

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday December 1st, 2015
Ezra Temko, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Ezra Temko, President, 12:15.

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

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

B. Senators Present

Matt Smith	GRAD
Nathaniel Stafford	COLA
Drummond Biles	CEPS
Myles Lynch	COLA
Felicia Fowler	CHHS
Wade Heath	PAUL
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Damian Manda	CEPS
Dante Broadbent	CHHS
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Catherine Welter	COLA
Devin Batchelder	COLSA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present:

Tom Cronin	Manchester
Melika Nouri	Forest Park

D. Members at Large Present: Women's Commission Liaison Elizabeth Moschella, President's Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities representative Bonnie Barlow, Dylan Landgre, and Sarah Widlansley.

E. Guests: USS Senator Colleen O'Hara.

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

- A. Ezra Temko started the GSS meeting and announced that the Presidential debate screening has been moved to December 15th.
- B. Mike Verney announced that from 7:00-10:00 on Friday Kwanzaa is being celebrated at UNH and there will be free food, but more importantly, a celebration of diversity on campus. Mike Verney asked if anyone would like a physical copy of the newly approved GSS Modified Feminist Process.
- C. Drummond Biles announced that he would proxy vote for Damian Manda if he did not arrive in time for voting.
- D. Jovana Milosavljevic announced that she would proxy vote for Catherine Welter if she did not arrive in time for voting.
- E. Andrea Jilling stated she would make announcements later about the Presidential debate screenings.
- F. USS representative Colleen O'Hara announced that the smoking ban pursued by USS would be tabled until March in favor of more research on the subject. USS is working on budgets for the fee review process. There was nothing else to report from USS.

IV. Outside Business.

- A. Ezra Temko asked if there was any outside business and there was nothing new to report.

V. Internal Business.

- A. Ezra Temko called for a vote to approve the November 3rd minutes.

1. November 3rd minutes approved.

- B. Ezra Temko called for a vote to approve the November 13th minutes.

2. November 13th minutes approved.

- C. Ezra Temko asked for feelings on having a GSS meeting next week. There are Governance Committee bylaw proposals, priorities, and Graduate School initiatives going on over J Term that could be discussed in greater detail at an additional GSS meeting. Any feelings?
- D. Myles Lynch noted that either way another meeting would be ideal to discuss service fees in greater detail.
- E. Mike Verney stated he is pushing for having another GSS meeting next week as Governance Commission is working on a tweaked process for approving amendments to the GSS Constitution and Bylaws, which, if approved, would make ratifying future bylaws easier. Governance Commission has other proposals on the table for the spring semester so it would be ideal to have another GSS meeting. That way, the GSS could amend things in a much more fluid way next semester.
- F. General feelings on holding an addition GSS meeting were positive. Wade Heath would be unable to attend and will require a proxy.
- G. **GSS meeting next Tuesday December 9th from 12:15-1:35 in MUB 203 approved.**
- H. **Reports.**

1. **Jovana Milosavljevic noted that Faculty Senate expressed concern about the salaries that administrators receive and the number of administrators hired.** They are conducting research on these salaries, and trying to bring back Central Budget. Should GSS have a representative over there or is it enough to update GSS via committee reports?
2. **Ezra Temko noted that Patrick Lacroix is the Central Budget representative.** This item will go on the agenda for the next GSS meeting.
3. **Bonnie Barlow reported on the President's Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities. There are a couple of grants available for people in Education and Health and Human Services.** The Commission is planning a screening of "Darkness in Light", a film about veterans coming back from war. A date has not yet been decided. A TNH article made concerning comments about women and diverse groups. The Commission discussed the need for a Classified Ads section so graduate students can find babysitters for their children. They also fielded comments on potentially difficult accessibility to buildings on UNH campus.

4. **Ezra Temko noted that GSS has reached out to the MUB Director to find out why they stopped providing the Classified Ads. GSS is still paying attention and will share concrete updates on this situation.**
- I. **Ezra Temko asked if GSS should sign on to Women's Commission's statement in response to the TNH article on consent.**
- J. Women's Commission Liaison Elizabeth Moschella noted that one of the authors wrote about the "myths" about obtaining consent. Women's Commission decided against giving further attention to the author via a direct response, instead choosing to write a letter to clarify and educate the general public on consent, specifically, to explain why we need to obtain consent, especially at UNH. Ezra Temko asked for any clarifying questions on GSS signing off.
- K. **Paul Rowe motioned for GSS to sign off on the statement of the Women's Commission.**
 1. **Vote: Yay, 16. Nay, 0. Abstaining, 0. Motion passed. GSS signs on to the Consent Letter with the Women's Commission.**
- L. **First Thursday will take place this Thursday at Scorpions Bar and Grill from 5:00-7:00pm. There will be more free pizza there.**

VI. Fee Review Process.

- A. **GSS began to discuss what they want to express in their letter to the Board of Trustees and the office of President Tom Huddleston.**
- B. Ezra Temko noted that as the conversation would be fruitful, GSS should make use of knocking as a signal of approval according to the Modified Feminist Process. GSS indicated approval. GSS reached out to Manchester and Law on these fee issues, but this meeting would focus on Durham fees. There are nine fees for AY2016-2017, some controversial, while some are more straightforward. **Five minutes of time would be given for each fee, and then GSS has the option to make a vote to approve or disapprove the fee in question.** If there are still contentious issues about the fees in question, GSS can always return to these later. This way, GSS can express its ideas regarding each fee in a timely fashion. Senators could make a motion to approve, disapprove, or take no position on a fee. Ezra Temko also encouraged Senators to suggest inclusions to the letter. Anything to add?
- C. Patrick Lacroix noted that GSS Executive Committee met with Stacey Hall Director of Campus Recreation last week. She was receptive to GSS concerns. She understood concerns about the hike in the Campus Rec fee and discussed ways to alleviate the burden, improve services, while fielding questions for the Executive Committee and GSS Senators in attendance. Hall brought up the fact that graduate student spouses' rates will decrease to \$100.00 per semester, essentially cutting their Campus Rec fee in half. This is good for spouses who are interested in those particular services. Hall seemed open to the idea of providing alternative Campus Rec hours on weekends for

students with conflicting schedules. The gym in the field house is operated by Kinesiology and they will reach out to see if this facility might be better utilized.

- D. Dante Broadbent noted he is also in talks with Stacey Hall, Director of Campus Rec. Ezra Temko noted that Stacey Hall's willingness to cooperate with GSS will be included on the letter. GSS looks forward to the results of these fruitful discussions.
- E. **Housing fee.** The fee for Forest Park is staying as is, while the fee for Babcock is going down plus adding an additional 59 swipes for those at Babcock. Is there a motion regarding housing?
- F. Matt Smith noted that GSS should state in their letter that they should feel free to speak with Senators who have personally lived in Babcock on ways to improve Babcock.
- G. Dante Broadbent noted he looks forward to collaborating with Housing on the issue of Public Housing.
- H. Matt Smith asked if it was possible to see how many GSS Senators have lived at Babcock. Three Senators in attendance announced they have lived at Babcock.
- I. Mike Verney made a motion to approve the Housing Fee, noting they are conscious of graduate student needs and work diligently to improve these facilities. Mike Verney appreciated the extra swipes and the decreased cost for students living in Babcock. Any clarifying questions? Any other discussions? Ezra Temko noted that it would be effective to include in the letter that graduate students enjoy seeing auxiliary fees decrease and grad-only floors are a positive step as well.
- J. **Mike Verney moved for a vote to approve the Housing fee.**

1. Yay, 16. Nay, 0. Abstaining, 0. Motion approved.

- K. **Dining fee.**

- L. Matt Smith suggested GSS should stress the idea of having meal plans carry over to the next semester. Many graduate students don't enroll in the dining plan because there will be funds left over and they often lose money.
- M. **Matt Smith made a motion to approve the dining fee.** Any clarifying questions? Any discussion?

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstaining, 2. Motion approved.

- N. **Technology fee.** There was a two-dollar increase. Motions? Questions? Discussion?
- O. Patrick Lacroix noted that Director Terri Winters was very conscious of costs placed upon grads, services they could discontinue in response to decreased usage, and improving service supporting for the new portal system. In other words, if we don't use it, they will make sure costs reflect that. UNH Technology is a big employer of graduate

students in IT. Part of the increased fee will go to increase their salaries and acquire a new hire.

P. Matt Smith asked how many of their hires are graduate students. Patrick Lacroix noted this number is not known. Ezra Temko noted GSS should seek to acquire this number in their letter. Having aliases is beneficial for graduate students to present their UNH email at conferences.

Q. Matt Smith asked if wildcats emails stay with graduate students or become invalid. Taylor Hodgdon noted that the wildcats email address stays.

R. Myles Lynch made a motion to approve the Technology fee.

1. Yay, 16. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 0. Motion approved.

S. Transportation fee.

T. Myles Lynch made a motion to approve the transportation fee.

U. Dante Broadbent mentioned that ridership is going down significantly and they are cutting routes to outlying towns. Will this reduce accessibility for graduate students who don't have cars?

V. Matt Smith noted that it's not just fuel costs: with depreciation, the cost for a bus is astronomical. Besides just fuel costs, we should look at these other costs for a better cost analysis.

W. Mike Verney noted GSS needs to emphasize that they need to be a part of that discussion because graduate students make use of these services. We need to state that we want to be polled, and become a part of that conversation.

X. Patrick Lacroix noted that we have yet to learn whether or not parking permit pass sales have gone up or down in the past few years.

Y. Colleen O'Hara noted that the parking ban won't go into effect until next semester unless it's snowing.

Z. Drummond Biles noted that it would be nice to expand accessibility to parking lots over the summer so graduate students with a pass don't only have to park in A lot.

AA. Andrea Jilling noted it would be good to stay in contact while transportation between Durham and Manchester is improved.

BB. Matt Smith noted GSS should seek to obtain information on cost per rider as opposed to cost for fuel. How much does it actually cost for individuals to be transported?

CC. Dante Broadbent noted GSS should look into maintenance, not just depreciation.

DD. Colleen O'Hara shared the current fees and Dante Broadbent noted that we have this data.

EE. Matt Smith announced he is aware of this data but wanted to know the actual cost per mile for transportation because that will inform GSS what actual routes cost. Asking for this information in our letter will be pertinent.

FF. **Myles Lynch made a motion to approve the transportation fee.**

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 2. Motion approved.

A. **MUB fee.**

B. **The MUB fee is increasing from \$370.00-\$381.00.** Damian Manda motioned to approve this fee.

C. Drummond Biles had a clarifying question asking how many graduate students have mailboxes at the MUB.

D. Taylor Hodgdon noted he shared these numbers at the last GSS meeting and indicated that 400 graduate students have mailboxes at the MUB.

E. Ezra Temko noted this is a surprisingly large number.

F. Patrick Lacroix noted GSS should mention that a lot of departments make use of the MUB's services. GSS might consider suggesting that these departments pay a small fee to use these facilities. Would this possibly deter anyone? It would bring in more cash but could possibly result in higher tuition.

G. Elizabeth Moschella asked if the removed Classified Ads were taken from the MUB fee.

H. Taylor Hogdon noted that departments are in fact charged for using facilities at the MUB.

I. Patrick Lacroix indicated approval.

J. Mike Verney made a motion to approve the MUB fee, indicating that there are a lot of international graduate students who have the benefit of a cultural home in the MUB. The MUB does a great job of putting on cultural and educational events. The MUB is a great place to discuss important political issues. Mike Verney noted the great value of investing in the MUB. They also let us have our meetings here.

K. Ezra Temko noted it would be great if the MUB followed through with the Classifieds Ads.

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 2. Motion approved.

L. **SHARPP fee.** The fee is increasing from 5 to 8 dollars. **Wade Heath motioned to approve the SHARPP fee.**

- M. Mike Verney noted GSS should encourage SHARPP to continue to promote more programming that looks at masculinity and healthy male sexuality to contribute positively to the end of violence against all people.

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 1. Motion approved.

- O. Counseling fee.** This fee increased from \$158.00 to \$165.00. Myles Lynch initially made a motion to approve this fee.
- P. Andrea Jilling asked a clarifying question: Is there any more information on Dean Kirkpatrick publishing the Student Life website?
- Q. Patrick Lacroix noted there is no information and it's largely out of his hands to prepare the site for its December deadline. Patrick Lacroix noted he would email Dean Kirkpatrick to inquire as to whether or not this is going according as planned.
- R. Andrea Jilling noted GSS should stress their desire for a sneak preview of this site in their letter.
- S. Mike Verney asked whether or not GSS should raise concerns that "Loss and Grief" be included, or is this already guaranteed to enter the letter because it was brought up previously.
- T. Patrick Lacroix noted this has bearing. Explaining how GSS feels in the letter and how we voted helps, but mentioning those specific terms is beneficial clarification.
- U. Ezra Temko noted the importance of voicing these feelings ASAP and getting this letter out today.
- V. Andrea Jilling noted counseling isn't provided through August. Continuity of services would be great.
- W. Ezra Temko noted that weekend and evening hours would be effective as well.
- X. Motion to approve by Myles Lynch.**

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 0. Motion approved.

- Y. Health Services fee. Staying at \$448.00.**
- Z. Dante Broadbent noted the effort to incentivize recreation participation through the Health fee. This is a multiyear project but if GSS approves it we can continue to investigate that probability. The health fee would become lower and there would be more incentive for graduate students to attend the gym more often.
- AA.** Matt Smith asked if rates would actually decrease if UNH campus became non-smoking. We should stress that in order to lower that particular fee.

BB. Mike Verney noted that smokers could be asked to pay more for their student benefits plan. Matt Smith agreed.

CC. Ezra Temko noted his appreciation of conversations about the fiscal responsibility to decrease fees, save, and plan ahead, trying to expand and renovate with the hope that fees will not be impacted.

DD. Patrick Lacroix noted that fees have remained somewhat stable. All in favor?

1. Yay, 14. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 2.

EE. Campus Recreation fee. This fee is being raised \$239.00 for expansion.

FF. Matt Smith noted he would be voting against this fee as it's not priced fairly in comparison to competing gyms in the area. Almost 50% of what we pay for is non-academic and that's insane.

GG. Myles Lynch noted that Stacey Hall has not provided GSS with usage data, which doesn't give us leverage to say anything about usage. When considering the renovation of a facility, usage data must be provided: That's why I'm voting against this.

HH. Ezra Temko provided a Direct Response: There is data on people entering the turnstile, but that's it unfortunately.

II. Myles Lynch added that there is no data on graduate student usage.

JJ. Mike Verney provided a Direct Response: There is data on our survey and it might be useful for this body to have that data; not only from Stacey Hall but from a survey.

KK. Matt Smith expressed that GSS should push for Hall to provide that usage data: not on time use, but frequency. They should be able to provide that data.

LL. Mike Verney shared statistics from the campus-wide survey last year of 400 graduate students: When rating the Campus Recreation fee, 12% noted a Very Good value, 22% noted a Good value, and 33% a Fair value. Usage: 6% used Campus Recreation every day, 17% used Campus Recreation several times per month, while less than 30% did not use Campus Recreation at all. 72% of graduate students polled believed the fee should not be mandatory.

MM. Matt Smith noted it would be interesting to see how those stats change not only with the increased fee but also the improved facility.

NN. Elizabeth Moschella noted GSS should include that data in the letter to see what graduate students think.

OO. Drummond Biles noted there should be a discussion of levels of membership. For the current fee paid, the value comes out pretty good, but graduate students have to take full advantage of all of those services, and that's hard for most people. Can we get discounted prices?

- PP.** Dante Broadbent noted graduate students receive a discount on Outdoor Adventures.
- QQ.** Drummond Biles noted grad students should want an additional discount: something to motivate them to use these facilities.
- RR.** Mike Verney noted one suggestion is to have a bronze, silver, and gold tier plan with Campus Recreation similar to Dining services plans. There would be more services, but the challenge to that decision is: What would consist of the core services/facilities each tier would have access to? Use of weights, courts, pool, equipment for bronze. From there, use of the rock-climbing wall for the silver plan. With the gold plan: Classes.
- SS.** Drummond Biles noted grad students pay a \$5.00 fee every time they use the rock-climbing wall. Mike Verney gave a Direct Response noting: not in Hamel Rec.
- TT.** Ezra Temko provided a Direct Response to Mike Verney's Direct Response. Some services are operated by Kinesiology instead of Campus Recreation and it would be beneficial to see if they could collaborate.
- UU.** Damian Manda noted it would be beneficial to see if they could break down the budgets between things that are easily separable. That's hard to say with gyms, more easy to pin down with the pool, outdoor adventures, and intermural. A cost breakdown would be beneficial if separations occur.
- VV.** Dante Broadbent noted Campus Rec balanced well when compared to other schools in our tier. Most schools get state funding, and UNH does not. If we didn't have the facility there would be a ripple effect. As far as our peer campuses, our services provided are on par. We're in a unique situation where students are paying out of pocket in the absence of state funding.
- WW.** Matt Smith noted he is in complete agreement, but who has done studies on incoming students selecting a school because of Campus Recreation facilities? That is how they used to justify the new stadium. What studies have been done, and by whom? I don't buy it.
- XX.** Ezra Temko noted he would like to express our concerns about graduate positions being cut and express a strong desire to explore if the debt partially on the Whittemore and Hamel Rec facilities can be moved to the Athletics fee. GSS expressed general approval through knocking.
- YY.** Matt Smith noted GSS could work with Stacey Hall on cost reductions.
- ZZ.** Mike Verney noted that GSS ought not to support the Whittemore Center as the only benefit is free skate and Halloween Skate and that's not worth \$70.00. Either that should go to the Athletics fee or all graduate students should receive free tickets to athletic events.
- AAA.**

BBB. Mike Verney noted that as long as GSS does not approve that part of the fee, the fee becomes more advisable, and suggested that GSS could vote to approve a new fee, or vote down the current one and vote for a new one with the Whittemore cost taken off.

CCC. Matt Smith noted his agreement with Mike Verney. As Hall has worked with GSS in the past and the spousal discount is beneficial, let's focus on one specific way we can actually reduce the fee.

DDD. Myles Lynch noted this was a great idea but would be met with resistance, as they would have to enforce this with undergraduates as well. Myles Lynch suggested GSS take a strong stance to lower this fee. We need that usage data. Implementation of leveling would take years and we don't have any leverage. If we had data on usage, we would have leverage. If everyone opts for the bronze plan, the other plans will increase significantly in price and this isn't fair for people only using one particular service: it shows preference to certain areas. Myles Lynch expressed interest in seeing how the system could work, but doesn't think it's a good idea.

EEE. Three motions were brought to the table. 1) Myles Lynch made a motion to approve the Campus Recreation fee at last year's rate at \$508.00. 2) Mike Verney made a motion to express appreciation for Stacey Hall for reducing the spousal rate, for eliminating the summer fee from last summer and for this upcoming summer, and for outreach efforts. 3) Mike Verney made a motion to approve next year's Campus Recreation fee at \$678.25 based on the estimate that 55% of the \$125.00 going to the Whittemore Center and Hamel Recreation Center loan interest solely goes to the Whittemore Center.

FFF. Ezra Temko facilitated the motion expressing gratitude to Stacey Hall.

1. Yay, 15. Nay, 0. Abstentions, 1. Motion approved. GSS would express gratitude to Stacey Hall.

FFF. Patrick Lacroix suggested that GSS begin with general feelings or approval or disapproval of the fee before making an official vote.

GGG. Ezra Temko went over GSS protocol about official voting. Mike Verney suggested the voted be arranged from most expensive to least expensive.

HHH. Patrick Lacroix made a motion to approve (or disapprove) of the current hike in the Campus Recreation fee. Ezra Temko noted GSS could include specific details about desired services and tickets in the letter: that's not part of Patrick Lacroix's motion. GSS would vote on approving the current fee. All in favor?

1. Yay, 1. Nay, 14. Abstentions, 1. Motion denied. The Campus Recreation fee was rejected by GSS.

III. Ezra Temko asked for general feelings on the process to approve the reduced Campus Recreation fee at \$678.25. Patrick Lacroix asked a clarifying question: This would shift fee paying for the Whittemore Center over to the Student Athletics fee, and does not involve free tickets, etc.? Mike Verney indicated that's correct. Ezra Temko noted the specific calculation could always be changed and revised, but this vote

is to approve the reduced fee. Mike Verney indicated GSS could ask for more specific usage stats on courts, ice, etc. in the letter.

JJJ. General feelings on Mike Verney's motion to approve the reduced fee were positive.

KKK. Mike Verney motioned that graduate students would pay \$678.25 during the next fiscal year for Campus Rec, and the amount put to the Whittemore Center loan be moved to the Student Athletics fee. Patrick Lacroix offered a counter proposal: Graduate students pay this minus the \$68.75 that goes to paying the Whittemore Center: \$678.25 next year.

1. Yay, 11. Nay, 2. Abstentions, 33. 11-5 passes. Motion approved.

2. The \$508.00 proposal would not be considered.

LLL. Leveling. Any motion? Matt Smith indicated that this isn't going to be feasible. It's going to redirect costs somewhere else and grad students will end up paying the same amount.

MMM. General feelings were given. General feelings on leveling were mixed.

NNN. Mike Verney indicated that leveling would be difficult to implement and unfair to folks just taking part in one activity such as yoga.

OOO. Ezra Temko asked if anyone had anything to include in the letter or overall concerns with fees, stresses on graduate students, or the fee review process in general.

PPP. Jovana Milosavljevic mentioned GSS should include the fee for international students: \$100.00 per semester for being aliens. These students can't get another job and only live on assistantships at best. Ezra Temko asked for general feelings and discussion. Patrick Lacroix noted that Payroll at UNH is collecting and levying taxes on behalf of the IRS.

QQQ. Matt Smith suggested GSS ask for information on how much graduate student stipends would increase or decrease because of the overall fee next year.

RRR. GSS indicated general favor of this idea.

SSS. Ezra Temko thanked GSS Senators and members at large, provided specific thanks to Patrick Lacroix and the Financial Affairs Committee, and adjourned the meeting.

VI. Adjournment – 1:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire