

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday, March 22, 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
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Kevin McMahon	LAW
Jochen Wirsing	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Damian Manda	CEPS
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Tom Cronin	Manchester
Catherine Welter	COLA
Wade Heath	PAUL
Jin Lee	Grad Housing

- D. Members at Large Present: Elizabeth Moschella, Joseph Jensen, and Saman Salari.
- E. Guests: Lincoln Crutchfield, President Mark Huddleston, and Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan.
- A. Meeting agenda approved.

III. President and Provost Meeting

- A. Ezra Temko introduced Mark Huddleston and P.T. Vasudevan.
- B. Mark Huddleston stated that graduate education and research are at the top of his priorities. UNH is New Hampshire's flagship research university. M. Huddleston claimed that UNH hasn't supported its graduate students well enough and can work harder to produce Ph.Ds, and stated that UNH hasn't effectively scrutinized which doctoral programs are strong and which ones are weak. The fees graduate students pay are too high compared to stipend levels. Affordable housing is a challenge. UNH is not a wealthy institution and has to figure out how to further cut costs.
- C. P.T. Vasudevan mentioned that some graduate program enrollments have been exceedingly high, while others are low, and stressed that UNH would improve its graduate enrollments. There have been declines in research grants and students supported on assistantships. The current goal is to churn out 100 Ph.Ds per year.
- D. M. Huddleston agreed with all of the priorities laid out by GSS with one exception: the recommendation that UNH lobby state legislators to fund research. As part of USNH, UNH is not allowed to lobby and appeal to special grants for research. As poorly funded as UNH is, traditionally, legislature has never tried to tell UNH how to spend the small amount of money given to the institution.
- E. Patrick Lacroix asked how grants for research are being sought out.
- F. P.T. Vasudevan noted CHHS has good enrollment. CEPS and COLA do not have good enrollment. There is hope to increase enrollment at the M.A. level through online courses for students who work full-time.
- G. Mike Verney noted UNH is de-centralized in terms of funding. In order for COLA to grow, undergraduate enrollment must grow as well.

- H. P.T. Vesudevan noted that contrary to popular belief, enrollment in COLA is fairly healthy, although there has been a substantial decrease in undergraduate enrollment. Undergraduate enrollment must increase to attract faculty and teaching assistantships must draw in graduate students. The goal is to make COLA students marketable.
- I. M. Huddleston noted that UNH's challenges are also national challenges. How do we pay for graduate student education and address supply and demand imbalances in the market? English, Philosophy, and History are lower demand disciplines.
- J. Andrea Jilling asked what creative avenues they were exploring to improve UNH's budget beyond state funding. M. Huddleston listed UNH's sources of income: 1) Tuition/fees is the largest source of income. 2) State allocation is about 8 or 9 % of UNH's income. 3) Fundraising and philanthropy. 4) Miscellaneous/intellectual property licenses. Turning lab experiments into revenue streams. M. Huddleston claimed he knows of no other revenue streams.
- K. Andrea Jilling inquired as to where graduate students have leverage: How can graduate students expend extra effort to make UNH a better place? Could graduate students pitch the value of graduate research to state legislature? M. Huddleston: Keep your heads down and get your work done. Pitching to state legislature will solve nothing. They have no money and UNH receives the lowest allotment from its state of any university in the country, although the institution receives a high percentage. NH has no taxes and doesn't raise money. UNH isn't like the University of Delaware, where the state government sees value in research universities.
- L. Myles Lynch noted the need for collaboration between COLA and CHHS. M. Huddleston noted this ought to be one of the signatures of UNH. Between Analytics and Environmental Science, this is the signature of UNH, and the new Provost will keep that ball rolling. UNH Durham is looking to collaborate with UNH Manchester and Law. There may be a situation in the future where English B.A.s could go on to receive J.D.s.
- M. M. Huddleston stressed the importance of interdisciplinarity, but also stressed his suspicion of interdisciplinarity: academics hiring faculty are more conservative. Mike Verney noted he shares this belief. There is a need for specialization.
- N. P.T. Vasudevan noted that GSS might want to discuss the fact that graduate students do not receive credits for M.A. theses and doctoral dissertations.
- O. Mike Verney expressed GSS's appreciation of the opportunity for discussion. M. Verney noted that graduate students are becoming more involved. M. Verney thanked M. Huddleston and P.T. Vasudevan for their efforts in collaboration with graduate students. GSS looks forward to continuing this collaboration in the future through M. Huddleston's State of the Union Q&As, hosting the President and Provost at GSS meetings once a semester, and holding regular meetings between USS and GSS Presidents and the President's Office. M. Huddleston and P.T. Vasudevan agreed to continue and improve healthy collaboration. M. Huddleston noted he takes graduate student fees very seriously. He will work hard to make that more fair.

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

- A. Greetings and Check-Ins took place.
- B. Jochen Wirsing introduced himself and expressed his enthusiasm to represent COLA. J. Wirsing is willing to represent the CHHS constituency.

V. Outside Business.

- A. **USS Student Senate Report:** No USS representative present.
- B. **Student Trustee Report:** Student Trustee not present.
- C. Andrea Jilling noted the need for a spreadsheet of data on the last five years of graduate stipends and fees over the years.

VI. Internal Business.

A. Minutes from March 8, 2016 Approved with friendly amendments.

B. Reports.

1. **M. Verney announced GSS election results:** 105 Voters. President: Drummond Biles 82, Abstain 20, Write-in 3. Vice President: Elizabeth R. Sheckler 81, Abstain 20, Write-in 4. External Affairs Officer: Nathaniel Stafford 82, Abstain 20, Write-in 3. Treasurer: Andrea Jilling 87, Abstain 15, Write-in 3. Programs Coordinator: Myles Lynch 86, Abstain 16, Write-in 3. Clerk: Jessica Bolin 83, Abstain 19, Write-in 3. COLA: Jordan Coulombe 25, Elizabeth Moschella 24, Jochen Wirsing 24, Holland Prior 24, Nathaniel Stafford 13, Write-in 3, Abstain 1. COLSA: Henry Herndon 10, Abstain 1. CEPS: Meagan Wengrove 24, Joseph Jensen 21, Write-in 7, Abstain 4. CHHS: Dante Broadbent 5, Write-in 4. PAUL: Gokhan Kumpas 6, Write-in 3. UNH Manchester: Abstain 4. Graduate School: Abstain 17. UNH Law, Concord: Write-in 5, Abstain 1. Grad Housing: Jin Lee 10, Abstain 2. All this information is public knowledge.
2. M. Verney announced that Governance Committee would meet soon to change GSS's Constitution & Bylaws.

C. Discussion of the President and Provost Meeting.

1. Nathaniel Stafford brought up the point that if doctoral students had to stay in their program longer to wrap up their dissertation, perhaps their departments could hire them to teach an additional semester off the radar for no credits. Why don't these students pay tuition? Why do they only pay fees?
2. Dante Broadbent noted the MUB might not be ready to conduct a feasibility study for 9 months to a year. E. Temko noted that Deans are coming to the next GSS meeting to discuss the potential for a space for graduate students at the MUB.
3. Patrick Lacroix mentioned that conversations with Chris Clement revealed there's no money from the state. Improving graduate fees will be difficult if undergraduates end up paying more. P. Lacroix noted it sounded like Mark Huddleston was trying to encourage graduate students to give up trying to fight these fee hikes. Perhaps GSS can organize and rally friends and

- family to push the legislature for support.
4. M. Verney noted that if the state needs more money, it might raise taxes. There is something to be gained from lobbying the state. M. Verney expressed his confusion that UNH is unwilling to engage in a larger lobbying effort. They could unite as powerful one-issue voters. M. Verney noted that historically, UNH has discouraged graduate students from lobbying in Concord, NH.
 5. Andrea Jilling noted that there are ways to talk to key legislators without official involvement from UNH. There are ways to move towards change without creating a flurry of bad PR for UNH. Matt Smith noted that state legislators are receptive to UNH students.
 6. Matt Smith noted that UNH is spending way too much on athletics and recreation, and not nearly enough on academics. It's asinine that most of UNH's money goes to non-research and non-academic things.
 7. Dante Broadbent noted that UNH has to compete with benchmark institutions or undergraduates won't come. Money comes back through their tuition. Lincoln Crutchfield noted that UNH among other institutions is engaged in an "amenities arms race." If this arms race stopped, UNH could improve quality of life for all students. The only way to sustain UNH financially is to compete with benchmark institutions to bring in tuition, because UNH does not receive money from the state.
 8. M. Verney noted Stacey Hall's positive cooperation with GSS about Campus Rec in the past.
 9. Myles Lynch noted that Stacey Hall did not provide GSS with graduate usage data for Campus Rec facilities.
 10. Nathaniel Stafford noted that graduate students aren't treated as professionals, but as students. Graduate students don't want these amenities; they want strong faculty and departments. N. Stafford's advisor was approached by drug companies, but UNH denied the idea of trying to obtain intellectual property for this and it would have brought in money. GSS needs to prove that CEPS and COLA push for its research. M. Smith noted that UNH needs a central webpage for graduate research.
 11. E. Temko noted that UNH is going to get rid of graduate programs. GSS should discuss this.
 12. M. Verney noted that finances should be a part of this discussion. If programs are underperforming nationally in publications, rankings, and abilities, then we should be open to cutting them. We should discuss ways to turn these programs around before we discuss cutting them, though.
 13. Jochen Wirsing noted that universities should provide a wide range of courses that might not be financially sustainable in and of themselves. Students need versatility and a more holistic approach to knowledge.
 14. E. Temko noted that the ways programs are evaluated by performance vary. Universities can't base evaluations of performance on one factor, like publications, or depend fully on a world report.
 15. Jovana Milosavljevic noted the need for graduate students in these programs to speak out on this issue.

VI. Adjournment – 1:50 pm. Next meeting: Next meeting April 5, 2016, 12:10pm-1:50pm, MUB 338

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire