

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)

Thursday, Nov 3rd, 2016; 9:00 – 10:30 AM; MUB 332

Minutes

I. Opening Business

- A. Greetings, Check-Ins
Drummond Biles, Jessie Bolin, Nate Strafford, Joseph Jensen, Gökhan Kumpas, Ezra Temko, Jovanna Milosavljevic, Kristen Melamed, Myles Lynch, Andrea Jilling, Holland Prior, Jin Lee
- B. Approval of minutes

II. External Business

- A. Undergraduate Student Senate
 - Absent
- B. Grad staff writer
 - 1. K. Melamed noted the Food Drive to Waysmeet with prize of free business cards (3 winners)

III. Internal Business

- A. Reports
 - 1. J. Milosavljevic provided an update on Faculty Senate. They supported idea of open education resources but expressed concerns, such as authors losing jobs and the additional time commitment for faculty to create new curriculum. There are other ways to cut costs for students including raising stipends and reducing fees.
 - N. Strafford noted (USSB) undergraduate perspective of hidden costs and concern that book prices influence course selection. The issue of writing books - either as part of tenure review - how are faculty going to view it? Expanding existing open access; library employee is trying to find funds to publish open access which is currently very costly. USSB is providing incentives to faculty to engage in open access and is aware of the faculty's concerns. The student concern is likely to be the lobbying factor over faculty concern. Tenured faculty may have different outcomes than new faculty more willing to engage in open education resources.
 - J. Milosavljevic added that she attended a conference related to this topic. Concern raised by faculty that students have access internet, personal computer, commute to library; makes assumptions. This year they have 15 faculty that are currently engaging in this.
 - M. Lynch met with Dean of the Graduate School, Cari Moorhead, and Open Education Resources group regarding this topic. They want to make a presentation to GSS to disseminate this information so we can form our own opinion. They want a resolution from GSS which N. Strafford confirmed, and from a lobbying perspective to expand existing open education resources.
 - N. Strafford added to access concern, both the University system and community college system should lobby the legislature for support. Extends

beyond just the textbook. Hope is all colleges and universities adopt this and have best practices - have a small pot of money to initiate momentum.

2. N. Strafford mentioned the Election Day resolution. Ted Kirkpatrick had two general assumptions. First, the graduate and professional student's barriers are palpable - he can relate. He is in support of removing the barriers. The concern he had is rather than trying to rid operations as the barrier, can we extend early voter and absentee ballots? Adopt a model of more opportunities to vote rather than reduce barriers of the one day. Looked up literature for voting and procrastination - "trait procrastinator." He personally experienced procrastination and having early opportunities won't reach those people. Ted Kirkpatrick would be open to closing university if students had a unified front (need something from USS). Discussed moving holiday prior to Thanksgiving to Election Day. D. Biles noted many students need that day to travel. N. Strafford concluded overall point is undergraduate students hold a lot of leverage.
 - J. Milosavljevic noted that professors often give three passes to miss and often cancel class anyways.
 - E. Temko added there are simple things that could be done (motor voter) but sees culture and history of the state.
 - N. Strafford will meet with USS rep to discuss the issue further. He is recording a lecture through Integrity video for students who will be missing class.
3. H. Prior attended the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee and was asked for a student perspective on adding an 11th attribute of a social identity attribute to the undergraduate general learning. Connected to a critical discussion about race, gender, religion. H. Prior stated this conversation is important but concerned that nothing else is changing. If we are aiming to promote conversation let's promote conversation, not just check a box.
 - N. Strafford noted that Sociology and Psychology already have electives. Introductory courses could expose students to similar topics.
 - H. Prior added that the conversation acknowledged that we already have many courses that meet that requirement. First, meeting this goal of conversation. Second, the requirements for programs already very rigid with classes (Engineering).
 - D. Biles added that perhaps we could incorporate this within an existing category.
 - G. Kumpas added that many students aren't exposed to diversity. You cannot teach people how to not be racist but you can expose them. There are existing issues (like rape on campus).
 - J. Lee added that she has never received any racist comments on campus but knows someone who received many comments on height. UNH's policy is to ask for names and report to SHARPP. J. Lee did want to propose a class to address similar issues.
 - H. Prior agreed the conversation is very needed but this is not the way to go about it.

B. UNH Finances Presentation

1. D. Biles represented Kerry Scala from UNH Finance and RCM
 - A. Jilling asked if patents are in Sponsored Programs. D. Biles said yes, likely in

there (30% of patents).

- J. Jensen noted it would be valuable to know how much students actually pay.
- D. Biles noted that UNH spends what it makes. A lot of the big maintenance programs do not fit in here and lack investment making them deferred.
- J. Jensen wanted to know how the money is spent.
- M. Lynch noted that directors are often blamed for fees; fighting the fee doesn't necessarily yield results.
- J. Jensen added that when we have the fee conversation we need to see how RCM fits in there/is being spent.
- D. Biles added that we had a huge state cut and administration swallowed that with a deficit. A. Jilling noted that the budget was cut in half.

2. Information:

- RCM - Responsibility Center Management
- A decentralized model, each part (independent auxiliary unit) runs their operation (each college, transportation, MUB, etc.).
- RCM is a 'tax' to pay for central administration that is not covered by fee. Tuition it is about 18%. A few things come out of that - like strategic plan for the President which gives him money to do projects with.

C. Fee History/Update

1. Fee letter is due 12/9 and present it to the Board of Trustees when they approve or reject the fees. Up until then we will look at all the aux unit budgets being put forward. Next two weeks will try to set up meetings with auxiliary units. Budget discussion and service discussion. Piece we can act on is services. Get an idea of what services are lacking.
2. D. Biles proposed holding an open forum similar to that of the President's State of the University event. J. Jensen noted that the head of aux units should meet with VP for Finance and Administration, Kerry Scala.
3. M. Lynch shared that we need to be aware of our temporary nature as graduate students.
4. J. Jensen added that the aux unit heads would be interested in teaming up with support from GSS.
5. N. Strafford noted support from Grad Council. We are trying to increase stipends, reduce fees, and there is very vocal support for the continuity between years. When we talk about moving forward and being able to say Grad Council
6. J. Milosavljevic asked to clarify if we are supposed to arrange meetings. D. Biles yes. J. Milosavljevic asked if it makes sense meeting with each college rather than individual depts. D. Biles suggested starting with grad school to have conversation. He added that the meetings shouldn't be a waste of time for people and bringing concrete things to meetings would increase success. Try to be detailed in your discussion. M. Lynch suggested saying outright that we are temporary and ask how can we ensure the longevity of this.
7. A. Jilling mentioned a meeting with David May and Ted Kirkpatrick. They wanted to have a more informal discussion regarding the needs of grad students. One key potential problem that may come up is that the rec fee does not cover the pool so

either create a new fee or pay by use. GSS made it very clear that it would be irresponsible to add that to our already steep fee increase.

8. D. Biles added that Stacy Hall will attend next meeting.
9. A. Jilling asked if grad students pay summer fees. H. Prior noted students pay fees if they take classes. A. Jilling talked about the urgent need for graduate student space.
10. J. Milosavljevic asked whether we count getting a summer job as “funding”; suggests it is not quite 20 hours of work, hourly paid. D. Biles suggested we could have partial support and full support. J. Milosavljevic asked if that is considered summer “funding?” A. Jilling stated that if others outside can apply then it isn't summer “funding.”
11. J. Lee talked with Holly, the manager of Babcock; they are throwing a party the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Holly asked J. Lee to spread the word that all graduate students are invited.
12. D. Biles noted he will post a list of emails of auxiliary units, please set up meetings and cc A. Jilling, J. Coulombe, and himself.

IV. Upcoming Events

- A. GSS First Thursday
November 3rd from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Scorpions Bar and Grill

V. Check-outs and Evaluations

Adjourn
10:26 am