

**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)**  
**Thursday, Oct 20, 2016; 9:00 – 10:30 AM; MUB 332**

**Minutes**

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Greetings, Check-Ins**

1. Drummond Biles, Andrea Jilling, Jessie Bolin, Jochen Wirsing, Myles Lynch, Kristen Melamed (Guest – Grad School), Julianne Riley, Nathaniel Stafford, Jovanna Milosavljevic, Holland Prior, Ezra Temko, Jordan Coulombe, Joseph Jensen, Tishan (Guest – Democratic Coordinated Campaign), Dante Broadbent, Gökhan Kumpas

**B. Approval of minutes**

Minutes approved

**II. External Business**

**A. Undergraduate Student Senate**

Absent

**B. Grad School**

1. K. Melamed encouraged participation in the Selfie Contest. She added that the Grad School will promote GSS events or information to relay in their communications every Monday.

**C. Democratic Coordinated Campaign**

1. Tishan spoke regarding the importance of this election and encouraged involvement in the political process. He wanted to help us get involved and passed around a sign-up sheet; he added even only thirty minutes or an hour of our time.
2. M. Lynch asked what New Hampshire Together was about. Tishan responded that it is more local elections, particularly pertaining to Maggie Hassan's campaign.

**D. Grad staff writer**

Skipped

**III. Internal Business**

**A. Reports**

1. J. Milosavljevic discussed Faculty Senate, noting some feel the use of money on the scoreboard was an investment. She continued that the Faculty Senate is unhappy with the investment and would have preferred it spent another way; the president should have discussed with others.
  - E. Temko asked what the lifecycle is of the board, namely the amount spent and how long it will last.
  - J. Milosavljevic mentioned that a faculty member asked a similar question and did not receive an answer. J. Milosavljevic noted the 40k scholarships were not specified and recipients are unknown.

- H. Prior asked if they are interested in our opinion now; what purpose does that have? J. Milosavljevic responded that they need our opinion on how to specifically spend money, talked to everyone except faculty and students. Several faculty members want the money returned.
  - J. Milosavljevic added that board costs \$1M, \$2.5M on Career Center, and \$100k on the library.
  - D. Biles emphasized this as an opportunity to enforce communication channels. J. Coulombe wanted to encourage transparency; concerned that the money will not reach students ("stay in house").
  - E. Temko mentioned the list of things needing to get fixed that are not necessarily sexy but important priorities that would be used more purposefully. J. Milosavljevic added that UNH presents itself as a research university rather than an athletic-focused campus.
2. J. Jensen discussed the faculty planning committee (CPC), which was charged with making a top ten. He described the faculty perceived little impact and almost didn't send a list; the Provost may have pushed for the input which is new this year. J. Jensen concluded that the committee considered it as advancing it for next year when they will have time to give quality input.
  3. J. Milosavljevic noted that the faculty seemed to be most bothered by not being consulted.
  4. J. Milosavljevic addressed Title IX; Jaime brought up mandatory reporting. She noted that no one consulted faculty when this was decided and may invite Jaime Nolan to faculty meetings to communicate with them. One faculty member said their students had no idea about this and should be aware of consequences of what they share.
    - N. Stafford asked how this relates to Kognito.
    - D. Biles explained this is Title IX and importance of students knowing that they are a mandatory reporter.
    - A. Jilling asked for clarification - when GAs work in a research environment. D. Biles responded it is any student on an assistantship.
    - J. Milosavljevic encouraged GSS to invite Jaime Nolan.
  5. J. Milosavljevic discussed student success collaborative software. She mentioned there is a committee evaluating this software but GSS does not have representation on the committee which will affect TAs.
    - D. Biles asked what the software involves. J. Milosavljevic responded that it is advising software, pretty much tutoring them.
    - H. Prior asked if TAs are formally advising any students. J. Milosavljevic responded no, but should still be familiar with the software.
    - M. Lynch added that this involves a power dynamic as a TA working with students.
    - J. Milosavljevic said it is currently under review and would cost \$143k per year, but the first year is free.
    - J. Coulombe asked if grad students will have access to the software. J. Milosavljevic mentioned that there was no time in meeting for questions.
    - D. Biles asked where the money is coming from, make sure it comes from undergraduates as graduate students are not advised using the software.
  6. D. Biles updated on SAARC meeting and walked through sheet provided, noting bio science is next big goal. He mentioned the list is not necessarily in order of priority, but an attempt to have a good list of big capital projects. He noted that the meeting was attended by USS,

Athletic, Chris Clement, GSS and others.

- D. Broadbent asked about South Drive. D. Biles responded the drive will be an alternative route through campus and along the edge of College Woods to make Main Street more pedestrian friendly.
  - J. Jensen asked if he can share the list with constituents. D. Biles responded that he will ask David Man for approval.
  - D. Broadbent asked about Health Services and their recent expansion. D. Biles responded that he is unsure what their expansion would be now.
  - D. Broadbent asked about GOSS. D. Biles explained that the industrial park is at the periphery of campus by the Cottages sitting empty with nice lab/building space. The Engineering Department received a \$4 million grant to ... and there are a lot of things that need space. D. Biles noted that a new building costs \$10M just to build.
  - D. Broadbent asked if the Family Housing Improvement is on the list. D. Biles responded that the plan is to demolish and rebuild. D. Biles noted that is likely a ten-year plan.
  - A. Jilling clarified that the professional training and development involves the Cooperative Extension.
7. D. Biles noted that President Huddleston signed the Gender Inclusive Restroom Resolution.
- J. Jensen asked if resolutions always go to the president. D. Biles mentioned it depends; for M. Anthony, that was his goal. He noted it depends on who needs to approve it to accomplish the goal. A. Jilling mentioned it is rare for this though.
8. N. Stafford discussed the University Systems Board (USB) meeting, which identified two action items: early student engagement and open education resources. He emphasized we support the former and hoped UNH can serve as a model. GSS can work on open education resources; he is meeting with Provost next week and will return with report. N. Stafford noted one thing that came out of the Finance Committee which may affect GSS is UNH's relationship with Wells Fargo. Relationship may be a point of contention with undergraduate students that have Wells Fargo logo on PCards. He emphasized the issue here is whether to renew in March 2017 for about \$20k or spend \$200k to remarket and rebrand with someone else. He asked if anyone felt strongly about the issue, adding Wells Fargo Leadership has resigned.
- B. Sheckler asked if they are interested in finding another vendor or more concerned about being associated with Wells Fargo. N. Stafford responded that they are not looking for another vendor and this was brought up more as a side point. It may be more cost effective to maintain relationship if there is not PR issue.
  - J. Coulombe asked if anyone at UNH was negatively impacted by the scandal, such as employees. N. Stafford clarified that the accounts UNH has with Wells Fargo involve PCards, no retirement or HR issues; UNH holds bonds with them, some of which are expiring. He added that UNH is renegotiating with several vendors, concluding student perspective is the ethical relationship and the branding on the cards.
  - M. Lynch noted his opinion is that we are trying to avoid a PR issue compared to the \$150-180k difference of finding a new vendor; should think about the risk of this amount of money to the extent of the PR issue.
  - B. Sheckler noted from a personal standpoint that if this is potentially a negative PR issue it is also potentially a PR opportunity to develop relationship with a local vendor. She added there is already a relationship established with Service Credit Union,

however, Wells Fargo is more standing bonds. N. Stafford stated that the decision must be made in January for the March expiration. He added that if GSS has a position, he does not have a speaking right to this and GSS must submit something to Chris Clement to invite us to speak.

- A. Jilling asked about USS and whether they have acted on this/written a resolution. N. Stafford responded that he is not aware of anything. A. Jilling noted that if they do we should support them, but should not do it on our own.
- N. Stafford emphasized our opinions are valued by the board but to address issue President Huddleston or Chris Clement need to sit on the board, or the student trustee.
- J. Jensen added the PR fallout with Wells Fargo could not be worse than the scoreboard, therefore we should invest our effort in fee review process and shared governance.

## **B. Resolution: USSB Election Holiday**

### **1. Draft a resolution**

- N. Stafford discussed with Lincoln (USS) who is very passionate about this, but general opinion is students face barriers voting at polls. There are other university holidays and suggested shifting one of these days to election day. N. Stafford decided it would be a good idea to talk with Ted Kirkpatrick or Cari Moorhead; E. Temko drafted the resolution.
- N. Stafford continued that he and Lincoln wanted something to happen in the next 19 days, noting that instructors are encouraged to not have exams and utilize resources such as recording a lecture. He added that absentee ballot is an option, even if you are in the state; need to educate students on this option so they have time to get the absentee ballot.
- Biles suggested advertising that professors cannot hold exams and should be flexible rather than pushing this in 19 days.
- N. Stafford added that non-traditional students face greater obstacles by having a full-time day job and taking classes at night.
- H. Prior asked about election years that are not presidential? N. Stafford noted that we are starting with big picture, national and state level, and if we have support we can work towards local elections. That is more at the USS level with their larger numbers.
- J. Coulombe noted that only concern for leaving this up to undergraduates is the transient nature of undergraduates than the older population of graduate student population where we are engaged in local communities. Not to take away from this as local elections matter too, but relying on undergraduates to push this may not be fruitful.
- B. Sheckler mentioned that we just tipped over the halfway mark for out of state students, but still a large portion of locals.
- D. Biles asked if polling should move on campus. H. Prior supported getting polling on campus rather than getting the day off. Concerned the latter may not have the desired effect. N. Stafford noted polling stations on campus would not benefit students residing outside of Durham; Dover residents would still have to vote in Dover.
- J. Milosavljevic is concerned for pushback because we would have to make up for the day off. Many people would likely just use it as a day off, not having the desired effect.
- B. Sheckler supported J. Coulombe's point for getting the graduate students to vote

- and therefore GSS should support getting day off.
- B. Sheckler added to J. M. point on scheduling. Administration could make it work since it is an important issue. Also, it is a logistical nightmare as the polling places get clogged.
- N. Stafford asked about designated bussing for Durham, but not for Dover. D. Biles noted the difficulty for other locations as they are so dispersed.
- Biles noted we should serve graduate student population and can make recommendations to USS. This current resolution is more fitting.
- J. Wirsing asked if we had polling stations in the MUB and have one with grad priority. D. Biles clarified many grad students tend to live in other towns and are required to vote there.
- Kumpas concerned about anonymity of voting on campus; push for the presidential election and then for the local election. D. Biles added that this influences more than just presidential by also including two-year cycle. Do we want this?
- J. Coulombe noted GSS should vote as the timing is imperative; current discussion is focusing on small details that can be addressed later. Moved to approve.

#### **Final vote on resolution:**

7 Yay

1 Nay

3 Abstain

#### **\*Resolution passes**

- Biles noted he will pass this on to administration for their feedback. He added at least this will convey GSS's general feelings on the issue and will contribute to N. Stafford and Lincoln's meeting with Ted Kirkpatrick and Cari Moorhead.
2. D. Biles discussed fees, noting the process is moving quickly with first meeting this afternoon with Chris Clement. He added goal for next GSS meeting is to invite someone to explain (ex RCM) and how to best pursue the fees GSS aims for.
    - D. Biles continued, clarifying that Google drive in finance folder has details. He added if we want to tackle fees we need background- what have they added, subtracted. By our next GSS meeting he wants everyone to address this and fill out as much as they can from the GSS archives. Give a brief overview of what they found, providing update at next GSS meeting.
    - D. Biles noted we know about tuition and stipends but need other details. J. Bolin asked if tuition is for in or out of state. D. Biles responded he is unsure and will check.
    - B. Sheckler asked about stipend. D. Biles clarified they are level one for assistantship.

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

##### **A. Social at Flight Coffee**

Dover, NH, October 20<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:00

##### **B. Tailgating BBQ and UNH vs. Stonybrook Football Game, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

1. M. Lynch noted today the final day to register. Worth \$45 total but costs us \$10 includes ticket and free dinner. Grad School bussing in 50 law students; Provost will attend the BBQ.

**V. Check-outs and Evaluations**

- A. N. Stafford reminded senators to update Graduate Student Liaisons on working list available under GSS organization folder.

**Adjourn**

10:32am

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Bolin, Communications Officer  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire