

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

- I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:42pm
- 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
 - C. Senators Not Present:
 1. Mike Griswold, CHHS
 2. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
 3. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
 4. Jay Derick, COLA
 5. Matt Smith, Graduate School
 6. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
 - D. Other Graduate Students Present: 4
- III. Approval of Minutes from the General Meetings on 24 September and 8 October of 2013
 - A. D. Tran moved to approve both sets of minutes.
 - B. M. Kurtz and D. Silva seconded the motion.
 - C. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- IV. Special Guest Speaker: Bruce Mallory, Director, Carsey Institute
 - A. Mr. Mallory came to speak about the recent \$20-million donation from Marcy Carsey towards the creation of the Graduate School for Public Policy.
- V. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
 - A. President, I. Cohen
 1. Graduate Council
 - a) It was reported that there has been a large decline in in-state education master's programs over the last few years.
 - b) There is a new online MSW program that will be launching in January.
 - c) Anyone offering online classes to citizens of Massachusetts has had to pay a fee to do so. This law was expanded such that there is a fee if the class is taught face-to-face. UNH has several internships and practica that are based in Massachusetts but have not complied with the law. The possible repercussions are being examined but it could cost the university about \$50,000.
 - d) The Graduate School is working with the Fellowships and Research Offices to create a central repository of all fellowship opportunities for graduate students.

- e) It was proposed that the Master of Arts in Development Policy and Practice be renamed to the Master of Arts in Community Development Policy and Practice.
 - f) The Student Affairs Committee is going to start looking into actions of discipline for graduate students that fall short of dismissal. There is an appeals process in place if a student is dismissed from a program, but there is no language or policy concerning students who have failed courses/incomplete credits without having been dismissed.
- B. Vice President, J. Gilbert
- 1. Governance Committee
 - a) The first meeting of the GSS Governance Committee will be scheduled soon.
- C. Treasurer, D. Silva
- 1. Financial Affairs Committee: Fee Oversight
 - a) A set of deadlines for the fee oversight process were laid out for Vice President of Student and Academic Services Mark Rubinstein. The purpose of the deadlines is timely collection of information on proposed mandatory fees for next year.
 - b) Important dates for the process are as follows.
 - (1) Friday, November 1: the date by which the GSS requests the fee proposals from Rubinstein's office
 - (2) Tuesday, November 5: when the fee proposals will be presented to everyone during the GSS general meeting with an opportunity for feedback and questions
 - (3) November 5-15: the GSS Financial Affairs Committee and undergraduate Student Senate will meet with heads of each auxiliary unit to discuss specific fees
 - (4) Friday, November 15: the deadline for the final draft of the recommendations by the Financial Affairs Committee, regarding each fee
 - (5) Tuesday, November 19: the changes to each mandatory fee and the Financial Affairs Committee's recommendation will be voted on during the regularly scheduled GSS meeting. Voting members are strongly encouraged to attend!
 - (6) Friday, December 6: the results of the vote will be submitted
- D. Clerk, D. Tran
- 1. No report.
- E. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
- 1. Members are still needed for the ad hoc Governmental Affairs Committee to take a look at the student loan refinancing issue.
 - 2. Because of time constraints and busy schedules, there are not really any opportunities for USNH trustees to meet with students; however, USNH Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public and questions and concerns can be passed along.
- F. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
- 1. Homecoming Day was overall a success. The Alumni Association appreciated the efforts of the GSS in helping out under the Alumni Tent.
 - 2. The Programming Committee should be meeting shortly.
- VI. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
- A. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich
- 1. Faculty Senate Chair Todd deMitchell is meeting with Associate Vice President of Human Resources Kathleen Neils to discuss the Policy for the Protection of Minors. They will take feedback received and talk about turning this into a working policy.
 - 2. One of the main concerns still is whether the policy covers students or non-students (or both) who are under 18 years of age.
 - 3. The Academic Affairs Committee approved a calendar for the next five years.
 - 4. VP Rubinstein spoke and took questions dealing with admissions. Admissions have been down over the past four years. Discussed were the demographics of incoming classes,

possible reasons for the decline, and how the university can respond to it based on the value of the university versus the cost.

B. Faculty Senate: Student Affairs Committee, J. Gilbert

1. Undergraduate advising was discussed. Students tend to spend more time with academic advisors towards the end of their four years at the university.
2. VP Rubinstein was in attendance with information on how UNH compares with other institutions regarding advising as well as a variety of other demographics. UNH's strength does not lie in interacting with a diverse population.

VII. Old Business

A. Timely Progress Towards Degrees

1. It is clear that departments on campus do not all handle assessment of a graduate student's progress through a program the same way. Some departments do almost nothing. Some departments may have a policy in place that is not as effective as they think it is. Would some sort of structured, standardized assessment process be useful?
2. Discussion was held.
 - a) There was agreement that having a way to ensure that students are progressing satisfactorily would be beneficial. Several indicated the frustration created by observing a languishing student and the impact on funding opportunities that such students created. However, there was general agreement that implementation of a single sweeping across-the-board progress assessment would be ineffective and inappropriate. Many posed questions and voiced concerns regarding the notion of the Graduate School having the ability to place holds on student accounts as a disciplinary and/or intervening action. The group emphasized that the clear communication of process and expectations from the departments/programs to students was critical. K. Saito raised concerns over the burden that paperwork associated with this review process might introduce. B. Isenberg noted that a three-page progress assessment had been introduced in Biological Sciences; she noted that while it was cumbersome, it was worth the effort. D. Silva suggested that each department be required to have an up-to-date, easily accessible student handbook. L. Dietrich agreed, pointing out the effectiveness of the student handbook in the English Department. J. Gilbert pointed out that the English department maintains oversight by making graduate courses permission-only; this is effective but also inconvenient. The topic was tabled until such a time when more information was available from the Graduate Council Student Affairs Committee to inform a resolution.

VIII. New Business

- A. There is no new business.

IX. Announcements/Notes

- A. Dinner with Faculty and Student Senate, Monday, November 4, 5pm, Philbrook Dining Hall
 1. Please RSVP to J. Gilbert.

X. Adjournment

- A. Ms. Silva moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. Mr. Verney seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned at 1:59pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 5 November 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 long horizontal stroke above the name and a wavy line below it.

Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire