

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
 September 23, 2014, MUB 302
 Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, President, 12:42pm

II. Roll Call

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 (10/12 filled positions)

Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Kassie Sarr-Dietersagn	COLA
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Wali Raja	UNH-Law
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Matt Smith	Graduate School Senator
Ezra Temko	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Stanley Quartey	Paul
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS

C. Senators Not Present

Patrick LaCroix	COLA
Amanda Demmer	COLA

D. Members at Large Present: 6

E. Guest: Cari Moorhead, Associate Dean of the Graduate School & Harry Richards, Dean of the Graduate School.

F. Quorum (11 voting persons / 17 voting positions): Achieved with 15 voting persons present

III. Appointments and New Committee Assignments

- A. Morgan Crowley introduced as newly appointed COLSA senator. She will serve as the GSS liaison for the Faculty Senate.
 - a. Previous COLSA senator was unable to perform duties.
- B. Stanley Quarthey introduced as newly appointed Paul College senator. He will serve on the Financial Affairs Committee.
- C. Re-vote for Kelly Nifong as Clerk. Quorum was not achieved at previous meeting (Sept 9, 2014).
 - a. Motion made by Ian Cohen, seconded by Mica Kurtz.
 - b. Yeas: 12, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 0
 - c. Motion Passed.
- D. Mark Anthony will serve as the GSS liaison for the President's Commission on GLBT issues
- E. Ezra Temko will serve as the GSS liaison for the University Council on Inclusive Excellence and Equity.
- F. Wali Raja will serve as the GSS liaison for the President's Commission on the Status of People of Color
- G. Representatives needed for:
 - a. Faculty Senate, University Curriculum and Academics Policy Committee (UCAPC) – will meet on Fridays
 - b. Faculty Senate, Student Affairs Committee
 - c. President's Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities

IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes from last meeting of last year, April 29, 2014.
 - a. Motion made by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Tobi Afolayan.
 - b. Yeas: 11, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 2
 - c. Motion Passed
- B. Minutes from previous meeting, September 9, 2014.
 - a. Motion made by Ian Cohen, seconded by Myles Lynch.
 - b. Yeas: 11, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 1
 - c. Motion Passed

V. Special Guest Speakers

- A. Dean of the Graduate School, Harry Richards
 - a. Discussed what the graduate school is/does. Oversees all graduate programs minus the UNH-Law School.
 - b. This year:
 - i. Several reviews of doctoral programs will be conducted
 - ii. Dean's council has reviewed decline (which started about 3-4 years ago with decline in funding) in graduate student enrollment.
 - iii. Ian Cohen asked if there were numbers for TA vs non-TA enrollment. Answer was that it would be looked at in the future.
 - iv. Mica Kurtz asked if the decline was a trend seen in similar institutions. Answer was that there is a slight national trend in the decline of graduate student enrollment.
 - v. Trend of UNH is a drop in Masters Students, especially for in-state students.
 - vi. The international graduate student population is relatively constant (around 250)
 - vii. There was no increase for in-state graduate tuition this year, which is something that will hopefully be repeating next year. There was however a slight increase in out-of-state graduate tuition. Note: UNH does have higher tuition. There are very

few out-of-state graduate students without support and these student tend to be in 5th year Masters Programs.

- viii. UNH-Manchester may be playing a role in the enrollment decline since the programs are geared towards working professionals. This is unclear at this time.
- ix. Reviews that will be completed include: NRESS (self-study going out soon), Chemistry (self-study recently completed), and a few more. Note: reviews are important for programs since they are tied to the new-hire process.
- x. Some new programs are being looked at including: M.S. of Science & Analytics, and M.S & PhD of Biological Sciences (due to re-haul of biology programs).
- xi. The Graduate School self-study and review were completed last year. Results were continued support for the Graduate School. The Graduate School is looking at a 2-way training school option and program handbooks are being evaluated.

B. Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Cari Moorhead

- a. Followed-up on Dean Richards talk.
- b. Surveys were distributed to graduate students this summer about workshop topics and times (lunch with food was popular). There were about 400 responses.
- c. Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) is professional development seminar series that is usually held on Fridays. Preparing Future Professionals is another professional development seminar series that is geared more towards Masters Students. Note: There are three programs this fall that might be helpful for TAs.
- d. The Graduate School also offers several Academic programs and skill-building programs throughout the year. Note: UNH has recently made available the IT Box, and “cloud” storage system.
- e. If there is an event coming up that may be on interest to the Graduate School, please let Cari know!
- f. Parking: still can't do much about it.

C. Discussion with Dean Richards and Associate Dean Moorhead

- a. Dean Richards passed around hand-out with graph of what PhD students “do” after graduation. Note: Good news is there are jobs!
- b. Ian Cohen asked about the Carsey School of Public Policy. Answer was that it is an interdisciplinary program that will be starting up/coming online very soon (currently working on the set-up). Note: The Marine School was established last year.
- c. Mica Kurtz asked about the recent 10 million dollar gift made to the university for in-state tuition purposes. Is it only for undergraduates? Answer was yes, the donor specified that the donation was for undergraduate purposed only.
- d. Ian Cohen asked if there had been any progress with the Alumni Association and internships through them. Answer was that there had been progress made in establishing a link between the graduate students and the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association held a bucket challenge last year to survey interest from the alumni in ideas/projects for the university. Although the Graduate School was not initially included after asking if it could be it was, and some interest (donations) was raised. Note: the new head of the Alumni Association is in fact a graduate student alum.
- e. It was asked, in relation to declining enrollment, why RAs are harder to garner support for from faculty that Post-Docs. Answer was that while the Graduate School is trying to work to encourage more RA positions, the PIs potentially like Post-Docs better because they are cheaper to employ since tuition does not have to be paid. Tobi Afolayan asked for clarification of what a PI is and why RAs are more expensive, the answer was Principal Investigator, or the “grant owner” and that for RAs tuition, stipend, etc all come out of the grant and RAs take longer to finish. Associate Dean Moorhead mentioned that this

comes back to the question of how does the Graduate School get people wanting to bring in graduate students.

- f. Tobi Afolayan asked if trying to increase (financial) support to bring in graduate students was part of the potential solution for the decline in enrollment. Answer was yes, but support is unlikely to come directly from University unless undergraduate enrollment increases significantly. Note: McConnel upgrades will hopefully help increase undergraduate enrollment.
- g. Mike Verney asked if the GSS is unequipped to answer any questions that may come along if passing them to the Graduate School (specifically to Dean Richards and Associate Dean Moorhead) was acceptable. Answer was yes please, since it makes life more complicated in the Graduate School gets blindsided by an issue. Associate Dean Moorhead made the point to be aware that with any potential issue there is a full story behind it, and you may have to look closely to see it.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. President, Mike Verney

- a. An issue that was discussed at the previous meeting, making the budget available publicly, was discussed by the ExecComm at the internal meeting. The decision was to give an outline of the budget in the Treasurer's report so it will be recorded in the meeting minutes. If anyone wants clarification or further details they should see Madhav Baral (Treasurer) and the Financial Affairs Committee.

B. Vice President, Mica Kurtz

- a. Governance Committee will be meeting in the upcoming week and will begin discussions on the following issues.
 - i. Distribution of the senators
 - ii. Responsibilities of the UNH-Law and UNH-Manchester senators
 - iii. How to handle write-ins for the elections
- b. Please contact Mica Kurtz with any other issues.

C. Programming, Tim Roemer

- a. No new events for remainder of September to discuss
- b. Programming Committee will be meeting soon.
- c. Upcoming Event: Homecoming. The programming committee will be discussing GSS's involvement this year in helping the Alumni Association at the event.
 - i. Associate Dean Moorhead asked that she be contacted about acquiring football tickets.

D. Treasurer, Madhav Baral

- a. Budget for academic year 2014/2015 is as follows:
 - i. Requested budget of \$4,800 from the Graduate School, this was granted in full.
 - ii. Broken into 4 categories: \$1,200 for operating (including pizzas for meetings), \$2,170 for events (traditional GSS events like homecoming and the ice cream socials), \$1,120 for programming (non-traditional events), and \$300 for miscellaneous (such as printing and T-shirts).
 - iii. Total Planned Budget is \$4,790.
 - iv. Money Spent (as of Sept 23, 2014 and excluding cost of pizzas for meetings) is \$1,090.
 - v. Remaining Budget is \$3,700.
- b. First Financial Affairs meeting will be next week.
 - i. Associate Dean Moorhead made the comment that UNH Dining was very kind and paid for the dining tickets for the welcome week lunch at Holloway

Commons. Mike Verney mentioned that UNH Dining has been thanked by the GSS for the tickets.

VII. Ad Hoc and Liaison Committee Reports

- A. VPFA (VP of Financial and Administration) Search Committee – Mike Verney
 - a. Committee in charge of finding replacement for current VPFA (who is resigning in Nov) met on Sept 8 and again on Sept 23.
 - b. Search is ongoing and due to the process that is all that can be shared at this time. GSS will have a say/be able to offer an opinion on the final choice.
- B. Grad Council – Mike Verney
 - a. Met on Sept 15.
 - b. Approved a pre-proposal for a new, 11-month M.S. program in Analytics to meet a job market demand for individuals who can handle large data sets.
 - c. Approved a proposal to add and Education Specialist for Leadership in Counseling option to the existing Education Specialist degree
 - i. Designed to lead to state certification as a Guidance and Counseling Director
 - d. Reviewed spread sheet analyzing the performance of UNH doctoral programs
 - i. Data only gathered from faculty achievements/productivity
 - ii. Helpful for the University to determine its strengths when making decision about allocating funding
 - e. Reviewed demographic data for graduate students as discussed by Dean Richards
 - i. Provost Lisa McFarlan has started a task force to address this issue
 - ii. President Mark Huddleston will be working on a specific, graduate student-targeted ad program.
- C. Campus Recreation Steering Committee – Mike Verney
 - a. Met on Sept 22.
 - b. Total renovation budget for Hamel Rec Center is \$28 million
 - i. To include the \$0.5 million Wellness Center, that amount needs to be cut from existing \$28 million budget. What to cut is being debated
 - ii. Ian Cohen asked if the campus is borrowing internal for the total budget. Answer is that the money is planned to come from both the university and a loan with the state of NH.
 - iii. Damian Manda asked if there was a plan for going over budget. Answer was none of the money has been spent yet, but yes. Mark Rubinstein confirms that no bids have been made yet. The committee has already made cuts to the budget, and historically the university has been able to stay within the budget for projects.
- D. Governance Affairs Committee – Mike Verney
 - a. Committee that coordinates GSS advocacy on behalf of UNH graduate students to the state of NH
 - i. Ian Cohen mentioned that last year the committee looked at the issues of re-financing student loans. A NY Senator had a bill that GSS advocated but with no success. Another bill recently proposed is similar and seems more progressive. The committee will be backing this bill with hopes of better success.
 - b. First meeting is still being scheduled
- E. Faculty Senate – Morgan Crowley
 - a. Discussing the move of the common exam time from current time to Wednesday and Fridays 3-5pm.
 - i. This is due to the upcoming closure of Hamilton Smith building
 - ii. Decision will be made by the Academic Committee

- iii. Tobi Afolayan mentioned he will be working with the undergraduate Student Senate's External Affairs officer to make sure the student opinion is heard.
- iv. Ian Cohen asked how professors use the common exam time. Answer was that things do get schedule at during the time, despite the encouragement not to.
- v. Mica Kurtz asked if there are other options to making more time or space for classes once Hamilton Smith closes. Mark Rubinstein answered that there are no options currently available that are as good as moving the common exam time.
- vi. Mike Verney mentioned that the discussion about the change in common exam time will be continued at next meeting due to time constraints.

VIII. Old Business – none was discussed

IX. New Business – none was discussed

X. Announcements/Upcoming Events

1. T-shirts are still available for those who do not yet have one.

XI. Adjournment - 2:02pm

1. Motion made by Ian Cohen, seconded by Tobi Afolayan.

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