

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

I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:31pm

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. Myles Lynch, CHHS
4. Mike Griswold, CHHS
5. Jay Derick, COLA
6. Luke Dietrich, COLA
7. Kei Saito, COLA
8. Mike Verney, COLA
9. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
10. Mica Kurtz, Paul College

B. Senators Present:

1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
2. Surupa Shaw, CEPS

C. Senators Not Present:

1. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
2. Matt Smith, Graduate School
3. Thomas Cronin, Manchester

D. Other Graduate Students Present: 6

III. Approval of Minutes from the General Meetings on 22 October 2013 and 5 November 2013

A. J. Gilbert moved to approve both sets of minutes as read.

B. B. Isenberg seconded the motion.

C. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee

A. President, I. Cohen

1. Graduate Council

- a) The online MSW program is still scheduled to launch in January. Out-of-state tuition for online programs is similar to UNH Manchester's, approximately 10% above the in-state rate.
- b) The Program Review Committee is waiting on a review of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program in history.
- c) The Master's Committee approved a proposal to add a thesis option to the current MSW program. The Doctoral Committee is waiting on a proposal from Biological Sciences by the end of the semester.
- d) The Student Affairs Committee further discussed implementing a review of annual progress towards a degree. They will be talking about best practices that are already underway on campus which will hopefully help set up guidelines on how to address this issue of progress.
- e) The Council will be working on establishing minimum criteria and expectations in graduate education for students with mental health issues that might affect how they do parts of their work while maintaining the meaning of their degree.
- f) Graduate stipend rates for next year were also discussed. A recommendation will be made to the Council which will then go to the deans for approval. A decision will not likely be made until the middle of the spring semester.

B. Vice President, J. Gilbert

1. Graduate Council

- a) There is a change in the graduate certificate in Leadership in Children's Health and Disability to a certificate in Intellectual and Developmental Disorders. This presents a slight change in the program, in the courses offered.

2. Governance Committee
 - a) An amendment will eventually be put forth for the creation of a senate seat for GSS representation seat from the School of Law.
 - b) An important ongoing topic of discussion is how the GSS determines the number of seats each college holds. Currently, the number of senate seats is slightly out of proportion compared to relative graduate enrollment in each college.
 - c) The committee also found it potentially awkward that there is representation for housing units in addition to academic units. Graduate students living in either Babcock or Forest Park have twice the representation on the GSS which further makes the distribution of representation inconsistent.
 - d) There needs to be a packet of materials put together for incoming officers and senators prior to the start of the academic year as well as an orientating meeting.
 - e) Also discussed were the procedure with how to handle write-in votes and copyediting of the GSS Constitution.
- C. Treasurer, D. Silva
 1. The Central Budget Committee meets next week.
- D. Clerk, D. Tran
 1. No report.
- E. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
 1. A meeting of the Governmental Affairs (ad hoc) Committee will be scheduled soon.
- F. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
 1. See “Announcements/Notes” below concerning upcoming events.
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
 - A. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich
 1. Two motions from the Agenda Committee were passed to adjust their bylaws to have language in place regarding absent senators.
 2. Bruce Mallory came in and spoke about the Carsey Institute.
 3. The university is looking to fill the position of Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Inclusive Excellence. The position is being adjusted so that he or she reports directly to the President instead of the Provost, which also involves changing the position title to Chief Diversity Officer of the University.
 4. There are concerns that if the position moves out of the Provost office then it would be duplicated within the Provost office, which would add another high-paying position.
 5. From the Student Affairs Committee, they also discussed possibly updating the student policy on plagiarism. The request came from Julie Simpson of Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarly Activity (RCR) to update the student rights, rules, and responsibilities so that plagiarism does not include “honest error.”
 6. The Faculty Senate is concerned with how to define “honest error” and whether this would be exploited by students.
 7. Discussion
 - a) M. Verney feels that students should be held accountable for knowing when plagiarism is committed and that it makes it more difficult for graduate teaching assistants to pass judgment on “honest error.” L. Dietrich offers an explanation, saying that the idea of “honest error” comes out of federal standard. Plagiarism is plagiarism and honest error deals more with situations like if someone were to accidentally record scientific results.
 - B. K. Saito
 1. The President’s office is thinking about creating a new position around increasing diversity on campus.

2. The minor in Career Studies is struggling in terms of funding. One of the concerns with the Career Studies minor is that most of the people enrolled will be graduating soon. The number of people in the program will drastically drop.

C. Hamel Recreation Building Committee, D. Silva

1. The committee is still in the middle of the design process for the expansion/renovation of Hamel Recreation Center.
2. Money has not been discussed in detail just yet.
3. Discussion
 - a) M. Griswold commented on a meeting of the Campus Recreation Steering Committee, adding that there is reluctance to move forward with any particular plan and much is to be determined about what happens to the outdoor pool with public forums to be taking place for discussion. There is also talk of completing the project in phases, but this would potentially drive the costs up. I. Cohen noted that the Student Senate passed a resolution pushing the town to put up the issue of the pool towards a public referendum. It argues that students who live in Durham off-campus essentially pay taxes through rent and other expenses, which should give them a say. It also says that students should not have to cover the costs and maintenance of keeping the pool in its current state, which is what the town wants. If any senator feels strongly about the issue, a supporting resolution could come out of the GSS.

D. Carsey School Planning Committee, I. Cohen

1. The Academic Programs Group met to have anticipatory discussions for an all-morning advance that included stakeholders from outside of the committee, consisting of faculty members interested in coming to talk about the Carsey School.
2. Originally, existing programs in public policy would not be relocated into the Carsey School. They would just work with existing programs to create cross-disciplines and complement them; however, many faculty at the advance want consolidation of programs. They want one master's degree in public policy that would have different concentrations.
3. What will make the Carsey School different and unique from every other public policy in the country? What challenges would serve as the pillars upon which the school is built?
4. The search for the founding director has been announced.

VI. Old Business

- A. There is no old business.

VII. New Business

A. Mandatory Fee Proposals and Approval

1. Technology
 - a) J. McClain moved, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee (FAC), that the FY2015 Technology fee of \$188, an increase of \$6 (3.3%) from FY2014, be approved.
 - b) H. Roakes seconded the motion.
 - c) Discussion
 - (1) M. Kurtz questioned whether funds allotted for the additional 1.5% merit-based salary increases would roll over should staff not receive the salary bump. J. Gilbert noted that since this is an unavoidable fee that everyone pays, it is an academic fee, and an increase contradicts the spirit of the tuition freeze for in-state students. The fee is waived for graduate students on assistantships.
 - d) **The motion passed with 16 votes for and 1 vote against. The fee is approved.**

2. Health Services
 - a) M. Verney moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 Health Services fee of \$448, no increase from FY2014, be approved.
 - b) H. Roakes seconded the motion.
 - c) Discussion
 - (1) MUB GA Conner MacIver added that Health Services has over \$1 million built up in reserve, and while a decrease in the fee would be optimal, it would be troubling if the fee increased despite having the money in reserve. Ryan Lawrence asked whether there is a limit to the reserve where they would start to enact a fee increase. The answer is not known.
 - d) The motion passed with 16 votes for and 1 abstention. The fee is approved.**
3. Counseling Center
 - a) D. Tran moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 Counseling Center fee of \$154, an increase of \$16 (11.6%) from FY2014, be approved.
 - b) H. Roakes seconded the motion
 - c) Discussion
 - (1) M. Griswold asked for clarification as to what is meant by increased intensity in cases. I. Cohen explained that this refers to increases in the seriousness of cases as well as the numbers of cases. C. MacIver asked if the Counseling Center bills a student's insurance, whether it be the Student Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) or an alternative plan. I. Cohen responded that everything is covered by the fee and the Counseling Center only deals with insurance when referring a student to another facility. The SHBP does provide good mental health coverage outside of UNH. L. Dietrich wondered why the fee suddenly increased by 12% as opposed to something along the lines of the 3% baseline. This is likely due to having to hire two new staff members to meet rising demand. M. Verney expressed support for the increase, noting that students could be paying more per visit compared to co-pays that other companies require for counseling.
 - d) The motion passed with 16 yeas votes and 1 abstention. The fee is approved.**
4. Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP)
 - a) B. Isenberg moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 SHARPP fee of \$5, an increase of \$2 (67%) from FY2014, be approved.
 - b) H. Roakes seconded the motion
 - c) Discussion
 - (1) H. Roakes praised SHARPP for their exceptional services.
 - d) The motion passed with 16 votes for and 1 abstention. The fee is approved.**
5. Transportation
 - a) S. Shaw moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 Transportation fee of \$129, an increase of \$10 (8.4%) from FY2014, be rejected.
 - b) J. Gilbert seconded the motion.
 - c) Discussion
 - (1) The recommendation for rejection of the fee was motivated by the cost of purchasing four new buses (at more than \$400,000 each) without grant funding, the future costs associated with NextBus, and concerns with the study bus meant for shuttling students between dorms and the library late at night, which would serve little purpose for graduate students.
 - (2) M. Lynch posed the question of how NextBus quantifies ridership and also mentioned that it is possible for alumni who still have their ID cards to ride the bus. H. Roakes explained that there is a sensor above the doors of equipped

buses. M. Verney questioned what can NextBus that a driver with a clicker and a mechanic cannot do. H. Roakes responded explaining that the system also collects internal engine data and trends for facilitating maintenance and improving service. B. Isenberg was concerned that adding card swipe machines would make it easier to add additional fees. S. Shaw pointed out that increased ridership does not seem to apply to the new Rochester route which at times seems underused. J. Gilbert noted that the drivers do check IDs and the cost of swipe hardware does not seem necessary to eliminate the small number of alumni that still use the bus with their IDs. C. MacIver discussed that Transportation used to be a charter service to and received revenue from Athletics; however, with grant funding, they were no longer allowed to compete with local businesses. S. Shaw commented that Transportation will likely always need new buses, so would the fee increase like this every year? Damian Manda added that it does not seem to make sense how a portion of a fee per student would pay for these new buses. J. Gilbert did not think that UNH needs “custom-made” buses. I. Cohen clarified that this is how the industry works and buses are expensive. J. McClain noted that commuter parking does provide some of the Transportation revenue. M. Verney argued that swipe machines may be beneficial in funding the new buses, especially if students stay in the Seacoast area and continue to use the buses.

d) The motion passed with 9 votes for, 7 votes against, and 1 abstention. The fee is rejected.

6. Memorial Union Building (MUB)

a) J. McClain moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 MUB fee of \$370, an increase of \$11 (3.1%) from FY2014, be rejected.

b) J. Gilbert seconded the motion.

c) Discussion

(1) The motion was motivated by lack of usage of MUB services despite the efforts of the MUB to engage graduate students. Graduate students also do not make use of the Granite State Station Mailroom.

(2) J. Gilbert suggested that since the mailroom primarily caters to students who live on campus, then it should perhaps be more of a housing issue. M. Kurtz added that graduate housing units, namely Babcock Hall and Forest Park, have their respective mailrooms. C. MacIver noted that students who live off-campus including graduate students are eligible for a MUB mailbox. Additionally, housing does not process mail like at other institutions. The reality is that mail became the responsibility of the MUB at some point and the fee is needed to sustain the process. J. McClain noted that the GSS recognizes that as an organization the MUB does all it can to keep fees down and incorporate graduate students, but one way to make a statement is by rejecting the fee while not placing blame on the MUB. C. MacIver agreed with these points but suggested that a resolution concerning RCM assessments would be more effective than rejecting the fee. M. Verney stressed the importance of training in leadership and professional development in students which the MUB provides. Minority and foreign graduate students may also be using the MUB more frequently than traditional graduates, which is something to consider.

d) The motion passed with 13 votes for, 2 votes against, and 2 abstentions. The fee is rejected.

7. Campus Recreation

- a) M. Verney moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the FY2015 Campus Recreation fee increase of \$502, an increase of \$10 (2%) FY2014, be rejected.
- b) J. Gilbert seconded the motion.
- c) Discussion
 - (1) The motion was motivated by an apparent lack of usage of the facilities by graduate students and a preference towards a pay-per-use system.
 - (2) M. Kurtz supported the fee increase, citing that it also pays for salaries and assessments required by the RCM system. I. Cohen reiterated that the GSS is voting on the entire fee, while keeping the increase in consideration. C. MacIver made the point to voting senators that rejecting a fee for a preventative measure like Campus Recreation, while supporting Health Services and the Counseling Center sends a mixed message, regarding the well being of a student body. M. Griswold believes that graduate students use facilities when they are more convenient and if there is vested interest in that as a student body, it may be important to support Campus Recreation instead of waiting for it to meet graduate needs. M. Griswold added that they also have to better advertise services to graduate students. Undergraduates are exposed to Campus Recreation immediately while it is something the graduate students have to seemingly seek out. J. McClain questioned if services and associated fees should increase during a time when tuition is being frozen and it is not the UNH's main mission to supply recreation.
- d) The motion passed with 10 votes for, 6 votes against, and 1 abstention. The fee is rejected.**

8. Housing

- a) D. Tran, moved on recommendation of the FAC, that the proposed FY2015 housing rates be approved.
- b) M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
- c) Discussion
 - (1) Concerning graduate students, Forest Park Apartment rates will not increase.
- d) The motion passed with 15 votes for, 1 vote against, and 1 abstention. The rates are approved.**

9. Dining

- a) J. McClain moved, on recommendation of the FAC, that the proposed dining rates for the "swipe plans" (\$425 for 50 swipes, \$608 for 75 swipes, \$770 for 100 swipes, and \$1,095 for 150 swipes), all increases of less than 3% from FY2014, be approved.
- b) M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
- c) Discussion
 - (1) C. MacIver stated that graduate students on assistantships are eligible for the faculty/staff meal plans in which unused meals are refunded, while still being the same price as commuter plans available to all graduate students.
- d) The motion passed with 16 votes for and 1 abstention. The rates are approved.**

VIII. Announcements/Notes

- A. 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.
- B. Holiday Extravaganza, Friday, December 6, 6-8pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill
 - 1. The GSS is sponsoring a free pasta dinner.

IX. Adjournment

- A. The meeting is adjourned by I. Cohen at 2:08pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 3 December 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 end.

Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire