

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday November 17th, 2015
Mike Verney, Vice President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, Vice President, 12:15.

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

Mike Verney	Vice President
Paul Rowe	Clerk
Patrick Lacroix	Treasurer
Andrea Jilling	External Affairs Officer

B. Senators Present

Matt Smith	GRAD
Drummond Biles	CEPS
Myles Lynch	COLA
Felicia Fowler	CHHS
Wade Heath	PAUL
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Damian Manda	CEPS
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Tom Cronin	Manchester
Catherine Welter	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Ezra Temko	President
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Dante Broadbent	CHHS

Melika Nouri	Forest Park
Kevin McMahon	LAW

D. Members at Large Present: Women’s Commission Liaison Elizabeth Moschella, Rory Carroll, and Nathaniel Stafford.

E. Guests: USS Senator Colleen O’Hara.

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

A. Felicia Fowler announced she would be proxy voting for Devin Batchelder.

B. Mike Verney announced that he would be facilitating the GSS meeting in the absence of Ezra Temko. Mike Verney asked GSS if anyone had any questions, comments, or concerns before the meeting begins. Jovana Milosavljevic expressed her frustration with payroll. She has to pay fees because people at payroll did not do something correctly. Mike Verney informed her that if they made an error, she should not pay anything more than what she was supposed to pay. Cari Moorhead could get involved. Jovana Milosavljevic received a paper stating that a deduction took place, but the person responsible never got the paper, and now she has to pay a lump sum. She cannot register for classes as this sum has not been paid and cannot make them in monthly installments. Mike Verney stated that since they made a mistake, they should make accommodations, and he would be happy to discuss that strategy with her.

C. Mike Verney asked GSS to approve the meeting agenda through general feelings. GSS approved the agenda.

D. Felicia Fowler announced that Thursday three faculty members from COLA, COLSA, and CHHS who have helped hire alumni in the past would be speaking from 12:30-2:00 in the Wildcats den.

E. Colleen O’Hara from USS was introduced.

IV. Outside Business.

A. **USS Student Senate Report:** USS member Colleen O’Hara. USS placed a stalking ban for Blackboard. Instead of “opt out” it was made “opt in” for posting personal information. USS is working on a campus wide smoking and tobacco ban at UNH 20 feet away from buildings.

B. Drummond Biles asked if smokers would be fined.

C. Colleen O’Hara noted that people could be reported and fined. Second offenses would warrant classes on quitting smoking.

D. Matt Smith stated that on the top floors of Nesmith smoke from outside rises up to the windows, causing discomfort.

- E. Elizabeth Moschella asked if there would be designated smoking areas. If you are far away, you would have to walk to Main street to smoke.
- F. Damian Manda noted that he saw some potential problems with this system. Smoking is an addiction, and no one is going to immediately quit. Considering how cold the weather can be, this seems discriminatory. It's not a choice: It's an addiction. This system would make people walk long distances in the cold to do something they might not even want to do.
- G. Drummond Biles noted that it's not just students smoking, but professors as well. Some of these people have been addicted for 30 years. You will meet a lot of resistance there.
- H. Matt Smith noted that the minority is hurting the majority, and instructed Colleen O'Hara not to fear the fight.
- I. Tom Cronin asked if aside from handguns, are there any other legal things that have been banned campus wide? Colleen O'Hara answered: alcohol, then noted that UNH is behind on campus smoking bans compared to other universities.
- J. Tom Cronin asked if there are any details from universities that have enforced a similar ban.
- K. Elizabeth Moschella noted that UNH has banned mace. She knows self-defense so she has taught her students about this ban.
- L. Mike Verney asked if this potential ban is for tobacco and not marijuana. Colleen O'Hara commented that many students use portable vaporizer devices for covering up the smell of marijuana. These devices emit a pleasing aroma. Colleen also noted that smoking marijuana is already illegal.
- M. Mike Verney commented that the TNH article made it sound like once USS passes this ban, it will be enacted. What is the actual process?
- N. Colleen O'Hara indicated that if there is a two-thirds majority vote this gets passed on to President Huddleston's desk. USS can merely express interest in supporting a ban but only the President can enact the ban.
- O. Mike Verney expressed interest in GSS weighing in on this issue as there are two student governance councils, one of which is the GSS. As many graduate students undergo much stress and are addicted to smoking, Mike Verney expressed his reservations about this kind of ban. Mike Verney expressed a desire to include this topic on a future GSS meeting agenda.
- P. Matt Smith noted that Fidelity Investments has banned smoking outside their facilities. Bringing up whether or not this saved them money could be a potential weapon to use against smoking because President Huddleston responds well to financial data.
- Q. Taylor Hodgdon asked what USS' constituents thought about this.
- R. Colleen O'Hara noted that as constituents are represented by USS Senators have to vote in keeping with their beliefs.

- S. Taylor Hodgdon suggested that USS poll its constituents because this is a hot topic issue. If you are pushing to ban something it's important to have a forum where people can let their views out.
- T. Tom Cronin noted it would be interesting to see what bans like this have done in terms of effecting insurance rates at other universities.
- U. Mike Verney thanked Colleen O'Hara for attending the meeting and noted he would suggest to Ezra Temko, GSS President, that the potential smoking ban be added to the order of business for GSS. Mike Verney stated that GSS should vote on this issue as well so President Huddleston can see the perspective of the two representative student bodies. USS will email Ezra Temko their resolution.

V. Internal Business.

- A. Mike Verney turned the focus of the discussion to the Internal Business section of the agenda and Patrick Lacroix indicated that pizza would arrive at 1:00pm.

B. Reports.

1. Mike Verney asked if there were any questions or concerns about reports submitted online. There was no response.
2. **Mike Verney discussed Governance Committee. Gov Com met on November 4th and approved the Modified Feminist Process as a system to conduct meetings.** GSS previously conducted meetings based on Robert's Rules of Order but last May moved to change this system to the GSS Modified Feminist Process. Mike Verney began an overview of the Modified Feminist Process, and noted that general feelings on the process would be discussed. If we are unsure, we can reopen this discussion. Mike Verney described the process as striving to make GSS meetings an equitable playing field to adjust for the power dynamics of society. The goal of the process is to make meetings fair for all people. Aspects of the process such as voting based on general feelings are ways for GSS to become inclusive of many opinions before calling for an actual vote.
3. **Brief description of the Modified Feminist Process:** Openings describe general procedures, the meeting's agenda, and what happens when, similar to Robert's Rules of Order. Check in's, introduction of attendees, approval of the agenda, outside business reports, internal business discussions, check outs, and evaluations take place in roughly that order. The facilitator of meetings has the ability to move to adjournment based on time. Proposals of resolutions must be submitted a week in advance so GSS Senators have time to become familiar with these documents. The person bringing the proposal forward then has substantial time to explain the reasons behind the proposal. At this stage, the floor is opened for clarifying questions. Then, opinions from Senators are fielded. The facilitator takes stack, the list of people who wish to speak and weigh in, so everyone has a fair parity in terms of time

constraints. Senators can also signal the facilitator to “jump stack,” or move up in the conversation. The “C” hand signal indicates a clarifying question, letting the facilitator that someone is confused ensuring before the conversation moves forward that this person has the opportunity to ask for clarity, especially since there may be confusion among the rest of the GSS body. The “P” can be made using arm, hand, or card that signals “P”. To make these motions one can do so in a way that’s inclusive of all attendees. Someone can offer a direct response with a “D” signal, which signifies a direct comment relating to what has just been said. This means one has factual information relating directly to the preceding comment. Voting: The hand vote, but there are other ways of doing formal voting including slate voting, and even ballot votes if the vote is sufficiently important. Proxy voting: if one misses a meeting, someone is voting in that person’s place. Proxy voting is highly encouraged. GSS Senators can also send a written statement to the Clerk if they want their voice to be directly heard. Or, Ex Com could have the individual vote directly via email, although it’s discouraged. Mike Verney then opened the floor to questions regarding this process.

4. Colleen O’Hara asked if everyone has the right to vote.
5. Mike Verney explained that only voting members, Senators and Executive Committee members besides the President, have the right to vote in GSS.
6. Mike Verney then moved to general feelings about approving the Modified Feminist Process.
7. Tom Cronin noted that the process has taken up a lot of meeting time and it is “a solution in search of a problem.” Constituents do not care about this process.
8. **The Modified Feminist Process was officially approved.**
9. Patrick Lacroix noted that this vote is awash as it’s been here for 2 ½ years. He noted that he never saw any issues of inclusion. This won’t prompt a huge difference or any greater involvement in GSS. Patrick Lacroix announced that he maintained his stance of neutrality. Let’s move on with the business we are elected to do.
10. **Governance Committee Proposal #2: Committees’ Operating Process was discussed.** Mike Verney asked GSS to hold on to the cover letter he sent out. **Proposal #2 will be a formal vote amending Bylaws Article 3 Section I:** All shall follow Robert’s Rules of Order. Proposed is that members may choose their own processes: they don’t have to conform to Robert’s Rules of Order or the Feminist Modified Process. Rationale: Depending on the size of the committee, there may be other systems they are used to. On Governance Committee, Robert’s

Rules of Order were preferred. Each Chair of a committee may approve these systems, including one that is less formal.

11. Patrick Lacroix noted that as long as the process is in the spirit of inclusion, it would be effective. Mike Verney noted that Patrick Lacroix has proposed a friendly amendment. We have the proposal for different language here.
12. **“Committees may choose the operating process in the spirit of inclusion.” – Patrick Lacroix.**
13. Mike Verney commented that GSS should definitely slip the word “inclusion” in there.
14. **Damian Manda: “Committees may choose an operating process that promotes inclusion and efficiency.”**
15. **Mike Verney asked for general feelings. Would GSS move to a vote in favor of approving this change? Mike Verney made a motion to propose the final language to the by-laws. The final language change was as follows: “Committees may choose an operating process that promotes inclusion and efficiency.” Vote: 16 yes (including proxy vote), 0 no, 0 abstentions. Change passed.**
16. **Mike Verney turned the floor over to Treasurer Patrick Lacroix.**
17. **Fee Review Process.** Treasurer Patrick Lacroix sent copies all around. Reports were sent out the prior night via email. Patrick Lacroix thanked Paul Rowe for alerting GSS.
 1. Patrick Lacroix discussed fees that will probably happen FY17.
 2. **Over the last few weeks Patrick Lacroix met with units on campus for which we have to pay.**
 3. Taylor Hodgdon, Dante Broadbent, Matt Smith, and Ezra Temko were there. Patrick Lacroix appreciated the work his colleagues put into these meetings.
 4. Patrick Lacroix paused the discussion because of people going to eat pizza. Mike Verney offered a counter proposal: We have to continue the discussion with respect to time, regardless of the pizza arrival.
 5. Patrick Lacroix announced that they attended three meetings as depicted in the document: SHARPP, Transportation, and the MUB. You will see for the most part incremental changes: UNH is receiving a new, expanded Hamel Recreation Center. This will be expensive,

and will cost graduate students an additional \$228.00 from Campus Recreation solely for that.

6. Another increase: Operating costs will rise by 3%. All in all, the Campus Recreation fee will grow from \$508.00 to \$747.00, an increase of 48%. This fee is permanent, applies to undergraduates and graduate students. This is a huge hike. Patrick Lacroix is very displeased about this and noted that GSS needs to advocate strongly against this hike.
7. Mike Verney proposed the idea that the Hamel Recreation Center and the Whittemore Center fee should be separated since graduate students don't get free tickets in exchange for paying this fee, and that the only other service they can do is open skate.
8. Drummond Biles indicated that this fee includes the Whittemore Center. Patrick Lacroix indicated that the university is still paying for the loan taken out on that building.
9. Taylor Hodgdon brought up a great point: Athletics used to pay for the building at some point within the past decade. Patrick Lacroix indicated this is worth inquiring about if greater detail. We will be sure to mention that precedent.
10. Mike Verney stated that people walk through the center to get to the lobby and this is their legitimate excuse for slapping graduate students with these extra fees. That excuse is no longer valid. Mike suggested that if we continue to pay and provide support, we should get a certain amount of tickets to events. This would make us feel validated while increasing the audience for Athletics and making the fee more concrete.
11. Myles Lynch noted that they gathered that auxiliary units had no usage data. We don't know how many people use Campus Recreation services.
12. Tom Cronin noted that after this 30-year bond, could it go down? Was there ever a vote for this body in terms of moving forward with these costs?
13. Mike Verney answered this was an administrative decision and GSS never weighed in. The decision was made based on what other universities were doing. The answer was obvious and there was no polling.
14. Patrick Lacroix noted that they had a meeting with Stacy Hall and a lot of her friends were excited, and annoyed by limited space. Obviously what we want to do is come to a vote on all of these fees.

increases. We want to be constructive in terms of negotiating other options for graduate students.

15. Mike Verney suggested a tiered program of fees: gold, silver, and bronze status plans. There would be a bigger strain on some individuals but might displace the strain on graduate students over all. Additionally, a user fee model could be useful but it would be advantageous for individuals to actually go to the gym and use these services. We must discuss the fee increase as a group: 508-747 is a tall order. This is almost a 50% increase.
16. Andrea Jilling asked how they responded to this issue. How resistant are they to negotiation?
17. Patrick Lacroix indicated that this is his first year of involvement.
18. Mike Verney stated the way the process works is in general they weigh in on proposals for fee changes, and from there the President or Chair of Financial Affairs Committee writes a letter to the Dean of Students who then writes a cover letter, after hearing from students, to President Huddleston. Then it goes over to the Board of Trustees. If we rejected change in Campus Recreation, last year GSS had two votes on each fee. First vote: to voice opinion. Second vote: To approve the fee or not. This year Executive Committee wanted to field graduate student opinions, but we are not sure if we will do that this year. To answer your question, they really want us to be content with the decisions they make. When GSS voted against Campus Recreation, which used to have a \$70.00 fee, Stacy Hall said we didn't have to pay that sum. Campus Recreation actively responded to graduate student concerns. They are proposing a way to make these fees more palatable. It doesn't mean the President will reject it.
19. Matt Smith indicated Athletics fees have been denied based on this process, so it's possible.
20. Patrick Lacroix noted he mentioned that because of the physical space it occupies, there is a tax that the central administration places on each unit, collecting a proportion of each unit to maintain buildings. This fee is going up by 4%, slightly more than other increases. This is simply central administration's call: there is no negotiation on that. The office of the Vice President of Financial Affairs set this precedent. There is nothing that can happen. There is no say or leverage in the face of this financial administration. Budgets are regimented. They cannot control the costs of occupying the facility. In terms of what needs to happen, it is out of their hands.
21. Patrick Lacroix stated the counseling fee moved from \$158.00 to \$165.00, an increase of 4.4% because of a new hire. USS supported it to make sure there was less of a wait time, and the hike is almost

entirely due to this hiring. The hire is a man. A person of color. David Ross says guys prefer talking to a woman. Gender balance is off the table. In all likelihood, this could be a case manager. There are a lot of bureaucratic aspects to this having to do with handing off issues to a psychologist. We mentioned that the counseling center is open from 8-5 Mondays-Fridays, but unfortunately mental health crises don't only occur during this time frame. There is the possibility of an expanded hour trial run. They Ross was interested in this trial run, but not hopeful. If anyone has any suggestions as to how they might improve services, let them know.

22. Elizabeth Moschella asked if it would be possible to instead have an on-call staff member to go to Portsmouth Hospital. It would be great to have an on-call staff member from counseling who could do that. Coming from Psychology, this might be helpful.
23. Patrick Lacroix noted this was a great suggestion. The dining service fee was raised from 2% to 3%. A few staffers were hired to improve dining services, although we are not sure where they will work specifically. With the money they pay for square footage at Holloway Commons, student wages increase. Graduate students move over to the following year after their meal plan. If their balances could carry through, they would be more likely to buy a meal plan. This might be mutually beneficial. It's hard to buy things on campus without getting to the dining hall. Catering services are very expensive. A lower rate would be helpful.
24. Health services will remain at \$448.00. There are no longer debt services on the building. Eight years ago they contacted student bodies and people in interested in keeping fees stable in order to save on investments later on. They are cramped, and they are hoping to expand but they don't have enough savings. There is interest in having a one stop shop for mental and physical health through a wellness center for SHARPP and Wellness. This won't happen in the next five years. There is little change as far as budget this year. Slowly, unit health services are moving from a comprehensive plan for user fees like radiology, testing risk, and making sure they are okay financially. They have grown from 7%-13% over the years incredibly slowly but that might save us money in the long run.
25. Patrick Lacroix on Housing: a treat that doesn't make up for Campus Rec. the fee for Babcock will go down 6% to acknowledge the condition that Babcock is in. Forest Park will remain stable: \$500.00/person per room, fairly competitive with the local market. Babcock is more expensive with 80 out of 180 graduate students, while the rest are undergraduates. Babcock is woefully inadequate. Renovations won't happen until next year. There is a possibility of gutting to make room for more undergraduates. We have different

needs than undergraduates, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

26. Mike Verney: All graduate students at Babcock would get fifty meal plans.
27. Drummond Biles: Why is that not extended to Forest Park?
28. Patrick Lacroix stated it's because they have kitchens, but Babcock does not. Forest Park is a higher quality place. They are trying to make Babcock flashier; we'll see how that goes.
29. Patrick Lacroix: As for MUB, the numbers go up from \$370.00 - 381.00 owing to reorganization and restructuring of the mailroom. SHARPP is going up from \$5.00 to \$8.00 to make the male position permanent for safety and to enhance community relations during the night. This position will be overseen but will remain permanent.
30. There is a one dollar increase in the cost to go 24/7 with support for Canvas. They want to make sure people are supported through the transition, but if it isn't used, they will get rid of it.
31. Transportation: Student fee will rise from 132 to 136, about 3% of ridership is down in Dover, Newmarket, and Portsmouth. Buses will be re-thought out and adjusted and bus transport services will consider this in the year with maintenance and personnel in mind.
32. Wrap up: Total student fees increase from \$1814.00 to \$2080.00. This 14.7% increase is mostly due to Campus Rec. This is an increase of \$266.00 per semester. We must make sure that they cater to us, that they include us in this process, that they are open to our recommendations and proposals, and are willing to make us aware of the services they provide. Questions and comments?
33. Mike Verney thanked Patrick Lacroix for his fee updates.
34. Jovana Milosavljevic had a question about recreation centers. If there is nothing we can do, can we ask for space for graduate students? No one wants to meet their students in the gym: there should be an exclusive place for graduate students.
35. Patrick Lacroix noted this is something he is more than willing to raise at a meeting.
36. Drummond Biles asked if students cover the entire cost of these renovations. Is there no plan beyond having students pay for everything? Why is there no saving?
37. Patrick Lacroix noted that we are the burden bearers.

38. Tom Cronin noted the possibility of a federal bond, but the way you obtain that is the fee services.
39. Mike Verney noted that Health Services charged students from 2007 for the future. They keep charging certain rates to save money for future services.
40. Nathaniel Stafford noted that when he started attending UNH he did not use the gym at the Hamel Rec Center because there was no space. The addition was supposed to alleviate that, but is territorial to undergrads. His usage is inconsistent so he wouldn't find these machines available when he thought they would be. A grad/faculty/staff area would make GA's feel comfortable going to the Rec Center.
41. Drummond Biles noted the faculty/staff gym at the Field House. Graduate students can use this facility as there is no oversight.
42. Nathaniel Stafford noted he used it and ran into an advisor there. Although you are not running into students, there is also no space there, although it makes sense to use this for running in the winter. For the Rec Center, graduate students don't use this facility because there are too many students there and there's no way to walk in, work out, and leave feeling comfortable.
43. Matt Smith stated he talked to Stacy Hall about how graduate students have significant others who aren't on campus. They like the idea of spouses receiving a reduced rate.
44. Elizabeth Moschella noted the amount they are asking for at a reduced rate is still impractical as most students pay less than half of this through a gym such as Planet Fitness. Undergraduates don't have a choice, but graduate students have that alternative. Grad students shouldn't be penalized for that.
45. Mike Verney stated his concern that graduate students can't interact with students outside of the classroom. Except for the library, he expressed concern that grads and undergrads have to live out a two-tiered situation where they can't interact at the dining hall or Campus Rec.
46. Mike Verney encouraged Senators to speak with their constituents about these fees. GSS will further discuss these fees at our next meeting.
47. Patrick Lacroix noted he would send comments about points raised or anything he forgot to mention in the next few days. This will give people time to look over the documents, and Patrick stated he would

send these comments to unit directors for a formal vote on December 1st.

48. Tomorrow evening 11/18 UNH is holding a vigil for the victims of the Paris attacks. Mike Verney stated he would speak at this event. USS as well as President Huddleston would also speak.
49. Mike Verney announced that GSS is looking for someone to meet with the Interim Provost on Thursday from 1:30 to 2:00. At the Executive Committee with Stacy Hall he would ask her about the Campus Rec fee, among others. Mike Verney thanked all of the attendees of the GSS meeting, and adjourned the meeting.

VI. Adjournment – 1:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire