

**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)**  
**Thursday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 9:00 – 10:30 AM; MUB 332**

**Draft Minutes**

**I. Opening Business**

- A. Greetings, Check-Ins  
Call to order 9:11am  
In Attendance: Drummond Biles, Jochen Wirsing, Gökhan Kumpas, Jovanna Milosavljevic, Andrea Jilling, Ezra Temko, Nate Stafford, Jordan Coulombe, Jessie Bolin
  - 1. D. Biles highlighted the new Grad School Pamphlet
  - 2. Informal discussion opened regarding the university's branding slogans
- B. Approval of minutes  
Approved

**II. External Business**

- A. Undergraduate Student Senate
- B. Grad staff writer
  - 1. J. Milosavljevic noted the grad writing boot camp over J-term (Jan 9 – Jan 13 08:30-17:00). She added that two faculty from writing center will be present and coffee, etc. is provided. Lastly, she noted there will be t-shirts available and to expect an announcement on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**III. Internal Business**

- A. Reports
  - 1. D. Biles discussed the Budget Advisory Committee by opening with general description of BAC, specifically around RCM. D. Biles will get numbers to GSS when available. He continue by highlighting concern that graduate student money (tuition) remains in home department when taking courses in other departments, potentially hindering interdisciplinary courses.
    - E. Temko brought up issue that interdisciplinary encouragement does happen. He also acknowledged the great work by Financial Affairs Officer and Financial Affairs Committee. Lastly, E Temko sought to clarify exactly what happens with Unit directors (e.g., Stacy Hall) when they view the GSS fee letter. Can they do anything, and if so, what?
    - A. Jilling clarified GSS has active communication with administration to make change. She continued by highlighting the potential issue of changing things at Board level.
    - D. Biles highlighted these fee changes do not happen at Board level, as money comes from RCM and tuition. He noted 18% of graduate student tuition goes to RCM compared to 26% of undergraduate tuition.
  - 2. Discuss and vote on UNH community resolution
    - A. Jilling motioned to pass the resolution before editing. E. Temko responded directly to clarify process which resulted in A. Jilling withdrawing the motion.
    - N. Stafford recommended using consistent terminology (i.e. GSS and Graduate Student

Senate.

- B. Sheckler added that GSS uses standard formatting which states full term to then follow abbreviations.
- A. Jilling asked if the resolution would remain in bulleted format. E. Temko responded that it would, but the list should clarify topics GSS will actively advocate for.
- J. Milosavljevic suggested adding a clause specifically to educate the university community (i.e. free speech vs. hate speech).
  - B. Sheckler asked if it would be included in language on the front or in the bulleted list on the back? J. Milosavljevic responded that she is open to either.
  - A. Jilling agreed to include on the front to relay importance and noted she is unsure regarding wording.
  - B. Sheckler suggested the front could be a place to distinguish.
- J. Coulombe noted TA concern about websites attacking academics (i.e. Professor Watchlist); proceeded to read examples.
  - J. Wirsing added professors have tried to undermine the site by flooding it.
  - J. Bolin noted a department faculty meeting discussing the personal use (e.g. political party support) on university-provided laptops.
  - E. Temko added that academic freedom should protect TAs as well as professors.
  - J. Milosavljevic confirmed J. Bolin's point that the university can investigate any information contained on a university-provided device.
  - B. Sheckler asked if that applies to UNH email accessed on a personal device.
  - J. Milosavljevic noted that Provost Targett addressed the issue recently but did not have a specific answer to that question. She thought that would be the case though.
- A. Jilling amended the resolution's language.
  - N. Stafford directly responded to suggest we categorize the bullet points to organize and reduce the list.
  - E. Temko clarified that 'sanctuary' has specific meaning for protecting undocumented students by UNH not cooperating with law enforcement by providing them information on undocumented students.
  - N. Stafford added that we should clarify how we are using the term sanctuary (i.e. are we a sanctuary institution?).
- D. Biles asked if the bullet point on staffing the UNH Center for Global, Race, and Diversity?
  - E. Temko responded that he is unsure, but advocated for removing bullet points that are those of people not present.
- N. Stafford returned to his categorization of bullets: Governance, Methods to expand concept of 'Safe Zone', Communication of Ideas, Professional Development/Academic Freedom *or* Social Justice. He suggested that categorizing the bullet points into themes will be better received; shared relevant conversation with advisor/collaborator in grant submission.
  - M. Lynch supported N. Stafford's categorizing into themes, and suggested going further with hierarchical order of importance. He added that there is also a logical order for some themes.

- E. Temko noted the remaining time could be used for other agenda items and he can make the suggested edits. He proceeded to ask specific questions required for the resolution's language.
3. Action items brainstorm for spring semester
- D. Biles distributed handout detailing important issues to graduate students based on a survey. He proposed creating Ad Hoc committees which would have the opportunity to meet during general meeting time.
  - M. Lynch noted that the graduate specific career service liaison is accomplished.
  - N. Stafford asked about graduate student specific career fair (third point).
    - Biles noted that this has been addressed to some degree.
  - N. Stafford supported the email alias as it is still an issue and longer than necessary due to 'wildcats'.
    - D. Biles clarified that last year he sat down with the tech staff member and was told it was implemented as a structure.
    - J. Wirsing asked clarification about alias. He added the 'wildcat' part of email makes it unprofessional, but the more random individual email address is fairly normal (i.e. Cornell faculty have mixture).
    - J. Coulombe pointed out if AD sponsorship changes email for a year, then the change is possible.
    - N. Stafford proposed a flat 2 or 4 years for graduate students.
    - B. Sheckler added a flat 5 years would be more appropriate.
    - J. Wirsing shared the convenience of keeping an account for life.
    - N. Stafford asked if AD sponsored account funnels into wildcat or AD domain.
    - B. Sheckler noted that the topic is clearly important.
    - E. Temko suggested inviting Pete Larimer and Terry Winters to discuss the issue at a GSS meeting.
    - B. Sheckler added she met with Terry Winters, notes will be available on canvas.
  - N. Stafford asked for thoughts on graduate student liaison, university-wide seminars, and graduate student grant program. He added that GSS could link three issues to make case for more funding from state. Lastly, he noted that dissemination of knowledge and highlighting innovative research involving graduate students at UNH may encourage more funding.
  - J. Coulombe mentioned an interest in the feasibility of unionizing teaching assistants, adding he was unionized at University of Rhode Island where the state law protected at public institutions.
    - A. Jilling added unionizing could allow graduate students to waive fees as a form of maternal/paternal leave.

#### B. Fall Semester Evaluation

#### IV. Upcoming Events

- A. GSS Holiday Party!  
7:00 – 9:00pm Thirsty Moose Dover, NH

#### V. Check-outs and Evaluations

Adjourn