

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
18 March 2014, MUB 336
Ian Cohen, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:40pm

II. Roll Call and Introductions

A. Executive Committee

Members Present:

1. Ian Cohen, President
2. Joe Gilbert, Vice President
3. Deanna Silva *via phone*, Treasurer
4. Dan Tran, Clerk
5. John McClain,
External Affairs Officer
6. Madhav Baral,
Programs Coordinator

3. Jay Derick, COLA
4. Luke Dietrich, COLA
5. Kei Saito, COLA
6. Mike Verney, COLA
7. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
8. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
9. Matt Smith, Graduate School

C. Senators Not Present:

1. Myles Lynch, CHHS
2. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
3. Thomas Cronin, Manchester

D. Other Graduate Students Present: 3

B. Senators Present:

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

III. Approval of minutes of the general meeting on 25 February is tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee

A. President, I. Cohen

1. Graduate Council

- a) Concerning the review of the Graduate School, a generally favorable response was received. It should also help the GSS because it documents that graduate students need to have a greater voice and that the President and Provost need to support the claim that UNH is a research institution.
- b) Graduate handbooks are being collected from departments, while those that do not have handbooks ready are being contacted. Departments are also being asked about what they do as far as having an annual review process.
- c) Dissertation Year Fellowships were announcement with at least thirteen awarded.
- d) The History Department has an external review visit happening soon for a review of their program.
- e) The Master's Program in Environmental Education is suspending admissions starting in the summer due to retiring faculty without any obvious replacements for them.
- f) A new PhD program in Molecular Systems and Evolutionary Biology was approved by the Graduate Council and will be presented to the faculty for approval.
- g) There is a proposal from Biological Sciences being developed that would include the restructuring of their Master's and PhD programs.
- h) Out of the Student Affairs Committee, a policy was instituted that one can be admitted without a baccalaureate degree in special cases where the department can approve it. For example, there may instances where students in four-year programs are not awarded bachelor's degrees.

B. Vice President, J. Gilbert

1. Graduate Council

- a) Summer teaching assistantship fellowships were also announced. Out of approximately 100 applications, around forty were awarded.

2. Governance Committee
 - a) Elections have started as of the date of this meeting. Logging into WildcatLink is required to vote.
 - b) There are no nominees for the position of Clerk as well as one COLA senator seat.
- C. Treasurer, D. Silva
 1. No report.
- D. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
 1. No report.
- E. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
 1. All events for the semester have been outlined. There are concerns about lack of interest from graduate students, so a goal would be to improve turnout at events.
 2. Snow tubing at Amesbury Sports Park from the past Sunday was cancelled.
 3. Planning for events during Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW; from April 14 through April 18) will begin soon.
 4. Refer to “Announcements/Notes” below for upcoming events.
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
 - A. Community Service, M. Kurtz
 1. With the Relay for Life event coming up on April 12, the GSS team is at about 35%, as of the time of this meeting, of its fundraising goal of \$2500.
 2. One more event is being planned to raise money at Scorpions Bar & Grill during one of their upcoming trivia nights. There will be 50/50 raffles and solicitation of donations from participants.
 - B. President’s Commission on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues, K. Saito
 1. The Commission is hosting a pancake breakfast on the morning of April 9 during which faculty and students are honored with Kidder Fund Awards and Pink Triangle Awards.
 2. Also discussed amongst the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, there is some confusion on what Title IX means when it comes to dealing with sexual violence.
 3. There are concerns surrounding a push for new policy that would require suspicions of abuse of students to be reported to the proper authorities, regardless of whether the student wants to or not. Currently, SHARPP (Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program) does not have to report students who come to them in the event of abuse.
 4. Title IX training surrounding this policy had started but the Commissions plan to halt it in the hopes of revisiting it at a later time. There are two arguments at hand: some believe that there is no room for interpretation and that it is the law and some believe that it is counterproductive and not the only way to deal with these issues.
 - C. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich
 1. Provost Lisa MacFarlane and Judy Robb discussed the New England Associate of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) review of the university.
 2. Provost MacFarlane also talked about being ready for next year, part of that being a review and refresh of the strategic plan and its initiatives. One major topic of the plan is the review of the Responsibility Center Management (RCM).
 3. UNH will also start pushing more for its career placement offices more active at placing students in jobs and internships. There is federal scorecard that rank how well universities do based on things like rates of retention, employment, debt loads, etc.
 4. An announcement was made that one of the university reading days on May 6 can be used to make up for all the snow days that have occurred this semester. Conflicts may arise if many professors decide to use this day and they should understand if students cannot attend a make-up class on this day.

5. A motion was discussed and tabled concerning transitioning course evaluations from paper to being online. Non-tenured faculty would be exempt during the transition, since renewal of lectureship may be dependent on course evaluations, among which there could be wild fluctuations. The trial period of this would only apply to tenured faculty during this summer and the following fall.
6. Out of the Academic Affairs Committee, a motion was made to discuss whether online writing-intensive courses could transfer. Students are required to take four writing-intensive courses. It turns out that it is difficult to find out if an online course was taken, so the four courses must be taken at UNH.

VI. Old Business

- A. There is no old business.

VII. New Business

- A. Resolution 2014:4, *A Resolution Regarding the Proposed Consolidation of Tuition and Other Fees*
 1. [Details will be omitted from this point on due to poor quality of the official audio.]
 2. There was a motion to pass the resolution, which was subsequently seconded.
 3. Discussion was held.
 4. **The motion passes with 13 YES votes. The resolution passes.**

VIII. Special Guest Speaker: Judith Robb, Department of Education

- A. With the upcoming NEASC site visit, Professor Robb is in charge of the process and wanted to discuss the accreditation of the university, encourage graduate students to participate, and field questions.

IX. Announcements/Notes

- A. Red Hook Brewery Tour, 1-3pm, at Red Hook Brewery in Portsmouth, NH
 1. Tickets are \$5. Free food will be provided to participants.

X. Adjournment

- A. The meeting is adjourned at 2:03pm until the next general meeting scheduled on 1 April at 12:30pm in MUB 302.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Tran, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire