

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
Ezra Temko, President, Facilitating

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

**II. Roll Call**

A. Executive Committee

Ezra Temko	President
Mike Verney	Vice 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
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Dante Broadbent	CHHS
Catherine Welter	COLA
Jin Lee	COLA
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Kevin McMahon	LAW
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Tom Cronin	Manchester
Wade Heath	PAUL

D. Members at Large Present: Elizabeth Moschella.

E. Guests: None.

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

A. Meeting agenda approved.

### IV. Outside Business.

A. **USS Student Senate Report:** No USS representative present.

B. **Student Trustee Report:** Student Trustee not present.

### V. Internal Business.

#### A. Reports.

1. **Myles Lynch discussed the Graduate Research Conference and passed around a Moderator sign up sheet for senators willing to introduce speakers and make sure the panel progresses.** Mike Verney noted that GSS used to run the GRC and has a responsibility to make sure the GRC is strong. Myles Lynch shared that the 3 Minute Thesis sign up is online. Mike Verney participated in the 3 Minute Thesis challenge. There is a video of Mike Verney participating in the 3 Minute Thesis challenge online.
2. **Upcoming GSS Elections: Elections have begun. There is a full slate of Executive Committee nominees for next year for the first time in a couple years.** GSS is still missing two candidates for CHHS. The Constitution is clear that constituencies elect their representatives, but representatives technically don't have to come from that college. Anyone interested may start a write-in campaign... Same for Law, Manchester, Grad School, etc. Voting began March 8th, and was extended until midnight, Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Next meeting: next year's Executive officers and Senators will be announced. Voting provides a great way to see candidate biographies and get a sense of incoming GSS leaders.
3. **GSS Office:** Ezra Temko will email GSS about the GSS office this week. Some people like it and some people don't. The GSS office is Room 119G in the SGA suite. Ezra Temko will send out the code for the door to Senators and would like to increase the amount that it's used. Only individuals with specific needs for the office previously had the code. GSS members should switch the lock back when they leave and clean up after themselves. People have found it useful. It's a good place to study and run into USS Senators.

4. **Departmental Governance Survey.** This survey was sent out to Department chairs. Update about conversation at Grad Council? Nathaniel Stafford noted that response seemed positive. They should come up with the best model for graduate student governments and may be able to move forward to implement it with the blessing of the Graduate Council. They would encourage best practices like having graduate student representatives at faculty committee meetings. Some departments have simply not thought of this possibility before, but are not opposed to that possibility. There will be further discussion on the topic shortly.
5. Felicia Fowler discussed the upcoming Social at Scorpion's Bar & Grill, featuring free pizza, Wednesday March 9, 5:00-7:00pm.
6. **Reports/Questions/Comments. Andrea on USS meeting:** There were dozens of bills. Two pertained to GSS. Kirkpatrick, Rights, Rules, Responsibilities: This USS resolution deletes or adds a line to these handbooks. This would allow USS to not be required to be recognized as a student organization. This would mark an opportunity for student government organizations to remove their student organization status. USS discussed issues of concern: If they were no longer considered a student organization, what would happen to their office space, etc. They wanted to make sure they wouldn't lose privileges. Lincoln Crutchfield, Cameron Cook, and others stressed administrators promised they wouldn't take away physical spaces, etc. This bill passed the USS. Maybe GSS would want to discuss this/keep this on our radar. Ezra Temko noted OSIL encouraged USS to keep their Wildcat Link. GSS is required to be a student organization now. GSS funding comes 100% from the Graduate School, not the Student Activity fee like USS. OSIL services essentially come from the MUB fee. Mike Verney noted it would be great if GSS didn't have to be a recognized student org. GSS does extraneous things to retain that status including mandatory meetings and restrictions. If GSS removed that status, it would remove hoops and hurdles. It may be a positive decision to jump on board with USS. Ezra Temko noted GSS would still be a recognized governance organization. Lincoln Crutchfield and Ezra Temko will meet and discuss this USS decision and would make sure GSS gets permission to reserve meeting spaces before GSS takes any action.
7. **The March Against Violence:** Mike Verney noted Elizabeth Moschella's recent Women's Commission report and expressed interest in whether GSS would sponsor or cosponsor the March Against Violence. This is a great cause and would make GSS visible on Campus. Elizabeth Moschella discussed that this antiviolence rally and walk is sponsored by SHARPP. Any organization willing to sponsor: there are 3 types of sponsorship: Type one) Puts the organization name down in support of this cause. Type two) includes the organization's attendance at the walk and rally. Type three) also tablig. Last year, four people attended for GSS.
8. **Mike Verney made a motion for GSS to cosponsor the Walk Against Violence (Type two sponsorship).**
  - a) **Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 0. Motion passed.**

9. **Catherine Welter discussed a recent Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities report. If anyone knows of any complaints about the treatment of people with disabilities, they are encouraged to share this with the Commission.** Starting in the fall, emotional support animals will be allowed on campus. These animals must go through the proper channels. Currently, dogs are technically allowed, but not in dining services: this will be officially sanctioned in the fall.
10. **February 23<sup>rd</sup> Minutes approved through general feelings.**
11. **Andrea Jilling noted USS made a resolution not to ban plastic water bottles yet.** There is a new 0 waste Task Force. They have sub committees. They are fairly active and have objectives in mind. This potential ban could be embedded in their committee. We should hold off on that. Matt Smith discussed the need for proper, consistent signage for plastic bottles/how to recycle on campus. President Huddleston directed this reform, and it's going to happen. Mike Verney noted that instead of enacting a plastic bottle sale ban, there could be a tax implemented on plastic water bottles with proceeds going to a sustainability fund. That money could go to distributing Nalgene bottles with UNH logos every Fall to encourage less plastic bottle sales. Ezra Temko noted this suggestion could be brought up on that committee. Yoka Milosavljevic noted that this is a great idea, but we need to make sure all the UNH buildings have water fountains. Some of them don't. There is no water fountain at Brook Way. Ezra Temko noted that the big issue at USS was the potential loss of profit. At UVM, people turned to soda. Are there potentially healthier options? GSS should express a need for better quality beverages. Mike Verney noted that there are many alternative beverage companies more environmentally friendly than Coca Cola, etc.
12. **Campus Smoking Policy: Andrea Jilling noted USS decided they weren't ready to pursue a campus-wide smoking ban this year.** There was a different resolution. Andrea Jilling wrote up a Resolution on this issue expressing the need to maintain non-smoking areas within 20 feet of buildings and around bus stations. This resolution expressed the desire to produce signage that described smoking policies, but they have not implemented this. There is conversation about enhancing outreach, employing safety personnel and staff to enforce these rules, and conducting a survey about cigarette waste bins on campus.
13. **GSS decided that the language of the Resolution would need to be revised and GSS would table this conversation while Andrea Jilling crafted revisions.**
14. **The agenda for meeting with UNH President and Interim Provost was discussed.** Ezra Temko and Mike Verney both agreed that GSS should organize discussion to make good use of time, and fielded the following questions: What's important to discuss and advocate for? Is there anything GSS Senators would like answered or addressed at the meeting? Mike Verney requested to remove language specifically requesting "beer."
15. Myles Lynch noted that since the President wants to increase UNH's research focus and move the university up a tier, this meeting would be a good time to discuss the potential for increased funding for graduate student travel grants. Mike Verney noted GSS should thank these individuals and reiterate GSS's interest in being kept involved in a positive way. Ezra Temko noted the President should consult GSS on policy changes, per the GSS constitution, and expressed a desire to mention this need. Patrick Lacroix noted that GSS should narrow down its priorities during this meeting, as there is limited time. GSS should find some channel to continue that

conversation with Huddleston. Mike Verney noted the possibility of more frequent state of the union addresses. Matt Smith noted the need to begin asking Huddleston questions immediately to avoid a stump speech. Ezra Temko noted he would make it clear that GSS wants to keep the discussion centered on specific GSS-related topics. Mike Verney suggested that GSS give the President and Interim Provost some parameters: 10 minutes for introductions and 20 minutes for discussion. GSS should also ask Huddleston if he would consider meeting regularly with the GSS President.

16. **Andrea Jilling's Resolution Revisions:** Changed lines 2-5: 1) Line #3: Employing personnel on campus. Line #4: Conducting an assessment. #5: Developing a revised enforcement of tobacco policy. Ezra Temko noted a motion should be understood that stylistic changes don't change the substance of the statement. Andrea Jilling made a motion to adopt the revised resolution.

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate

Resolution AY2015-2016:

March 8, 2016

A Resolution Encouraging the Update and Enforcement of Smoking & Tobacco Policies

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire has smoking and tobacco policies in place to "protect the health, safety, and comfort of University faculty, staff, and visitors" (RSA 155: 64-77); and

WHEREAS, the existing policy establishes non-smoking areas, such as within 20-feet of

WHEREAS, the existing policy does not specify a mode of enforcement, but rather relies on the "consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers"; and

WHEREAS, the existing policy does not specify any standards regarding the disposal of cigarette waste that, if not handled properly, can cause substantial environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of cigarette waste on the grounds surrounding academic buildings presents aesthetic challenges along with the aforementioned environmental risks; and

WHEREAS, within the UNH Strategic Plan, sustainability is defined as "what sustains us as diverse people and communities, from clean air and water to healthcare, education and art;"

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages the following changes:

- 1) The reasonable enforcement of existing smoking and tobacco policies – specifically, maintaining nonsmoking areas
- 2) Enhancing educational efforts to inform faculty, staff and students about existing policies
- 3) Employing personnel on campus who are equipped with the necessary tools and authority to enforce policies beyond residential halls and to ticket those who violate policies
- 4) Conducting an assessment of the quality, quantity, and location of cigarette waste containers on campus

5) Developing a revised smoking and tobacco policy about the enforcement process and resultant consequences.

**a) Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 0. Motion passed.**

17. Catherine Welter noted that when GSS asks about raising stipends, they should also mention the work that graduate students put in. Graduate students should mention that the amount of work they put in often goes beyond their “20 hour work limit.” Mike Verney supported Catherine Welter’s point and noted that GSS could highlight that they also need these stipends to conduct research: it goes beyond teaching. Dante Broadbent noted that point could be tied into Huddleston’s desire to improve UNH’s status as a research institution.
18. Ezra Temko brought up the “priority action items” on the GSS Survey results. Patrick Lacroix noted GSS would obtain information on stipends, fees, and make the case for higher stipends on basis of that data. Taylor Hodgdon noted there are a lot of people against the possibility of a restaurant in the MUB basement. Don’t believe that’s a current plan. Matt Smith discussed the potential change in the academic schedule. It would be a disaster if graduate students had to take courses over the summer. Yoka Milosavljevic noted this was merely a conversation. Everyone is aware that some departments would completely collapse if they did a summer semester. Ezra Temko noted that people might suggest this schedule change so students can graduate quicker. UNH should look into this so they can state they researched this potential and discovered it’s something UNH doesn’t want to do. Drummond Biles mentioned that administrative assistants are largely against this possible schedule change. GSS should attempt to include them in this conversation. Myles Lynch noted that some language, like the “status quo” was negative towards the current academic schedule and this is potentially biased. Patrick Lacroix brought up the Classifieds Ads. Is this conversation over? Have we exhausted all of our leads? Ezra Temko noted authorities concluded there is no need for the Classifieds. Ezra Temko noted he is in the process of organizing a meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> with the MUB Director and Commuter Services Director to talk about this issue. Information Technology presented a list of alternative services, etc. They’ve talked about one resource for babysitting and childcare. What other things do the Classifieds do? Patrick Lacroix noted the benefits of these services all on one page with multiple tabs: this works better than checking three different websites for all of these different things. One portal is extremely helpful.
19. Elizabeth Moschella noted Women’s Commission has come up with a list of services like that. Cari Moorhead is creating a tab on the graduate student home page with links to all of these services. She will create this tab with the list of everything that graduate students need. If you have a link you’re considering, let the graduate Deans know this. Moorhead would probably be glad to add those things. Mike Verney noted the possibility for graduate students to hold on to their UNH email addresses after they graduate: this gives grad students credibility, and is something to include in that conversation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire