

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
September 9, 2014, MUB 302
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, President, 12:43pm

II. Roll Call and Introductions - binders for new senators were handed out

A. Executive Committee

Mike Verney	President
Mica Kurtz	Vice President
Kelly Nifong	Clerk (unofficial)
Madhav Baral	Treasurer
Tim Roemer	Programming Coordinator
Tobi Afaloyan	External Affairs Officer

B. Senators Present (7/15 total senators, 7/11 filled positions)

Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen	COLA
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS
Amanda Demmer	COLA
Matt Smith	Graduate School Senator
Ezra Temko	COLA
Patrick LaCriox	Babcock/in flux
Amanda Sobel	Forest Park

C. Senators Not Present

Kelsey Juntwait	COLSA
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Michael Pinkham	UNH-M (interim)

D. Members at Large Present: 11

E. Guest: Dr. Carri Moorhead (only present for introductions)

III. Approval of Minutes - No minutes to approve

A. Minutes from last meeting of last year (April 29, 2014) will be approve at next meeting

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. President, Mike Verney

1. Internal meetings will be held every other Tuesday from GSS meetings at the same time (12:30-2pm) in MUB 119. All meetings are open. Next meeting is Sept 16, 2014.

B. Vice President, Mica Kurtz

1. Governance Committee will be establishing meeting times soon.

2. Issues to be discussed this year: distribution of senators and responsibilities of UNH-Law and UNH-Manchester senators

C. Programming, Tim Roemer

1. Welcome Week was a success, over-abundance of people at almost all events (notables: over 200 replies for the 60 lunch tickets, about 152 people showed up for ice cream social)

2. Trying to take advantage of events in surrounding areas, so please email any interesting looking events to Tim for the programming committee to discuss. Idea is to promote events instead of sponsor, so GSS members (ExecComm & Senators) are not required to appear, but can if they wish to.

a) Amanda Demmer suggested compiling a calendar of events, such as what day of the week restaurants have discounts for college students, etc.

D. Treasurer, Madhav Baral

1. Budget for AY2014/2015 has been finalized

a) Patrick LaCroix asked if the budget or expense reports were available on the GSS Website.

b) Madhav Baral responded that he was unsure if this was something that GSS can do, but will bring it up at the next internal meeting.

c) Stanley Quartey made the point that simply posting on the website allows anyone to see. Maybe would be better to make only available to graduate students.

d) Mike Verney asked for show of hands for publishing the website. Discussion ensued.

e) Tobi Afolayan suggested allowing senators to share the budget with constituents would create opportunity for interaction. Alireza Ebadi agreed that since minutes and financial reports were available, why not share the budget.

f) Mica Kurtz made the point that while the budget is finalized, the actual breakdown of how the money is allocated and spend is always in flux. Publishing the budget may be more of a commitment than the GSS is able to do.

g) Mike Verney also pointed out that the graduate school should be consulted for approval.

h) Stanley Quartey made point that while public companies have the obligation to publish the budget to their stakeholders, GSS is different so it doesn't have same obligation.

i) John McClain agreed with Stanley Quartey. Asked if it would be possible to build funding for GSS into graduate student fees.

j) Dan Tran (different topic) asked about fee oversight. Is the GSS working with the undergraduate senate and is there a timeline? Mike Verney confirmed that the GSS is working with the undergraduate senate that there is a timeline.

k) Mike Verney made a motion to move the discussion to the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Matt Smith.

V. Ad Hoc and Liaison Committee Reports

A. Campus Recreation Steering Committee, met August 27, 2014.

1. Main discussion was about enlarging Whitmore Center and how/where to do it. Current option is to expand over outdoor pool. Next step is to take the plan to the BOT.

2. Information about card swipe data at the Whittemore center. Currently only available for undergraduates. Possibility of getting similar data on graduate students.

a) Alireza Ebadi mentioned the Whittemore staff is saying the new summer fee for graduate students was a GSS idea.

b) Mike Verney denied that the summer fee was GSS idea. Mentioned it is something that will be up for discussion later in the year.

c) Mica Kurtz mentioned that undergraduates were the only ones paying the summer rec fees in the past. So GSS can't really complain. Short discussion ensued.

d) Mike Verney clarified that both undergraduates and graduate students were paying the fee if they enrolled in summer courses. Mentioned this issue will be brought up again in the future.

B. External Affairs

1. Board of Trustees, Educational Excellence Committee - Tobi Afolayan

a) looking to move towards unified (all USNH) call center for registrar as an effort to become more efficient. Idea is that 21st century students would prefer 24/7 support.

b) Issue is that it will be expensive, and GSS should be sure to watch where that funding comes from.

2. Undergraduate Student Senate - Tobi Afolayan

a) Trying to build a healthy relationship, effort appears to have been positively received. Hopeful things will continue to improve and be positive.

3. Hamel Rec & Pool Committee - Deanna Silva

a) Met frequently over the summer, last meeting was September 10, 2014.

b) Discussing structure and design.

c) Next steps will be cost estimate and continuing design discussions.

4. West Stadium - Tobi Afolayan

a) Another expensive project with unclear funding sources. Something to watch.

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business

1. Appointment of Clerk, Kelly Nifong

a) Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen made the motion to appoint Kelly Nifong as GSS Clerk. Motion was seconded by Tobi Afolayan. Resulting vote: 11 yes, 0 no. **not enough voting members present for quorum, so motion was not passed.

2. Appoint new Senators - done by Mike Verney, President

a) Ezra Temko appointed COLA senator

b) Wali Raja appointed UNH-Law senator

c) Patrick LaCroix removed as Babcock Housing senator and appointed COLA senator

3. Committees that still need to be filled

a) MUB Board of Governors

b) Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee

c) Faculty Senate University Curriculum and Academics Policy Committee (UCAPC)

d) President's Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities

e) President's Commission on the Status of People of Color

f) President's Commission on the Status of GLBT Issues

g) University Council of Inclusive Excellence and Equity

4. New Committee Assignments

a) Dan Tran assigned as Transportation Policy/Transit Advisory Committee liaison

b) Damian Manda assigned MUB Board of Governors liaison

VIII. Announcements/Upcoming Events

1. University Day 3:30-6:30pm on September 16, 2014 - GSS will have a table on the lawn, will need help manning the table. An email will be sent asking for volunteers.

IX. Adjournment - 2:00pm

1. Motion made by Patrick LaCroix, seconded by Mica Kurtz

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Nifong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire