

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
November 18, 2014  
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

**I. Call to Order:** Mike Verney, President, 12:44pm

**II. Roll Call**

A. Executive Committee

Mike Verney	President
Tim Roemer	Programming
Kelly Nifong	Clerk
Mica Kurtz	Vice President
Madhav Baral	Treasurer

B. Senators Present

Kassie Sarr-Dietersagen	COLA
Alireza Ebdai	CEPS
Ezra Temko	COLA
Wali Raja	UNH-Law
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Stanley Quartey	Paul
Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Amanda Demmer	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Myles Lynch	CHHS

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Patrick LaCroix - Excused	COLA
Tobi Afolayan - Excused	External Affairs

D. Members at Large Present: 3

E. Guests: none

F. Quorum (11 voting persons /17 filled voting positions): Achieved with 14 (13 for approval of minutes)

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

- A. Minutes from previous meeting, November 4, 2014.
  - a. Motion by Ezra Temko, seconded by Ian Cohen
  - b. Yeas: 11, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 1
  - c. Motion Passed

#### IV. Standing Committee Reports

##### A. President - Mike Verney

- a. Auxillary Fee Meeting Overview (see summary table attached)
  - i. Overall there shouldn't be an increase over 2.5%
  - ii. Note: Health Services is not requesting an increase for second year in a row
  - iii. No increase for SHARP
  - iv. Note: Housing and Dining are of course voluntary fees
  - v. All fee increases are a projections
  - vi. Going forward
    - 1. The different auxiliary units have been assigned to different senators, please focus all your questions about that auxilairy unit fee to the contact.
    - 2. NOTE: Stanley Quartey will the contact for Dining and Housing instead of Mike Verney.
  - vii. Please review the Fee Meeting Minutes to determine any questions
  - viii. We will put together a PDF going to all graduate students
    - 1. general fee questions will be directed to senators
    - 2. Ezra Temko asked what the timeline and process for tuition for next year is. Ian Cohen answered that it will be set in Jan by BOT, GA stipends will be determined in the spring.
  - ix. Financial Affairs/ExecComm Joint Session
    - 1. Will be meeting Thursday (Nov 20) 12:30-2pm to begin draft letter and answering questions.
  - x. Will try to vote on Nov 25th about fee letter, but if more time is needed than will vote on Dec 2
  - xi. Mike Verney asked that if the GSS votes on Dec 2, the FAC/ExecComm meet after the GSS regular meeting to draft the letter.
  - xii. Mike Verney then open the floor for discussion: voting next week or voting on Dec 2
    - 1. Ian Cohen mentioned that he did not fully understand if the 2.5 increase for salaries includes the full time staff and the students or just full time
      - a. Mike Verney answered that some units mentioned wanted to increase student salaries.
      - b. Stanley Quartey mentioned that there should be a concrete reason for the increase.
      - c. Taylor Hodgdon (MAL) answered that for some units there is a mandatory budgeting for 2.5% increase in salary that is not always translated. A lot of the increase is for the RCM.
    - 2. Tim Roemer asked why all units don't have salary increase?
      - a. Mica Kurts mentioned that Health Services and SHARP are able to absorb salary increase via reserves
    - 3. Mike Verney asked if the timeline of voting next week ok or too soon?
      - a. Amanda Demmer asked when will graduate school send out the email to everyone. Mike Verney answered that it will likely

tomorrow. Amanda Demmer mentioned that her thought is voting next week is too soon, likely no chance to get word from constituents.

- b. Ian Cohen mentioned that the fees are the priority, so the GSS may want to push voting on the resolutions back.
  - c. Tim Roemer responded to Amanda Demmer that on waiting until after Thanksgiving will likely mean that the process will get lost after the holiday.
  - d. Mike Verney tabled the fee discussion for now, feeling that the GSS will be able get through the fee discussion quickly and still be able to vote on fees on Dec 2.
- b. SHARP "Carry that Weight" campaign
    - i. ExecComm thought is to not take official action but to pass the invitation on to GSS members
    - ii. Will try and work with SHARP at a later time
- B. Vice President - Mica Kurtz
- a. Committee on survey online for professor evaluations
    - i. will be piloting that for full-time
    - ii. looking at responses and factors tied to that
- C. Programming - Tim Roemer
- a. Event at Margarita's
    - i. about 10 people attended
  - b. Holiday Extrav
    - i. instead of 1st thurs
    - ii. pasta dinner at scorp's
    - iii. holiday raffle with proceeds to charity
- D. Financial Affairs Committee - Madhav Baral
- a. Will be working on recommendation letter soon

## V. Ad-hoc Committees

- A. MUB-BOG - Damian
  - a. This week is a very busy week
- B. UNH Work's Campaign - Ian Cohen
  - a. grassroots movement of alum and parents to advocate for UNH to state legislation
  - b. Has accepted position on reformed committee
- C. Pool/Campus Rec - Deanna Silva
  - a. At designing stage
  - b. pool is done, mostly last minute stuff
    - i. finances will be going through steering committee
  - c. ground breaking for new building is in a couple months
    - i. most done, dealing with last minute stuff
    - ii. IC price tag?
    - iii. DS not yet, going through steering committee
- D. Student Affairs Committee - Morgan Crowley
  - a. Discussed/edited charge B regarding military deployment
  - b. Discussed/edited charge A regarding faulty-student advising roles
- E. Faculty Senate
  - a. Presentation from UNH Athletic Advisory Committee Heather Barber

- i. expressed concern about the recent change in the common exam time since student athletes often practice from 1-4pm and miss Fridays for games or meets.
- b. Friendly motion made to move the evening common exam period from Thursday 7-9 pm to Tuesday 7-9 pm as soon as the registrar deems possible. Due to the fact all common exam periods are now within 24 hours.
- c. Mike Verney asked about the discussion on intellectual property
- d. Morgan Crowley responded that the discussion was at last meeting, no discussion at recent meeting. The main topic was the proposal about adding UNH admin names to grant proposals.
- e. Tim Roemer asked about the FS finding an issue with afternoon common exam time 7-9pm on Thurs. Asked for clarification on now both common exam periods being within 24 hours. Morgan Crowley said yes, both common exam times are now within 24 due to the recent change, so trying to move the Thurs period to Tues 7-9pm. Tim Roemer responded by saying maybe they were too hasty with the first change? Morgan Crowley answered yes, and there was some discussion of this. The limiting factor right now is next semester is already set with registrar, so may not be able to fix this before then.

## VI. Old Business

- A. Resolution AY2014/2015:2 “A Resolution Encouraging a Shuttle System Connecting the UNH Campuses” (see attached)
  - a. Kelly Nifong noted that there was some discussion at the Fee Meeting (Nov 12) about the different bus routes and that routes to Concord and Manchester were discussed
    - i. Mike Verney expanded on Kelly Nifong’s statement saying that it is really expensive to make UNH route, so Transportation is looking at external shuttles.
    - ii. Mica Kurtz also commented that this has been discussed before, so it is worth expressing this desire.
  - b. Alireza Ebadi asked Mike Verney was the estimate for what kind of schedule. Mike Verney responded that he was not sure.
    - i. Tim Roemer commented that it looks like they wanted to do a frequent schedule
    - ii. Madhav Baral commented that some of the other costs are the buses and insurance
  - c. Ian Cohen commented that the resolution speaks to feasibility to push for data to support the possible increase in costs
  - d. Mica Kurtz commented that he doesn’t think Transportation is in opposition in creating this route
  - e. Mike Verney agreed that the wording is focusing on the getting data.
  - f. Ezra Temko offered a friendly amendment of emphasizing the feasibility statement in the resolution.
    - i. Ian Cohen (one of the resolution sponsors) suggested the friendly amendment of changing “*Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages University Transportation Services to look into the feasibility of creating routes that connect the three UNH campuses in Durham, Manchester, and Concord.*” to “*Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages University Transportation Services to make exploring the feasibility of creating routes that connect the three UNH campuses in Durham, Manchester, and Concord.*”
    - ii. Ezra Temko agreed with the friendly amendment.

- g. Tim Roemer asked if vacations and holidays were considered. Mentioned that a lot of people are from those areas, so one benefit would be for holiday travel. Ian Cohen answered that yes that was considered in drafting the resolution.
  - h. Motion to approve with friendly amendment made by Tim Roemer, seconded by Alireza Ebadi.
    - i. Yeas: 14 (including 1 proxy vote), Nays: 0, Abstaining: 0
    - ii. Resolution Approved
- B. Resolution AY2014/2015:3 “A Resolution Expressing Support for the Lecturer’s Union” (see attached)
- a. Ezra Temko mentioned three main reasons for sponsoring the resolution
    - i. One goal was to support a cohesive UNH community
    - ii. Another goal was to solidify the relationship of graduate students with lecturers
      - 1. Mentioned that interactions with graduate students and lecturers varies by department
    - iii. The final goal was for GSS to promote fair treatment on campus
  - b. Mica Kurtz mentioned that he was initially against the resolution
    - i. His first concern was that the resolution would possibly be supporting a position that would be working against graduate student appointments in the future
    - ii. The sponsor (Ezra Temko) has provided enough information on the topic to have reversed this thought.
  - c. Ian Cohen agreed that this resolution is a statement of supporting the fair treatment and offered two friendly amendments.
    - i. Changing the title “*A Resolution Expressing Support for the Lecturers’ Union*” to “*A Resolution Expressing Support for the UNH Lecturers’ Union*”
    - ii. Changing “*BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate expresses its appreciation to the Lecturer Faculty member for their influential contributions to graduate student education; and*” to “*Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate expresses its appreciation to Lecturer Faculty members for their influential contributions to graduate student education; and*”
    - iii. Both friendly amendments were accepted by the sponsor Ezra Temko.
  - d. Motion to approve with friendly amendments made by Ezra Temko, seconded by Mica Kurtz
    - i. Yeas: 14 (including 1 proxy vote), Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
    - ii. Resolution Approved

## VII. New Business

- A. Fees
  - a. Mica Kurtz - A note about voting
    - i. ExecComm has decided to vote twice on every fee
      - 1. one vote for paying the fee at all
      - 2. one vote for this year’s increase of the fee
    - ii. Mike Verney clarified that the first vote is about paying the fee at all, and is for future clarification about how GSS feels about paying certain fees
  - b. Ian Cohen - fees
    - i. The BOT puts together a percentage that is allowable, but there is not an incentive to not increase fees
    - ii. It is possible that with an incentive, there may be a better consideration of all programs to not just increase the suggested amount

- c. Ezra Temko asked if maybe would be worth asking for a budget based on no increase to see what would be considered and cut? Also what did the letter/recommendations last year look like?
- d. Mica Kurta answered that one issue that has come up several times in the past is campus rec. this is a larger fee that may or may not be worth all graduate students paying
- e. Mike Verney answered Ezra Temko's question by saying all units will be submitting a budget summary that will be available for the GSS to look at, hopefully.
- f. Amanda Sobel asked if previous years' GSS fee statements are available?
  - i. Ian Cohen & Kelly Nifong both answered that, yes last two years are available are online (GSS website).
- g. Ezra Temko asked if there is any way to try and pick what fee break downs that we agree on?
  - i. Mica Kurtz answered that in the past auxiliary units have been adverse to sub units of the population "picking" the fee. it's an all or nothing deal
  - ii. Mike Verney mentioned that the GSS may be able focus on specific approvals for specific fees
- h. Ian Cohen mentioned that even if we disapprove of fee as a whole, may be possible to focus on certain likes and dislikes
- i. Tim Roemer suggested that we may want to offer alternative methods. Specifically to using campus rec. It may be worth stating that if we weren't paying for the unit that we would do something else. The point being that we are using it only because we have to pay for it.
  - i. Mike Verney on that note, ExecComm has been talking about putting together a thoughtful survey that will go out in the spring that will gather information on fees and other GSS related issues.
- j. Mike Verney asked if the GSS has any suggestions on incentives for the auxiliary unite?
  - i. Mike Verney suggested that it could be that one of the methods for reviewing the auxiliary director is a budget/fee review.
  - ii. Damian Manda asked if there is a way compare to units that aren't raising their fees? (Note: Ian Cohen mentioned that Health services hasn't increased fees for 3 years)
  - iii. Kelly Nifong asked if they (health services) have external funding allowing them to no increase?
    - 1. Deanna Silva mentioned that they have paid off their bonds, so no longer need the fee increase.
    - 2. Mike Verney, to that point we sadly don't see where fees could potentially go down
  - iv. No agreement on how to address the incentives, topic has been tabled for future discussion.
- k. Myles Lynch asked if there is a comparison of UNH fees to other school?
  - i. Ian Cohen answered that last year this data was provided to graduate council
    - 1. Data was fees to stipends, which seemed reasonable
    - 2. However, some schools have subsidies for fees, while UNH actually pays the most fees out of pocket
- l. Tim Roemer asked the BOT suggestion is always increase?
  - i. Mike Verney answered that it seems so.
  - ii. Ian Cohen commented that the increase goes along with inflation, which is always going up.

- m. Ezra Temko mentioned that it seems last year the main issue was campus rec and transportation.
    - i. Mica Kurta mentioned that the transportation issue was mainly due to an increase for a shuttle that was mainly for undergraduates
  - n. Ezra Temko mentioned that it seems like campus rec and MUB will come up as issues
  - o. Ian Cohen's comments on the potential issue with campus rec
    - i. Probably large increase (about 50%) in fee when new building opens
    - ii. Should start our fight now
    - iii. Mica Kurtz mentioned this is largely why the GSS is changing the voting method this year
    - iv. Mike Verney mentioned that the possible 50% increase of the campus rec fee will be worst case scenario
  - p. Deanna Silva mentioned that the GSS letter might be able to suggest that campus rec and MUB may be able to try harder in keeping fees low
  - q. Amanda Sobel mentioned that health services isn't increasing and that if they aren't then maybe it is possible for other units to also not. Also mentioned that people with outside doctors may have questions on the health service fee since they don't use the facility but still pay the fee.
- B. Ian Cohen asked if the special meeting for Nov 25th is necessary.
- a. Mica Kurtz answered that his thought is no.
  - b. Mike Verney commented that the need for the Nov 25th meeting will be discussed by ExecComm.

**VIII. Adjournment - 2:02pm**

- A. Motion made by Ian Cohen, seconded by Tim Roemer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Resolution AY2014-2015:2  
November 4, 2014

A Resolution Encouraging a Shuttle System Connecting the UNH Campuses  
Sponsored by: Alireza Ebadi, CEPS Senator & Ian Cohen, CEPS Senator

WHEREAS, the mission of the University System of New Hampshire states that “From its main campus in Durham, its college in Manchester, and the UNH School of Law in Concord, the University serves New Hampshire and the region through continuing education, cooperative extension, cultural outreach, economic development activities, and applied research”; and

WHEREAS, several programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, such as the dual JD/MBA program and undergraduate Physics degree at UNH-Manchester, require students to attend classes and/or labs at multiple UNH campuses; and

WHEREAS, faculty, staff, and graduate students frequently need to commute between the campuses for classes, office hours, meetings, and other business; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no direct means of public transportation between Durham and Manchester or Concord; and

WHEREAS, an emphasis has been made at all levels of the University administration to integrate all of the campuses into the overall identity of the University of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a shuttle service between the three UNH campuses would make it easier for students, faculty, staff, and the general public to move more easily between the campuses, creating a greater sense of inclusion and access for all;

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) in Spring 2011 indicated that 39% of UNH Durham respondents felt that connecting the Manchester campus should be a priority and 36% found it to be very or possibly useful, and

WHEREAS, that same Spring 2011 TPC survey showed that driving alone was the primary mode of commute to UNH for 85% of faculty and staff and 48% of students; and

WHEREAS, UNH Transportation Services prides itself on being the largest transit system in the state and for its ecological impact, having removed hundreds of thousands of private vehicle miles from the roads;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages University Transportation Services to make exploring the feasibility of creating routes that connect the three UNH campuses in Durham, Manchester, and Concord a high priority.

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Resolution AY2014-2015:3  
November 4, 2014

A Resolution Expressing Support for the UNH Lecturers' Union  
Sponsored by: Ezra Temko, COLA Senator

WHEREAS, the Lecturer Faculty members at the University of New Hampshire are an integral part of the fabric of our university's community; and,

WHEREAS, Lecturer Faculty are integrally involved in bringing excellence to graduate student education; and,

WHEREAS, the number of full-time Lecturer Faculty members at the University of New Hampshire has grown to over 200; and,

WHEREAS, employment conditions for Lecturer Faculty traditionally involve unwarranted hardship and undervalue the contribution of lecturers to realizing the mission of their respective universities; and,

WHEREAS, bringing reasonable professional commitments regarding fairness, clarity, transparency, job security, and inclusion to the role of Faculty Lecturers at the University of New Hampshire will benefit both the working lives of UNH Faculty Lecturers and the quality of education provided on campus; and,

WHEREAS, increasing job security for non-tenure-track faculty contributes to their economic security and academic freedom; and,

WHEREAS, fair treatment of non-tenure-track faculty supports the status of all faculty; and,

WHEREAS, unions are a mechanism to give a group of workers a collective voice, require employers to respect a fair process and make reasonable decisions, and ensure employees may reasonably speak out without fear of undue retaliation; and,

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2014, UNH Lecturers United – AAUP won recognition as the bargaining agent for all full-time lecturers at the University of New Hampshire; and,

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate serves as the official voice for graduate student input into all decisions or policies made by the University that affect graduate students; and,

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate and University of New Hampshire Lecturer Faculty share a common goal of advancing the mission of the University of New Hampshire, the primary purpose of which is “learning: students collaborating with faculty in teaching, research, creative expression, and service;”

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate expresses its appreciation to Lecturer Faculty members for their influential contributions to graduate student education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate expresses its solidarity with UNH Lecturers United - AAUP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate supports fairness, equity, and respect for Lecturer Faculty members and the value they bring to the University to New Hampshire.