

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

I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:43pm

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. Myles Lynch, CHHS
4. Luke Dietrich, COLA
5. Mike Verney, COLA
6. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
7. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
8. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall

C. Senators Not Present:

1. Jay Derick, COLA
2. Kei Saito, COLA
3. Matt Smith, Graduate School
4. Thomas Cronin, Manchester

B. Senators Present:

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

D. Other Graduate Students Present: 8

III. Approval of Minutes from General Meetings on 25 February 2014 and 18 March 2014

A. M. Kurtz moved to approve both sets of minutes as read.

B. M. Verney seconded the motion.

**C. The motion passes unanimously. Both sets of minutes are approved.**

IV. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee

A. President, I. Cohen

1. Graduate Council

- a) The report from the external review team tasked with reviewing the Graduate School has gone to Provost Lisa MacFarlane.
- b) There was discussion of a new focus on reviewing of doctoral programs, which would involve Provost MacFarlane, Dean Harry Richards, and Senior Vice Provost for Research Jan Nisbet.
- c) The Council received preliminary data on the Graduate School's review of graduate handbooks and annual review processes. The review looks at whether programs have a process to check on student progression towards a degree and if they have updated handbooks outlining courses and requirements of the program.
- d) Thirteen Dissertation Year Fellowships for the following year were awarded.
- e) The History program is being reviewed by an external team near the end of the month. An update to the PhD program in Molecular and Evolutionary Systems Biology has gone to graduate faculty for approval. The Council is also awaiting a proposal from Biological Sciences for the restructuring of the doctoral program.

B. Vice President, J. Gilbert

1. GSS Elections

- a) Elections have concluded with most positions being filled in a straightforward manner. Some of the newly elected officers/senators were in attendance.

- b) Positions to be filled include a senator from CHHS and Clerk, the latter for which write-in votes are being examined.
    - c) During the election, some Manchester students were self-identifying primarily with the college rather than the campus which may have skewed some of the results, particularly for the Paul College. This is a potential issue for Governance Committee to examine when handling future elections.
    - d) Ultimately, the goal is to be able to include all students who want to get involved.
  - 2. Faculty Senate Student Affairs Subcommittee
    - a) The committee is working with the Student Senate, following a motion on a resolution on finding ways for faculty to reduce “hidden costs” for students. There is the question of whether it is the faculty’s responsibility or if it should just be more clearly communicated to students.
- C. Treasurer, D. Silva
  - 1. No report.
- D. External Affairs Officer, J. McClain
  - 1. University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees (USNH BoT)
    - a) The Student Senate is open to start discussing cooperation between the two Senates, such that both are better informed of one another’s actions and decisions.
    - b) They are also open to considering the possibility of graduate students running for the position of Student Trustee, which according to current policies, has to be an undergraduate student.
    - c) Discussion of how this can be implemented will occur with leadership from the Student Senate so that it can be brought to the BoT Governance Committee.
    - d) There is an upcoming BoT meeting in two and a half weeks, during which a presentation will be made on the role of technology in higher education. Topics include implications of more online courses as related to teaching assistantships, use of BlackBoard in graduate courses and graduate-taught courses, and the use of technology in computing, research, and research facilities on campus.
- E. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral
  - 1. Refer to “Announcements/Notes” below for upcoming events.
- V. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports
  - A. Community Service, M. Kurtz
    - 1. The final fundraising event before the UNH Relay for Life will be held on April 2 during the weekly trivia night at Scorpions Bar & Grill. A 50/50 raffle will be held.
  - B. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich
    - 1. A pilot study is being conducted during trial runs for a transition towards online course evaluations. There was a motion to have these trials only for tenured faculty, so that they do not affect evaluates for tenure-track or non-tenured faculty. It passed unanimously.
    - 2. Another motion was made regarding writing-intensive courses. The university is looking into whether online courses can count as writing-intensive courses; however, it is difficult for the registrar’s office to know if a course was taken online. The Faculty Senate is trying to pass a motion that would state that the four required writing-intensive courses have to be taken at UNH or by UNH run study-abroad programs, with the possibility of AP English counting for English 401.
  - C. University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (UCAPC), M. Verney
    - 1. The main topic of discussion is the proposal outlining the formation of the Carsey Graduate School for Public Policy, the goal of the school being to produce research that policy makers could use at different levels of government and foster graduate degree and certificate programs in policy.

2. Different faculty from different departments are coming together in the process of creating the school; however, there are still concerns that it will possibly undermine pertinent programs and departments themselves.
3. There are concerns about the budget in creating the school in that it may take away from departments. The school is also highly dependent on external funding and grants in order to maintain itself, the implication being should the funding run out then the school would have to be supported at the cost other departments.
4. A major concern was academic and research integrity, especially when there is significant external funding, particularly for a school in public policy. Interim director Bruce Mallory and Emeritus professor of sociology Sally Ward addressed this as well as other concerns at another meeting.
5. As far as external funding influencing the political views of research that would be conducted at the Carsey School, this is something that every institution and department deals with and there is a university-wide policy for it.
6. There is not much funding for new graduate students that would be coming into the program. The response to that was that if funding was scarce, then the faculty would have the highest priority, because they are writing the grants to fund the school. It is uncertain what this means for graduate students should funding fall short.
7. Overall, UCAPC is satisfied with the proposal which should back to the Faculty Senate. When all things pass the Faculty Senate, there should be more opportunity for more graduate students to get involved for feedback and ideas on how to implement the school.

D. Memorial Union Building Board of Governors (MUB BOG),  
Conner MacIver, MUB Graduate Assistant

1. The university decided to insure itself a few years ago in order to save money. Recently, there has been announcement that the cost has decreased for different departments across campus from 43.5% to 40% of every salary dollar.
2. Instead of sending that difference in insurance costs back to students or the departments, the university is collecting that money to go towards special projects; however, the MUB fee will not change. It is not yet entirely clear as to what these projects would be.
3. Discussion
  - a) Guest speaker Mark Rubinstein offered an explanation. Last year, the BoT authorized \$10 million of strategic investments directed at STEM programs across the system, the source of which being savings similar to those from the previous year. \$6.8 million of that went to UNH. General feedback from campuses was that the BoT was too prescriptive in telling how they should use the funds and that they should have a little bit more control over that if the process was repeated. The savings from the insurance price drop is being gathered into strategic funds. Proposals can come from across campus as to how the money would be allocated, as opposed to having the BoT dictate how to spend it. This process would be transparent.
  - b) The reason in the short-term for not simply lowering costs is the uncertainty of whether the savings would persist. The savings may evaporate which results from a reduction to a sharp increase in costs to students. Ultimately, costs will not remain the same while savings are being collected, which the BoT trusts that the university will use wisely to benefit the students.

VI. Special Guest Speaker: Mark Rubinstein, Vice President for Student and Academic Services

VII. Vice President Rubinstein discussed capital projects as well as the issue of the outdoor pool.

VIII. Old Business

- A. There is no new business.

IX. New Business

- A. Proposed Changes to Intellectual Property Policy, L. Dietrich
  - 1. There are concerns with proposed changes to intellectual property law, regarding potential university ownership of published works, such as graduate research, theses, and dissertations.

X. Announcements/Notes

- A. Trivia Night for GSS Relay for Life Team, Wednesday, April 2, 8pm, Scorpions Bar & Grill
- B. First Thursday Happy Hour, Thursday, April 3, 5-7pm, Scorpions Bar & Grill
- C. Movie Night: *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Friday, April 11, 5pm, MUB Theater
- D. UNH Relay for Life, Saturday, April 12, 9pm, Field House
- E. Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW), April 14-18
- F. Graduate Research Conference (GRC) Poster Session, Wednesday, April 16, 5-8pm, Whittemore Center Arena
- G. GRC Oral Presentations, Thursday, April 17, 9am-3pm, Holloway Commons Conference Rooms

XI. Adjournment

- A. D. Tran moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. M. Kurtz seconded the motion.
- C. The meeting is adjourned until the next general meeting scheduled on 15 April at 12:30pm in MUB 336.

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