with them.

D. Biles reversed to approve last meeting's minutes and explained 'general feelings' in the Feminist Process; minutes were approved.

D. Biles opened floor to other issues to pursue or consider moving forward this year.

#### **A. Email Alias**

1. E. Temko noted graduate students care about the email alias but are unable to do anything.
2. D. Biles replied that graduate students must use wildcat email unless sponsored by a faculty member. He went on to explain point is to ensure the individual is still currently enrolled as a graduate student and the sponsorship must be renewed annually. IT dislikes it just as much as we do.
3. N. Stafford clarified he was told to have advisor do it but process is difficult, therefore probably easiest to sit down with advisor. He added that if everyone requested the email addresses at once, it could give IT leverage to address the issue. N. Stafford suggested GSS could talk to various departments regarding our preference for AD accounts rather than go through IT; however, we do not want to make COLA IT upset either.
4. M. Lynch noted that creating and having a sponsored account is not a long term solution. He added GSS could frame the issue as part of career development by having a professional email address. GSS could approach new Career Services VP, Trudy Van Zee.
5. D. Biles added GSS could maybe even sit down with Career Services with potential to compromise [name@wildcats.unh.edu].

#### **B. Seminars**

1. J. Milosavljevic noted a list of seminars that happens in each of the departments to learn about each other's research. She added GSS could find faculty, likely IT and Computer Science, willing to do this for their students; project that students would do to create a platform and update it regularly making it easier to maintain. Taking suggestions for who would be willing to do this. A. Jilling asked what kind of course it would be. J. Milosavljevic replied coding so likely need faculty from both IT and Computer Science.

### **VI. Vacancies**

#### **A. 2 seats CHHS**

#### **B. Manchester**

1. D. Biles solicited senators to reach out if they know anyone in CHHS or Manchester, or anyone who wants to be a senator and would represent the stakeholders from another college. He added that Manchester representative would not need to attend all GSS meetings.

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

1. E. Temko asked when the next GSS will be. D. Biles replied GSS will meet in next two weeks; he will try other times like early in morning or later in the day rather than middle of day. D. Biles will send out a Doodle Poll and asked senators to fill in only when there is a time conflict. N. Stafford suggested doing the Doodle Poll in half hour increments instead of time ranges. A. Jilling noted 'When to Meet' is an alternative tool to Doodle Polls.

### **VII. Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Bolin, Communications Officer  
Graduate Student Senate

University of New Hampshire