

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday, April 5, 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
Damian Manda	CEPS
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Myles Lynch	COLA
Nathaniel Stafford	COLA
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Dante Broadbent	CHHS
Wade Heath	PAUL
Catherine Welter	COLA
Jin Lee	COLA
Devin Batchelder	COLSA

Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Kevin McMahon	LAW
Jochen Wirsing	CHHS
Elizabeth Moschella	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Tom Cronin	Manchester
------------	------------

D. Members at Large Present: Bonnie Barlow and Jessie Bolin.

E. Guests: Lincoln Crutchfield, Dean Harry Richards, Associate Dean Cari Moorhead, and MUB Director MaryAnne Lustgraaf.

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

A. Meeting agenda approved.

IV. Outside Business.

A. **USS Student Senate Report:** USS Representative was not present.

B. **Student Trustee Report:** Student Trustee Lincoln Crutchfield discussed a meeting about UNH's cost savings through shared services. This will impact students. There must be voting turnout for the graduate population. The idea is to hold energy costs flat resulting in savings and unrestricted financial researches. USNH's goal is not to cut anything.

V. Internal Business.

A. Minutes from 3/22/2016 approved through general feelings.

B. Reports.

1. Damian Manda reported on the Student Government Association.
2. Elizabeth Moschella reported on the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Catherine Welter proposed to bring in a poet to discuss autism and poetry on April 29th.

VI. Meeting with Dean Harry Richards and Associate Dean Cari Moorhead.

- A. GSS is interested in establishing an interdisciplinary graduate student space for collaboration and refreshments, including adult beverages.**
- B.** Ezra Temko noted this came up in a graduate student survey. GSS Executive Committee conducted an analysis of the graduate student experience, and then discussed these results at a GSS meeting. In terms of academic work and socialization, folks want more interdisciplinary collaboration. There are no concrete specifics yet. GSS is exploring flexibility and potential movement forward. There is a Friday writing space for graduate students. A potential space in the library was discussed. Grad students desire a space where they can socialize across the disciplines.
- C.** Dante Broadbent noted that research has found the graduate student experience profoundly isolating. Graduate student centers form institutional attachment through atmospheres where graduate students can socialize with their cohort. UNH needs to foster social interaction among graduate students. Is there any potential to upgrade Babcock and designate space for graduate students?
- D.** Harry Richards noted that a number of years ago this was the case, but Babcock has become a place to avoid rather than participate.
- E.** MaryAnne Lustgraaf noted the suggestion that taking a room offline at the MUB and turning it into a pub is not feasible in the short term. The MUB will be remodeled. Mailboxes will be removed. There will be a high-volume packing delivery model. The MUB has gone from 38,000 packages a year to 100,000 packages a year. It's been frustrating to get packages to students accurately in a timely fashion. A new software program will make package reception easier. Housing is paying for that software. Mailboxes are leaving Babcock. Could there be a better lounge for graduate students there? UNH has a liquor license for catering, but not for some kind of pub. Would the Board of Trustees, state government, and the Town of Durham allow this? However, there is the possibility of student organizations hosting alcohol-catered events in Babcock. There are ways to meet alcoholic beverage demands without needing a permanent faculty. The MUB could have some graduate student space available, but is overbooked with student activities in the evenings. Could we build a space there? Long term? Yes. Short term? We will have to look into that. The MUB is a place for commuter students to make connections. We can meet these needs without creating a bar.
- F.** Cari Moorhead noted a meal pass would be given with a slight deduction in costs and increased meals.
- G.** Mike Verney noted he likes the idea of expanding Babcock's common ideas to include a breakfast bar, but there are major security concerns. To what extent would the residents of Babcock feel comfortable with a situation where all graduate students would have access to the ground floor? It seems difficult to close off access to other graduate students. Maybe all our GSS meetings could be there.
- H.** Jin Lee noted that from her perspective as a resident of Babcock she has concerns about strangers constantly pouring in and out. There is no protection for Babcock residents other than security cards. Jin Lee is unsure that would be the proper atmosphere for studying, especially for residents on lower floors. Babcock's prices are not competitive with outside living options, although there have been attempts to increase the graduate student population there.
- I.** Matt Smith noted the Babcock situation could become similar to Stoke Hall where you need a pass card to access other floors. At Babcock, people frequently vandalized the first floor, stole chairs, and those cost burdens were put on Babcock residents. Stoke Hall

could be a good model of how to tread this situation, but vandal costs can't be put on Babcock residents.

- J.** Jin Lee noted that there are study rooms at Babcock, but many students refer to study downstairs.
- K.** Ezra Temko noted Ted Kirkpatrick's suggestion to create a separate village for graduate students and new professors: a community space. Could this result in an interdisciplinary space?
- L.** Cari Moorhead noted that PFF and the GRC are interdisciplinary. The Graduate School has made a conscious effort to promote this kind of atmosphere through professional programming. C. Moorhead noted that's the philosophy behind UNH and it's embedded in everything the institution does. C. Moorhead noted the Writing Group has been much appreciated as a space dedicated to consistent interdisciplinary activity. C. Moorhead expressed concern that changes will mitigate the Graduate School's ability to be consistent with students. Inconsistency leads to problems.
- M.** Ezra Temko noted that in the GSS Constitution & Bylaws there is an emphasis on planning and coordinating events. What can be done in the short term for graduate student programming regarding use of MUB space for PFF and PFP?
- N.** MaryAnne Lustgraaf noted that the MUB budget goes into the academic pool to support departments. They feel they are already underwritten by the MUB as an auxiliary, and should be paying for utilization of MUB space. Department-only events would have some of those charges. This makes it easier for students so they wouldn't have to increase the MUB fee. If we tear down, or get rid of it, we save money and have much better space that builds community. That's where we are without spreading out the cost of keeping up the building.
- O.** Ezra Temko brought up the possibility of lounges or seminar rooms for graduate students.
- P.** Mike Verney noted that GSS and the Graduate School shares interest in the creation of a Graduate Student Center with a kitchenette. That could be the space where all of this happens. Babcock is fruitful, yet what are the constraints financially and spatially for something in the MUB?
- Q.** MaryAnne Lustgraaf asked if this would include offices or different types of lounges or spaces? They could charge for square footage on those.
- R.** Harry Richards noted a solution is challenging. Every time fees go up, the Graduate Dean is in negotiations with College Deans to try to increase stipends. We go around in circles: the cost to operate always increases someone else's costs. These are good ideas, but catering is not as costly as a physical space.
- S.** MaryAnne Lustgraaf noted that the new Hamilton Smith would not have potential for a graduate student lounge. The entire building is composed of seminar spaces and offices.
- T.** Ezra Temko noted the possibility of reserving graduate student spaces during specific times at the MUB. MaryAnne Lustgraaf noted graduate students would have to commit to be there. This is something GSS, the MUB, and the Graduate School should cosponsor as a team.
- U.** Harry Richards noted that despite interdisciplinary pushes, a lot of what graduate students do is department-based, yet noted that he likes the idea of finding a regular time

to get together and promote a specific time and place.

- V. Cari Moorhead that a much bigger issue is the costs of education. If we push too hard in one area, prices can go up in other areas. There is a challenge to minimize costs while maintaining services. The Graduate School comes up with creative solutions like making it free for graduate students to see movies at the MUB. We want to share facilities fairly and equitably.
- W. Dante Broadbent mentioned the possibility of outside vendors coming in with adult beverages, similar to how Dunkin' Donuts operates at Holloway Commons. MaryAnne Lustgraaf noted that the Dunkin' Donuts deal was larger and more complicated than this. Dining Services do not want outside vendors to come in.
- X. Patrick Lacroix noted the possibility of catered events with wine and cheese. Is there a space where this could happen that the university could also use for search committees, events, conferences, and receptions?
- Y. Mike Verney noted he would venture to guess that graduate students would be willing to pay a fee to partially maintain such a center. This center would be great. It seems there are a number units that would be fiscally invested in a space like this. This space could also host PFF and PFP. GSS would conduct research to see if graduate students would support a center like this.
- Z. Ezra Temko noted another thing to consider is the possibility of a virtual space for graduate students. There may be some app promoting overlap and social interaction between departments.
- AA. Cari Moorhead thanked GSS and noted its invested student body would pay dividends in the long run.

VII. Internal Business

- A. **May 3rd GSS meeting is cancelled. GSS's final meeting of the semester will occur on May 10th.**
- B. Ezra Temko emailed out a spreadsheet of responses from department chairs regarding graduate student involvement in departments. Please contact constituencies where chair has not responded.
- C. Ezra Temko mentioned graduate student involvement in departments. Could we come up with a GSS approved "best practice"? GSS could report this at Grad Council and see if they adopt it as a best practice. Any ideas or proposals about that?
- D. Nathaniel Stafford noted that History, Sociology, and Mechanical Engineering have the most comprehensive collaboration with a student liaison, grad committee or caucus, or some kind of representation codified in the department.
- E. Ezra Temko brought up the English Graduate Organization and Master's Students for Social Work. Any other governance groups, even if they aren't recognized as official student organizations? GSS should keep track of those and find the best models.
- F. Mike Verney noted he likes the History method: could recommend all departments should have graduate student reps attend meetings who don't have a vote but can attend these

meetings. M. Verney prefers two representatives to maintain a balance of opinion, etc.
Motion?

G. Ezra Temko tabled this idea for discussion at the next GSS meeting, and adjourned.

VIII. Adjournment – 1:[50](#) pm. Next meeting: April 19, 2016, 12:10pm-1:50pm, MUB 338. |

Respectfully Submitted, |

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire