

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

- I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:38pm
- 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
 3. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
 4. Luke Dietrich, COLA
 5. Kei Saito, COLA
 6. Mike Verney, COLA
 7. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
 8. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
 9. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
 10. Matt Smith, Graduate School
 - B. Senators Present:
 1. Myles Lynch, CHHS
 2. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
 - C. Senators Not Present:
 1. Mike Griswold, CHHS
 2. Jay Derick, COLA
 3. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
 - D. Other Graduate Students Present: 6
- III. Approval of Minutes from the General Meetings on 22 October 2013
 - A. M. Kurtz moved to approve the minutes as read.
 - B. Discussion
 1. There were concerns with the “Discussion” (Section VII. A. 2) on “Timely Progress Towards Degrees” and how it was paraphrased.
 2. Approval of the minutes could be tabled until the next general meeting, allowing for time to entertain friendly amendments to the minutes as read.
 - C. The motion was not seconded.**
 - D. J. Gilbert moved to table the approval of the minutes for the next meeting.
 - E. M. Verney seconded the motion.
 - F. The motion passes.**
- IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
 - A. President, I. Cohen
 1. Fee Oversight
 - a) The revised timetable for the oversight of mandatory fees was sent to Vice President of Student and Academic Services Mark Rubinstein and Budget Director Kerry Scala.
 - b) The GSS did receive all of the fee proposals from different auxiliary units by the time of this general meeting. Though not by November 1, they arrived in a timelier manner than the last few years.
 2. Regarding the possible relocation of the bookstore out of the Memorial Union Building (MUB) into the proposed development in downtown Durham, MUB Director MaryAnne Lustgraaf had been talking about collecting funds from increased fees this year in anticipation of having to renovate the space that would be potentially vacated.
 - a) The amount would have been around \$700,000.
 - b) This did not ultimately happen. Fees will not be collected in advance for services that we are not likely going to be able to use.
 - c) The project will be funded the same way that the renovation/expansion of Hamel Recreation Center will be funded with an advance bond that will eventually be repaid.

3. The direction and progress of said proposed development of downtown Durham is unclear, since the town is asking for more money than UNH is willing to put into it.
 4. Campus Recreation Expansion/Renovation
 - a) UNH does not want to keep the outdoor pool at its current spot as it is the most ideal location for the expansion of the Recreation Center.
 - b) The options for expansion are east into the pool, south into the existing parking lot, or north into the wetlands, neither of which are ideal.
 - c) The pool is deemed the easiest and least expensive option to deal with. While it is not up to code or safety standards, it has sentimental value to a group of residents.
 - d) There is apparently a gap of a few million dollars between what the university plans to pay and what it would cost to keep the pool the way it is. If the town really wants to keep the pool, they can pay for that part of the project.
 - e) Town administrators, however, have not received any sort of voter feedback regarding if the residents do really want to keep the pool. The undergraduate Student Senate is writing a resolution arguing that since many of them are proxy residents of Durham because they pay rent, then they would like to see this decided by a vote.
 - f) The resolution should put pressure on the Town Council to entertain a vote and be more open with residents, regarding what to do with the outdoor pool.
- B. Vice President, J. Gilbert
1. Governance Committee
 - a) The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 8 at 5pm in MUB 119E.
 - b) With the need for the creation of a GSS seat for a representative for the School of Law in Concord, it would be an opportunity to look at how GSS representation for all of the schools is determined and if this needs to be adjusted.
 - c) Another topic of discussion is defining what new senator orientation means and when it should ideally occur. How does this apply to those appointed?
 - d) As far as the election process is concerned, how are write-in votes handled?
- C. Treasurer, D. Silva
1. Financial Affairs Committee (FAC)/Fee Oversight
 - a) A meeting has been scheduled between the directors of the auxiliary units, the GSS FAC, and the Student Senate FAC for Wednesday, November 13 from 3-5pm in Board of Trustees Room in Thompson Hall.
 - b) Fees will be voted on by the GSS at the next general meeting on November 19.
 - c) From information gathered, there is a proposed 3.2% overall increase in mandatory fees for the next academic year, conforming to the general 3% guideline.
 - d) The fee increases are seemingly due to costs of personnel and services.
 - e) If there are specific questions, they can be asked in person at the meeting or forwarded to the FAC.
 - f) Discussion
 - (1) M. Kurtz question why there was a discrepancy between the projected and requested budget for Fy15 from Transportation Services. D. Silva asked how the different styles of apartments in Forest Park would be priced. P. Lacroix asked if the outsourcing of custodial services for Babcock Hall were included in the numbers for housing.
 - (2) Further discussion moved to "New Business" (Section VII. A. 7).
- D. Clerk, D. Tran
1. No report.
- E. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
1. Governmental Affairs (ad hoc) Committee

- a) This subcommittee of the External Affairs Committee is still seeking members with a meeting to be scheduled soon. The purpose is to write a letter of support for bills regarding refinancing of existing student loans.
- 2. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
 - a) A meeting was held on October 24-25 at the Chase Ocean Engineering Laboratory.
 - b) The University System Student Board (USSB), consisting of student representatives of the BoT from each USNH campus, met first. Much of the discussion was about partying and getting arrested. A state representative on the undergraduate Student Senate is trying to get a medical amnesty bill passed for taking a drunk person to the hospital and not being arrested or prosecuted for it.
 - c) Apparently there are more undergraduates being arrested this year, but this may be related to increased law enforcement and not mischievous behavior.
 - d) The Financial Affairs Committee approved \$7.5 million in state appropriations to UNH for moving/updating the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory from Kendall Hall and renovating McConnell Hall.
 - e) There was a presentation of the UNH Campus Master Plan. After planned renovations of Hamilton-Smith Hall and McConnell Hall, the largest needs are in liberal arts buildings.
 - f) Graduate housing is on the Campus Master Plan but is not a priority project.
 - g) Tenure was approved for Matthew Huber. Dr. Huber was originally hired as a research professor in the Department of Earth Sciences.
 - h) The role of students in the Education Excellence Committee was discussed. Students do not know what the BoT wants from them and they in turn do not know what to ask of the students in the committee. There were questions on integration of technology and whether undergraduate training should be more focused or more general.
 - i) What can the BoT do for us? What does the BoT have the power to do?
 - (1) They can allocate money for capital projects.
 - (2) They mentioned working conditions for teachers, such as graduate students.
 - (3) Data collection keeps track of how the system is doing.
 - (4) There are discretionary funds that have been used in the past for marketing and technology initiatives.
 - (5) If we feel that something worth mentioning, the BoT can be used to get the attention of important people.
 - j) The BoT is still concerned with the performance of small programs and whether they thrive or are worth keeping. UNH Provost Lisa MacFarlane assures that internal tracking of programs is sufficient.
 - k) The USNH is working on mission clarity and rewriting of the mission statement. Should the USNH be concerned with research or should it be the job of individual campuses like UNH's to promote that?
- F. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
 - 1. Programming Committee/Upcoming Events
 - a) See "Announcements/Notes" below for upcoming events for the rest of the semester.
 - b) In the spring, there will be a spring orientation event near the beginning of the semester at Margaritas Mexican Restaurant.
 - c) Another possible event is the women's ice hockey game on Sunday, February 6, when UNH plays Vermont.
 - d) Other events that may be organized in the spring semester could be snowboarding, snow tubing, camping, hiking, etc., though they are yet to be finalized.
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports

A. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich

1. Ali Rafieymehr resigned very suddenly as Dean of UNH Manchester. Provost MacFarlane reported that it was a voluntary resignation with not much notice.
2. There is an interim in place. There are meetings scheduled to work with UNH Manchester and think about their role in the USNH and to find a new dean.
3. The physics library will remain in DeMeritt Hall until December 2016 at the very least. It might then temporarily move to Dimond Library, while a plan is devised for having a comprehensive science library.
4. The list of departments was updated in the Faculty Senate Constitution. They are also thinking about adding language to the Constitution that would notify departments about senators that are regularly absent from meetings.
5. The academic plan says that UNH values engaged scholarships, but many are not sure what engaged scholarship is. Does this fall under scholarship or service? Regarding the process of tenure and promotion how would engaged scholarship be valued?

B. University Council for Inclusive Excellence and Equity (UCIEE), S. Shaw

1. The primary concern was the diminishing number of faculty representation on the UCIEE. They have suggested that 30% of the voters should be faculty.
2. This equals having four faculty voters on the UCIEE. Two of them are representatives from the Faculty Senate, while the other two voters would hopefully be chairs of two of the four President's Commissions, each of which already have a vote on the UCIEE. The President's Commissions usually each have multiple chairs with one being faculty.
3. The GSS gets one vote. Even if there is no Faculty Senate representation on the Commissions, they would still have two votes among the 21 votes on the UCIEE. There has not been any consensus on how to deal with the diminishing faculty representation.

VI. Old Business

- A. There is no old business.

VII. New Business

A. Mandatory Fee Proposals

1. It is suggested to distribute the summary of graduate mandatory fee increases to constituents to elicit feedback, questions, and concerns that could be brought up to the auxiliary units at the upcoming fee meeting.
2. Fee increases seem to be mostly be going towards salaries and personnel.
3. The summary shows what percentage of tuition that mandatory fees take up. This illustrates that while tuition would be frozen, fees and housing costs further add to the cost of attendance on top of tuition (both resident and non-resident).
4. Also included are percentages of different stipends levels of graduate students on assistantships (GAs) that mandatory fees affect. GAs could pay up to 12% of their stipends towards fees. Factoring in room and board, this could be as high as 80%.
5. The university sets a general guideline for a 3% yearly increase in fees. Part of this is due to a 2% yearly increase in benefits and salaries; however, it is still a 3% increase that should be examined each year.
6. Stipends for the next year will not be announced until April, which brings up the issue of having to approve fees and hoping that stipends increase or remain the same.
7. Campus Recreation Fee Discussion
 - a) H. Roakes noted that the Campus Recreation fee equates to a \$30 per month gym membership that not necessarily everyone wants to pay. Bonnie Barlow explained that distance and time of commute to campus makes it difficult for those who live far away to use the gym. To be eligible to have the fee waived, one has to live at least 50 miles from campus, which seems unreasonable far in her opinion. J. Gilbert pointed

out that living beyond a 50-mile radius from campus actually allows one to waive (all or nothing) the Campus Recreation, Health Services, and Transportation Services fees with the idea that these services will not be accessed at all. I. Cohen summarized that the general consensus among the GSS is that people do not want to pay the Campus Recreation fee due to not using the gym frequently enough. It was pointed out that 35% of total swipes are graduate males and 25% of total swipes are graduate females. This is disproportionate to the graduate percentage of the full student body, but could be just a small group of graduate students using the gym often. Kassie Sarr suggested that not having a fee would deter the promoting of a healthier campus in general and graduate attendance at the gym. I. Cohen pointed out that the budgets of the auxiliary units strongly depend on fees as revenue. P. Lacroix questioned UNH's motivation of raising fees despite its pledge to freeze in-state tuition. Connor MacIver explained that cost sharing in the RCM increases administrative fees which are collected from the auxiliaries; however, not all units pay the same share to cover the costs of the RCM. Fees among different units increase disproportionately to make up for losses operated by other units, which is neither fair nor sustainable. I. Cohen highlighted that while graduate students do not pay the Athletics fee or Student Activities fee, we still in a way pay for these things due to RCM cost sharing. J. McClain elaborated that this cost sharing is made up of a general assessment and facilities assessment. The general assessment is a percentage of the revenue that the auxiliaries collect that goes to central administration. The facilities assessment is related to the use of utilities and space on campus. The general assessment has been increasing but not for this year, so why is an increase being budgeted for? C. MacIver noted that the idea that RCM is not sustainable has been a point of ongoing conversation. A review of the model is scheduled for the beginning of next fall. J. Gilbert and J. McClain explained that the Campus Recreation fee pays for use of the ice rink for things like skating and broomball, covers use of other athletic facilities besides the gym (i.e. the turf fields), and the debt service on the Whittemore Center. M. Kurtz reminded of the need to be mindful that the fees support services that might be used by our constituents. M. Lynch suggested that instead of working to abolish fees, we work to make it easier to waive some fees. J. Gilbert endorsed the Health Services and Counseling Center fees because of their utility in emergencies, but suggested that the gym should have an opt-in option, similar to dining and housing. Any graduate student feeling strongly about a fee is encouraged to work with their Senator to draft a motion. C. MacIver asked how the technology fee became part of graduate assistantships. It is because it is an academic fee. M. Kurtz pointed out that fees have been waived in the past (i.e. the Athletics fee), but J. Gilbert highlighted the difficulty of that process. He noted that the Deans of the Graduate School primarily led that campaign, when the GSS was the Graduate Student Organization, but it is something that can be looked into regarding the Campus Recreation fee.

VIII. Announcements/Notes

- A. First Thursday Happy Hour, Thursday, November 7, 5-7pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill
- B. A Thousand Thanks, Thursday, November 14, 12:30-3pm, MUB Granite State Room
 - 1. Alumni Association event for students to write thank-you letters to donors.
- C. Brewery Tour, Saturday, November 16, 12pm, at Red Hook Brewery in Portsmouth
 - 1. Free appetizers will be provided for all participants. The tour costs \$5.
- D. Candlepin bowling, Saturday, November 23, 6-8:30pm, at KJ's Sports Bar in Newmarket
 - 1. Lanes will be covered. Everyone just pays for shoes.
- E. Holiday Extravaganza, Friday, December 6, 6-8pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill

1. The GSS is sponsoring a free pasta dinner.

IX. Adjournment

A. D. Silva moved to adjourn the meeting.

B. H. Roakes seconded the motion.

C. The meeting is adjourned at 2:02pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 19 November at 12:30pm in MUB 233.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Tran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the top and a wavy line at the bottom.

Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire