

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Ezra Temko, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Ezra Temko President, 12:10.

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

Ezra Temko	President
Felicia Fowler	Programs Coordinator
Paul Rowe	Clerk
Patrick Lacroix	Treasurer
Andrea Jilling	External Affairs Officer

B. Senators Present

Matt Smith	GRAD
Drummond Biles	CEPS
Myles Lynch	COLA
Nathaniel Stafford	COLA
Damian Manda	CEPS
Dante Broadbent	CHHS
Catherine Welter	COLA
Jin Lee	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Mike Verney	Vice President

Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Tom Cronin	Manchester
Kevin McMahon	Law
Wade Heath	PAUL

D. Members at Large Present: None.

E. Guests: USS Representatives Erik Comeau, Lincoln Crutchfield, Alex Pimentel.

III. Greetings, Check-Ins, Introduction of Guests.

A. Meeting agenda approved.

B. Myles Lynch announced that the Graduate Research Conference registration period has begun. Those who received a dissertation year fellowship are strongly encouraged to present.

IV. Outside Business.

A. **USS Student Senate Report:** There has been movement towards a Transportation resolution. USS is in the process of pushing for a parking garage in Lots A and B. Matt Smith suggested USS look at a study on the costs of such additions conducted a decade ago.

B. **Erik Comeau noted that USS is pushing for smoking reform at UNH.** This reform has support from the USS student body. The Chair of Health Wellness community will to answer questions about this recent push. USS sent a resolution to STARC. They prioritized the buildings that they think need attention.

C. **Student Trustee Report:** Lincoln Crutchfield would discuss this after his arrival.

V. Internal Business.

A. Reports.

1. **Dante Broadbent discussed results of the last Government Committee meeting.** This committee consisting of members of USS, Greek orgs, MUB, and Student Activities serves as an informal backdoor for communications between committees and meets four times per semester.
2. **Felicia Fowler discussed Leap Year at Libby's and First Wednesday at Scorpion's Bar and Grill.**
3. **Upcoming GSS Elections: GSS members who are not coming back for Fall 2016 should find a nominee for their position. Women are strongly encouraged**

to join GSS as there is a gender imbalance.

4. **Departmental Governance:** Cari Moorhead sought the opinions of grad coordinators on bylaws that pertained to them. GSS should know which departments do or don't have handbooks. All have handbooks but there is a discrepancy of quality on a departmental basis. The Grad School will send a link to administrative assistants.
5. **Ezra Temko noted that he and Mike Verney met with Graduate Faculty Senate. They don't do top/down departmental changes and are not interested in that discussion at all.** There might be vendettas against GSS if they don't follow a chain of command. The next step: GSS should meet with department chairs. If that doesn't go well, GSS could go to a Dean. If that doesn't go well, GSS could go to the Provost. There is a chain of command in each department. Ezra Temko noted he would see what Grad Council thinks about further action, but it's a long and convoluted process.
6. **The potential smoking ban: Alex Pimentel noted that second-hand smoke is harmful to people who have asthma.** Alex Pimentel stated that this potential anti-smoking referendum specifically targets cigarettes and cigars. The people behind this referendum have obtained credible research about the harms of smoking, including research conducted by the Surgeon General's Office. The risks posed by cigarettes and cigars affect people who live on campus. A campus wide reform is on the table that will affect faculty, staff, students, workers, and anyone on the UNH campus. This ban would not affect Main St. or Garrison Ave. The town owns those sidewalks and that's a place where smokers can go. This referendum would put systems in place for students to cope with this change in the form of stress management groups and addiction counseling sessions. This ban is slated to happen in Fall 2017 and is a four-year plan. Gradual degrees of strictness would eventually form in an all-out ban on cigarettes in the 4th year. There have been discussions with OISS. The VP of Enrollment is behind this plan. They are concerned with how smoking affects admissions, but there is data on this at other institutions. There has been an increase in admissions and application rates at these institutions. Under this system, the first strike would not appear on record. However, if someone breaks the ban, they would have to take classes. Enforcement would be through the conduct system.
7. Dante Broadbent asked how this would work in dorms like Forest Park. Drummond Biles noted that this would be great for students but not for older faculty members who would not quit smoking. It would be difficult for an R.A. to reprimand an older staff member. Drummond Biles noted that they should figure out a zone on campus where people can smoke. Designated areas would decrease smoke on campus.
8. Ezra Temko noted that Great Bay Community College had a smoking ban.
9. Lincoln Crutchfield noted that UNH owns the sidewalks and the referendum would not refer to the sidewalks. The university has a right to regulate the sidewalks.
10. Patrick Lacroix noted that smokers do not affect overall quality of life for non-smokers.

11. Alex Pimentel noted that this bill is for the people affected by smoking itself, specifically people who carry respirators, etc. The 20-foot rule is very hard to enforce because the rules are very loose.
12. Drummond Biles placed the following rhetorical question: If we can't reinforce the 20-foot rule, how would we support a campus wide ban? RAs and RHs could write people up, etc.
13. Myles Lynch noted this ban is a good idea and sets a precedent, but the committee should be careful about calling it a ban.
14. Lincoln Crutchfield noted that anyone in the university community can press charges against a student through the conduct system as it stands: students, faculty, staff, and contractors.
15. Drummond Biles noted that the referendum needs refinement and shouldn't impede on other people's lives, but instead should focus on education, etc.
16. Damian Manda noted that the core argument might need to be rethought as to the effects of smoking on other people. That people would suddenly quit smoking is not a logical argument. Concentrations of smoke could be incredibly harmful if concentrated smoking sections are created. Outside visitors, guest researchers, people studying from abroad, and daily visitors who collaborate with researchers come from places where there is an established smoking culture. There would be a disproportionate impact on international communities. The MFA program would be negatively affected.
17. Alex Pimentel noted that GSS provided him with some intriguing points, but noted that international students may be willing to get behind this. This ban recently changed its title language to a "reform." Millennials don't care about smoking. There would be classes about coping with stress.
18. Matt Smith noted there are separate spots other than Main Street: that's the way to go. The buildings have rooms where people could smoke. Outdoor areas are enclosed. The goal should be to accommodate everyone.
19. Ezra Temko noted there were concerns about the quality of the GSS website.
20. **December 8, 2015 and February 9, 2016 Minutes approved through general feelings.**
21. **24/7 Study Space.** GSS discussed the possibility of seeking a 24/7 study space for graduate students. **Matt Smith made a motion to support acquiring a 24/7 study space for graduate students.**
 - a) **Yay, 10. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 0. Motion passed.**
22. **The Graduate Student Feedback Survey was discussed by GSS.** GSS found that graduate students were most concerned with low stipends for Graduate Assistants.

Damian Manda suggested GSS move to acquire similar school comparisons on fees and stipend amounts.

23. Drummond Biles brought up the need for an interdisciplinary space for graduate students. In this past there was a bar for graduate students in the basement of the MUB. When they replace the MUB in the next 6-10 years, there will be a restaurant that serves alcohol, but no bar. Yet, there is much opposition to this idea. The Library Dean has expressed interest in hosting and facilitating an interdisciplinary event for graduate students. Nathaniel Stafford noted that scheduling and space are both legitimate issues going forward.

VI. Adjournment – 1:35 pm. Next meeting: March 8, 2016, 12:10pm - 1:50pm, MUB 338.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire