

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)  
8 October 2013, MUB 233  
Ian Cohen, President, Facilitating

- I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:36pm
- II. Roll Call and Introductions
  - A. Executive Committee Members Present:
    1. Ian Cohen, President
    2. Joe Gilbert, Vice President
    3. Deanna Silva, Treasurer
    4. Dan Tran, Clerk
    5. John McClain, External Affairs Officer
    6. Madhav Baral, Programs Coordinator
  - B. Senators Present:
    1. Myles Lynch, CHHS
    2. Luke Dietrich, COLA
    3. Kei Saito, COLA
    4. Mike Verney, COLA
    5. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
    6. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
    7. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
    8. Matt Smith, Graduate School
  - C. Senators Not Present:
    1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
    2. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
    3. Mike Griswold, CHHS
    4. Jay Derick, COLA
    5. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
  - D. Other Graduate Students Present: 7
- III. Special Guest Speaker: David Cross, UNH Counseling Center Director
  - A. Health Services and Counseling is one of six auxiliary units (see below under “Fee Oversight”) where students pay a mandatory fee. Dr. Cross discussed the Counseling Center’s role on campus and the annual year-in-review report detailing what students (effectively stockholders) are paying for and how it is doing in the current and past year.
    1. The first part of the report consists of data and statistics from the previous year. The second part is based around a theme and its relation to mental health. This year’s theme is social media.
- IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
  - A. President, Mr. Cohen
    1. Graduate Council, with Mr. Gilbert
      - a) The proposed changes to graduate programs in the music department, namely the creation of three degrees/concentrations, were approved.
      - b) The Council is also working on a response to the internal review of the Graduate School’s programs. The Graduate School had undergone a self-review, resulting in a 40-page self-assessment on how the Graduate School operates, what it is doing well/not doing well, and what can improved.
      - c) A group of faculty, students, and administrators had met around the end of the previous academic year to examine and provide comments on assessment.

- d) An external committee will be brought in to examine all documents as part of its review of the Graduate School. The Graduate Council decided that they should write a similar response, outlining what the self-assessment says and what they hope to see come out of the review, so that they may steer this external committee's review.
  - e) This stems from concerns of there not being any sense of leadership in directing the focus of the review. There were also concerns that the original self-assessment document was neither comprehensive nor did it have any consensus among those that worked on it.
  - f) As part of the preparation of this Graduate Council document, the GSS as a representative body has been asked to raise any campus-wide issues that it feels should be brought to the attention of the external review team.
  - g) What would be the impact on the graduate community if there was no support from a centralized Graduate School? Is the review process just a formality? Regardless, this document from the Graduate Council must highlight what the Graduate School does well and why its existence is important to graduate students at UNH.
- B. Vice President, Mr. Gilbert
- 1. Governance Committee
    - a) Scheduling will begin in the near future for the convening of the Governance Committee to address several key agenda items related to the GSS Constitution.
    - b) There may be a need to adjust the number of Senate seats based on changing numbers of students in each of the colleges, along with the addition of other schools, such as the School of Law and the Carsey Graduate School.
    - c) The committee will also look at the part of the Constitution that addresses new-senator/officer orientation. While it is there, this has actually not been done. Senators are encouraged to provide feedback as to what would have prepared them.
- C. Treasurer, Ms. Silva
- 1. Fee Oversight
    - a) Representatives from different auxiliary units of the RCM will propose student fees for the following academic year. RCM (Responsibility Center Management) is the system by which the university charges for facilities and maintenance.
    - b) The administration will present a finalized fee proposal. This will be followed by a meeting with the directors of each unit presenting and explaining their proposed fees. The GSS would then vote on whether it approves of the proposed fees.
    - c) This meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 19 during a regular meeting time. All voting members are strongly encouraged to attend.
    - d) Specific information on fees at this stage is lacking. Much of this is due to uncertainty around potential facility changes with the Memorial Union Building (MUB) bookstore and the expansion/renovation of Campus Recreation.
  - 2. Financial Affairs Committee
    - a) Plans for the Financial Affairs Committee to convene soon. The main purpose of the committee is to discuss the GSS budget as well as lead the fee oversight process.
- D. Clerk, Mr. Tran
- 1. There were no print copies of the minutes for the general meeting from 24 September available at the time of the meeting. These minutes will be considered for approval at the next scheduled meeting on 22 October.
- E. External Affairs Officer, Mr. McClain
- 1. Governmental Affairs (Ad Hoc) Committee
    - a) An ad hoc external affairs committee, known as Governmental Affairs, will be created for handling GSS efforts in student loan refinancing.

- b) Moving forward, the committee will be focused on keeping track of happenings in state and federal legislatures and reacting. GSS voting members and members-at-large who are interested are encouraged to join.
  - 2. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
    - a) The BoT will be meeting at UNH on October 25-26, one of their four annual meetings, each held at a different institution in the USNH.
- F. Programs Coordinator, Mr. Baral
  - 1. Programming Committee
    - a) This committee has not formally met yet due to scheduling conflicts.
    - b) Homecoming Day on Saturday, October 12 (see “Announcements”)
  - 2. Community Service, Mr. Kurtz
    - a) The GSS has been approached by a member-at-large who would like to be involved and organize a graduate effort in Relay for Life at UNH on April 19 of next year.
    - b) If there was enough support, then Relay for Life could be the main GSS community service and fundraising project for the 2013-14 academic year, as fundraising is a significant part of the lead-up to the event.
    - c) Relay for Life is the main fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. It culminates to an event where fundraising teams always has to have at least one member walking or running around on a track for some set amount of time. The goal is to raise money between now and the date of the event.
    - d) Discussion: There are alternative events/projects during the fall semester that the GSS can take on if there is insufficient backing of the project; however, an event like this could boost GSS/graduate student visibility on campus.
    - e) Mr. Kurtz moved to make UNH Relay for Life the 2013-14 GSS community service project of the year.
      - (1) Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion.
      - (2) The motion passes with 12 yay votes and 1 nay vote.**
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
  - A. Faculty Senate, Mr. Dietrich
    - 1. Provost Lisa MacFarlane talked about filling some new positions, including the Dean of Paul College. She also mentioned the opening of a public policy school from the recent \$20-million donation from alumna Marcy Carsey.
    - 2. There were questions as to whether benefactors could create education by simply donating money. Carsey is well aware that she is not in charge and that there are stages to progress through but it sets a vision for a school before it becomes a reality.
    - 3. There were IT reports from the Chief Information Officer about security password-protecting computers.
    - 4. Discussion started about engaged scholarships, during which faculty are doing research that involves working with outside organizations and communities. UNH tries to support such scholarships but they are wondering how this would count as real research in the context of promotion and tenure.
    - 5. Academic Affairs Committee
      - a) The committee reported back on two charges, neither on which was a motion made.
      - b) One charge involved moving common exam time. The current time period is a popular time for classes and also creates a rush on food services; however, it would affect labs and late classes for non-traditional students, so it will stay put.
      - c) The other charge that was reported back on was the possibility of shortening the reading period in the spring semester amidst pressure from the town due to the Madbury Road riots from the past April.

- d) The riots did not occur during the reading period, which is already short to begin with. Seeing no causal relationship, the reading period will remain the same.
- B. Student Affairs Committee (of the Faculty Senate), Mr. Gilbert
1. The Student Affairs Committee was similarly charged with the issues that were brought up to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate (see above).
  2. On the student side of the matters, it was determined that there was no causal relationship between the rioting and the reading period with regards to drinking.
  3. Having students on early on campus at the start of the year, especially prior to the long Labor Day weekend, has been cause for problems, due to them not having any work to do. This may eventually be pushed back effectively shifting the semester to end later.
  4. A dinner is being organized between the Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and Graduate Student Senate. This has been done in past, with exception of last year. The tentative date and location is Monday, November 5 at Philbrook Dining Hall.
  5. Those with meal plans may just show up without a formal RSVP. For those not on a meal plan, a faculty member will be willing to pay for dinner. The dinner is ideal to talk and learn about what other representative bodies on campus are working on.
- C. Transportation Policy Committee, Mr. Tran
1. Year-end reports were given detailing the campus-wide summer construction and renovation projects, such as sidewalks and repaving.
  2. Wildcat Transit/Campus Connector ridership has overall increased partly due to the building of the Cottages and the expansion of routes to Rochester and Portsmouth; although, mid-day runs to Rochester are performing below expectations.
  3. A presentation was given on the NextBus technology, which is GPS technology tracking the buses servicing campus along with the accompanying app and website.
  4. In addition to plans already set in motion to expand and renovate Campus Recreation, there are conceptual plans to move the Durham Fire Station and extend Quad Way to where B-Lot is currently located, possibly as soon as a grant is available.
  5. Much of the discussion was about the impact of faculty and staff parking, as both plans could potentially eliminate up to 300 parking spots. Mitigation options were discussed as well as what sort of impact this could have on student/commuter parking.
- D. President's Commission on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, Ms. Saito and Regina Chavez
1. An HR representative of the USNH spoke about the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and what the USNH is doing specifically to address same-sex couples and what cannot be done at this stage.
  2. The USNH is working towards insurance and benefits for same-sex couples and their dependants that would be equal to those for heterosexual couples. They have been consulting lawyers to ensure that there is not overextension of rights, since there is not enough information from the IRS or state government on what is or is not allowed.
  3. It is currently Coming Out Week for which there are several events. This includes a faculty/staff lunch as well as Everyone is Gay, which is part of the MUB Lecture series on October 9. On October 11, there will also be a panel and an ally dinner at night.
- E. President's Commission on the Status of Women, Kassie Sarr
1. The commission is looking for another faculty member to serve if anyone has any suggestions or recommendations.
  2. They are looking at a membership to the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The commission used to have membership but it has been neglected for years.
  3. There was also discussion of the possibility of a child-care center for infants, which would be beneficial to graduate students with children.

4. The issue of mental health on campus was brought up. There was a question of whether there was metadata from forms that students could fill out to see if there were gender trends regarding mental health.

F. Memorial Union Building Board of Governors (MUB BOG), Mr. Smith

1. Most of the discussion surrounded the budget and how the RCM is increasing every year, likely to unsustainable levels in about four years.
2. The MUB's building hours will be changed to Saturdays from 12pm-1am and moving those two extra hours to Sunday when it will be open from 2pm-1am. There will be no increase in costs from this.

G. Alumni Association, Mr. Cohen

1. The most significant announcement from the Alumni Association's last meeting was the donation to the Carsey Institute towards the funding of the public policy school.
2. A new website was launched called UNH Connect (not to be confused with the CONNECT program). It is based on a new system known as iModules where users can create profiles and network with other alumni.
3. The Carsey Graduate School for Public Policy is getting fast-tracked. They are trying to put together a framework of a proposal that will eventually be brought to the Faculty Senate (hopefully by the end of the semester).
4. Any policy-related programs will remain in the colleges where they are currently housed, so programs created for the new school will likely be interdisciplinary.

VI. Old Business

A. UNH Policy/Procedure for the Protection of Minors

1. The GSS's concerns regarding the policy were forwarded to interim Faculty Senate Chair Todd DeMitchell to be incorporated with the Faculty Senate's work on the documents. In return, the GSS should be receiving updates.
2. In regards to a concern brought up previously, it seems from edits made to the documents by the Faculty Senate that the policy is aimed more towards non-student minors.

B. Timely Progress Through Degree Programs

1. Were there responses from programs to be reported with regards to how they assess a student's progress through his/her graduate program?
2. Discussion: Response was mixed and the gauging of student progress seems highly dependent per program. Feedback from some departments was non-existent or minimal. With time running short, the discussion must be scheduled for another meeting.
3. Mr. Kurtz motioned to table the discussion to earlier in another meeting.
  - a) Mr. Smith seconded the motion.
  - b) The motion passes unanimously.**

VII. New Business

- A. There is no new business.

VIII. Announcements/Notes

A. Preparing Future Faculty/Preparing Future Professions (PFF/PFP), Friday, October 11

B. Homecoming Day, Saturday, October 12

1. Graduate team for the 5k race in the morning; tailgating/football game at Boulder Field
2. The GSS is providing hot beverages under the Alumni tent during tailgating

C. SHARPP (Sexual Harrassment and Rape Prevention Program) Film Series, begins Wednesday, October 23, 6-8pm, in the MUB Theater II

1. Playing is *Makers: Women Who Make America*

D. Dinner and A Talk, Monday, October 21, online RSVP required

1. Dinner will be hosted by the Graduate School at 6pm, in Holloway Commons
2. Followed by a talk by *World War Z* author Max Brooks

IX. Adjournment

- A. Ms. Silva moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned at 2:03pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 22 October at 12:30pm in MUB 233.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Tran". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Tran, Clerk  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire