

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

- I. Call to Order: Ian Cohen, President, 12:41pm
- 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. Luke Dietrich, COLA
 4. Kei Saito, COLA
 5. Mike Verney, COLA
 6. Brianna Isenberg, COLSA
 - B. Senators Present:
 1. Harrison Roakes, CEPS
 2. Myles Lynch, CHHS
 - C. Senators Not Present:
 1. Surupa Shaw, CEPS
 2. Jay Derick, COLA
 3. Mica Kurtz, Paul College
 4. Matt Smith, Graduate School
 5. Patrick Lacroix, Babcock Hall
 6. Thomas Cronin, Manchester
 - D. Other Graduate Students Present: 6
- III. Special Guest Speakers: Donna Marie Sorrentino, Director and Title IX Coordinator, UNH Affirmative Action and Equity Offices and Chief Paul Dean, UNH Police
 - A. Director Sorrentino came in to discuss the role of the Affirmative Action and Equity Office and to demystify Title IX and what it means for dealing with sexual harassment on campus.
 - B. Chief Dean elaborated on the role of the UNH Police in conjunction with that of the Affirmative Action and Equity Office's.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from General Meetings on 1 April 2014 and 15 April 2014
 - A. J. Gilbert moved to approve both sets of minutes.
 - B. B. Isenberg seconded the motion.
 - C. **The motion passes with 10 votes for and one abstention. Both sets of minutes are approved.**
- V. Initial Reports from the Executive Committee
 - A. President, I. Cohen
 1. After months of delays, the new GSS website will soon be launching. The URL will remain to be <http://www.unh.edu/gss>.
 2. There are updates to the UNH Climate Action Plan, known as WildCAP.
 3. A committee has been formed to work on the design of the outdoor pool over the summer, and they are looking for a graduate student representative.
 4. Three candidates for the Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity are being brought in for lunches with students who are interested in meeting them (on May 1, May 5, and May 8).
 5. An exit survey is being put together to evaluate the service experience of GSS Senators for the past academic year.
 - B. Vice President, J. Gilbert
 1. Student Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) Review Committee
 - a) Due to lackluster customer service on the part of Consolidated Health Plans (CHP), the committee is planning to move back Harvard Pilgrim Health Care as the insurance provider.
 - b) The original motivation for choosing CHP was that it was less expensive, but since then, the difference in prices have drastically narrowed. It will only be at most \$40

more expensive to switch back to Harvard Pilgrim with a dedicated representative for handling UNH insurance enrollment.

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) At the past BoT meeting in Keene, NH, there was an interesting discussion on the use of technology in higher education.
 - b) UNH received approval of funds for projects, such as the renovation of Hamilton-Smith Hall, the building of new athletics complex, and the outdoor pool. The extension of Holloway Commons also has the possibility for funding as well.

E. Programs Coordinator, M. Baral

1. Refer to “Announcements/Notes” below for upcoming events.

VI. Ad Hoc, Liaison, and Other Committee Reports

A. Faculty Senate, L. Dietrich

1. Provost Lisa MacFarlane commented that the BoT meeting went well in that the Board understood some of the GSS’s perspective on technology in higher education.
2. Over the next biennium, they will be seeking state funding for a bioscience space, which will be difficult for the state to reject with its emphasis on STEM fields.
3. The Paul College search for a new dean was paused, meaning that it is temporarily not successful thus far, so they will be looking into why the success rate is low.
4. Regarding the library books that were tossed into a dumpster, they have apparently not been recycled or disposed of but have been covered with a tarp, as people are trying to figure out what to do with them or how to store them. Questions were not answered about why this situation had gone the way it had.
5. The Senate Affairs Committee voted on a resolution to recommend low-cost textbook options for faculty to help students with these costs. They are also thinking about how Chinese is being taught on campus through the Confucius Institute.

B. Transportation Policy Committee, D. Tran

1. A transportation survey is out to gather opinions on services regarding buses and parking, particularly important for those who commute to campus.
2. Prices of parking permits have mostly remained unchanged over the last several years, with grants paying for maintenance and renovation of parking lots; however, the committee is considering a price adjustment (starting with faculty/staff permits) to offset costs from these grants not as available.
3. The late-night study shuttle running between the library and dorms is being canceled in the coming fall, due to low ridership.

C. Alumni Association, I. Cohen

1. The Student Senate President and Vice President have been pushing a back loan program. Instead of alumni back loans, the university, working through the Advancement Office, is putting forward a six-figure pilot program of advancement back loans.
2. The university advancement system, which has reserves built up in its endowment, will start a pilot program backing student loans. This allows the university to invest funds with fixed returns, while students get low interest rates on loans.
3. There is also a redistribution of university communications and marketing.

VII. Old Business

- A. There is no old business.

VIII. New Business

- A. There is no new business.

- IX. Special Guest Speakers: Patricia McCabe, Human Resources and Cathy Leach, Provost Office
 - A. Discussion of the UNH Policy for the Protection of Minors
- X. Announcements/Notes
 - A. GSS Spring Fling, Friday, May 2, 5-7pm, at Scorpions Bar & Grill
 - B. Ice Cream Social, Monday, May 5, 1-3pm, at the Dairy Bar
 - 1. BRING YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT ID.
 - C. GSS Transition Dinner, Friday, May 9, 5-7pm, at Bella's Casual Dining
- XI. Adjournment
 - A. The meeting is adjourned at 2:01 pm until the first general meeting of AY 2014/2015.

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