

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
December 2, 2014
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

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

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

Mike Verney	President
Tim Roemer	Programming
Kelly Nifong	Clerk
Mica Kurtz	Vice President
Madhav Baral	Treasurer
Tobi Afolayan	External Affairs

B. Senators Present

Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen	COLA
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS
Ezra Temko	COLA
Patrick LaCroix	COLA
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Stanley Quartey	Paul
Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Amanda Demmer	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Matt Smith	Graduate School

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Wali Raja	UNH - Law
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D. Members at Large Present: 2

E. Guests: Mark Rubenstein

F. Quorum (11 voting persons /17 filled voting positions): Achieved with 16 (15 for approval of minutes)

III. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Minutes from previous meeting, November 18, 2014.
 - a. Motion by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Amanda Sobel
 - b. Yeas: 14, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 0
 - c. Motion Passed

IV. Standing Committee Reports

- A. President - Mike Verney
 - a. Special Mention
 - i. Thanks to Ezra Temko, Alireza Ebadi, and Ian Cohen for bring forth resolutions
 - ii. Amanda Sobel will be representing GSS on the Healthy UNH committee
 - iii. Special thanks and goodbye to Deanna Silva
 - 1. Served as CEPS Senator twice and was 2013/2014 Treasurer.
 - 2. Has represented GSS on several committees including Programming Committee, Governance Committee, Outdoor Pool Oversight Committee, and Campus Rec Building Committee.
 - b. ExecComm/FAC met on Nov 25th to discuss fee, especially campus rec and voted on recommendations
 - c. UNH Finances 101 – Dec 1st
 - i. Met with UNH Finance Director Kelly Scala and Vice President for Student and Academic Services (VPSA)
 - ii. Was guided through the publically available documents online through the UNH website
 - iii. Was a helpful meeting overall, with focus on UNH revenue, expenses, and the RCM model
 - iv. Thanks to all from GSS who attended
- B. Vice President - Mica Kurtz
 - a. Met with GovComm Nov 24th
 - b. Things to look for next semester
 - i. Policy on introduction and passage of resolutions (currently none)
 - ii. Policy on social media usage (currently none)
 - iii. Looking at redistribution of senators
 - iv. Mike Verney asked if the requirement for senators to attend at least one programming event is also on the agenda. Mica Kurtz confirmed it is.
- C. Programming - Tim Roemer
 - a. First Thursday coming up on Dec 4th at Scorp's 5-7pm
 - b. Holiday Extravaganza – Dec 12th at Scorp's 5-7pm
 - i. Baked ziti dinner
 - ii. holiday raffle with proceeds to charity
 - c. Kelly Nifong mentioned the programming committee is still taking recommendations for which charity to donate to
- D. Financial Affairs Committee - Madhav Baral
 - a. Nothing new

V. Ad-hoc Committees

- A. SAARC – Patrick LaCroix
 - a. Working on space allocation

- b. Further developing ground floor on Dimon Library – adding more technology
- c. Looking at reserves for winter
- d. Trying to determine strategies of priority of suggested projects for upcoming year
- B. Faculty Senate Student Affairs – Morgan Crowley
 - a. Met Nov 24th with representatives from the Veteran’s Affairs office to discuss the drafted proposal for Charge B regarding active military deployment.
 - b. Generally supportive so proposal will continue forward with minor drafts
- C. Faculty Senate – Morgan Crowley
 - a. Met on Dec 1
 - b. Dr. Rudi Seitz’s friendly amendment for switching the evening common exam time from Thursday to Tuesday went to vote
 - i. Approved an amendment to alter the suggested time from 7-9pm to 6-9pm or 7-10pm (as the registrar deems feasible) in order to provide potentially 2 exam periods within that evening block.
 - ii. Some faculty suggested this will be more utilized by their departments in the future due to the back-to-back nature of the Friday common exam period.
 - iii. Motion passed with 0 faculty opposed and will be implemented in spring 2016.
 - iv. Tobi Afolayan asked for clarification on new switch. Morgan Crowley answered that the night time common exam got moved from Thursday to Tuesday to create two time periods.
 - c. Discussed the motion for representing non-tenure track faculty in faculty senate was continued with Agenda Committee asking the faculty to discuss the direction of the motion by calling the Committee of the Whole.
 - d. Asked series of questions to evaluate general attitude of senators to see how motion should be further amended.
 - e. Presentation about Blackboard from UNH IT Director, Terri Winters
 - i. IT is looking to alter Blackboard or switch to different service in the future to better fit needs
- D. Masters Committee – Amanda Sobel
 - a. Nothing new
- E. Planning Committee for the Carsey School of Public Policy – Eza Temko
 - a. Recently had a retreat to get the new committee rolling
- F. UNH Sesquicentennial Planning Committee – Ian Cohen
 - a. Opened up www.unh.edu/sesqui to help start planning for 2016 ceremony
 - i. Is a forum for all UNH community to offer input/present ideas
 - ii. Will be open until Feb
 - iii. Committee will then be putting together a budget proposal
 - iv. Mike Verney mentioned the forum provides an opportunity for graduate student community to advocate for a focus on UNH graduate education

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business

- A. Fees
 - a. There will be two votes on each fee
 - i. First vote will be for paying the fee at all
 - ii. Second vote will be for the approval of the 2015/2016 fee increase
 - b. Campus Rec Fee
 - i. Mica Kurtz moved to approve the Campus Rec fee, seconded by Ian Cohen
 - ii. Discussion - ExecComm/Fac recommends not approving

1. Lack of hard data
2. Exercising is important for mental health and stress control, but money stress is especially a big deal for graduate students
3. Not all graduate students have time for going to the rec center
4. Part of the fee goes towards maintain the Whittemore Center (intermural sports use the center)
5. Ezra Temko asked what the email responses were about the campus rec fee. Ian Cohen answered that there were several responses.
 - a. Part-time student asked why fee was mandatory
 - b. A lot of questions about what campus rec is/does, including some confusion between campus rec and athletics and the Whittmore Center
 - c. Several students mentioned having no time to use campus rec
 - d. Was discussed in ExecComm/FAC meeting that not all students like to work out to relieve stress and a lot of graduate students don't live on campus
6. Matt Smith seconded the off campus costs. Noted that the fee will be increasing with the new building, which will increase the price gap between campus rec fee and off campus options. Also mentioned that the only data available is the card swipes, which doesn't tell much (specifically the number of graduate students who use campus rec)
7. Ian Cohen clarified that a little over \$100 of the fee goes towards campus rec. Mark Rubinstein added that \$125 is split between campus rec and the Whittemore Center
8. Myles Lynch mentioned that he is in support of the campus rec fee
 - a. Several graduate students are employed through campus rec
 - b. Campus rec offers lots of different types of trips and activities open to graduate students
 - c. Mentioned that current research is being done through UNH on the constraints students face with recreation
 - d. Mentioned that the health and wellness of the students is a main concern for campus rec, which is something not all of the auxiliary units focus on or mention
 - e. Mentioned that the technology fee is one that needs to be focused on
9. Alireza Ebadi mentioned he had several conversations with graduate students about the campus rec fee.
 - a. Got several questions about the new summer fee.
 - b. Some of the graduate students expressed support for the fee and think it's a need fee
 - c. Some mentioned interest in options for alternate paying methods
10. Member at Large mentioned he tries to use campus rec, though is not as happy about having to pay the summer fee. Asked if the summer fee will encourage other auxiliary units to do the same.
 - a. Tim Roemer mentioned that the health center already charges a different summer fee
 - b. Mark Rubenstein commented that health and counseling centers were actually the first ones to charge summer fees, and that campus rec is late to the game. Mentioned it might be possible to

talk to Stacey about re-evaluating the graduate student summer fee.

11. Morgan Crowley stated she feels like graduate students would be interested in an opt in or opt out option
 12. Ezra Temko proposed an amendment that approval of the fee should be conditional on part-time students being able to opt out of the fee and that the summer fee is discontinued.
 - a. Amanda Sobel asked what a part-time graduate student is. Answer is 8 hours.
 - b. Ian Cohen responded that adding conditional approvals to the GSS Fee Recommendation Letter will muddle the message.
 - c. Amendment was not seconded, and therefore was dropped
- iii. Vote to approve fee
1. Yay: 1, Nay: 14, Abstaining: 1
 2. Approval of the campus rec fee was denied
- c. Campus Rec fee increase
- i. Mica Kurtz moved to approve the Campus Rec fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Ian Cohen
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Mica Kurtz stated why GSS should vote for the fee increase when approval of the fee was denied
 - a. The second vote is to determine if the fee increase is reasonable. This should be separate from the actual fee and focused on the specific reasons for the increase
 - b. The reasons for the increase is fairly uniform for all of the auxiliary units, which seem like reasonable reasons for the increase
 2. Mike Verney mentioned that this issue was discussed at length at the ExecComm/FAC meeting since some felt it would be sending a mixed message
 3. Alireza Ebadi agreed that it seems to be a mixed message
 4. Myles Lynch disagreed. Mentioned that even though he voted to approve the fee he won't be voting to approve the increase, since he is accepting that the unit exists, but not approving the continual increase of the fee.
 5. Ian Cohen mentioned that the idea behind the two votes is that the first vote is ideological and the second vote is the practical vote. Noted that 13.6% off all the fee goes back to the central administration, meaning a large part of the budget cannot be used by the unit
 6. Ezra Temko mentioned he was unsure as to why the GSS would approve the increase when one issue with the fee is the lack of data. Mentioned he generally agreed with campus rec, but not sure about the amount of the fee
 7. Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen disagreed that the fee increase of 2.5% could be called reasonable since the MUB increase is only 2.2%. Asked why the difference?
 - iii. Vote to approve fee increase
 1. Yay: 6, Nay: 10, Abstaining: 0
 2. Approval of the campus rec fee increase was denied
- d. MUB fee

- i. Matt Smith moved to approve the MUB fee, seconded by Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen
- ii. Discussion
 - 1. Mike Verney noted that the ExecComm/FAC recommendation is to approve the fee. However feels there is not enough available data and would like to see more advertisement directed towards graduate students and the services available for them.
 - 2. Mica Kurtz mentioned that he approves the fee, not because of specific amenities, but because of the central location on campus and the feeling of a central community structure. Noted that even though he doesn't use all the available services, knows other graduate students that do.
 - 3. Matt Smith agreed with Mica Kurtz on approving the fee since the MUB has a strong academic background and does a good job bringing in guest lectures.
 - 4. Ezra Temko asked about emails from graduate students concerning the MUB fee. Matt Smith that the only question was about what the fee covered.
 - 5. Member at Large mentioned that the MUB has been able to bring in more quest lectures by co-hosting with departments. Also mentioned that the MUB advertises to the student body (undergrad and graduate) the same way, however there is a link on the MUB website that promotes graduate student specific events.
 - 6. Ian Cohen spoke to Mica Kurtz's point of the MUB promoting a greater community. Agreed that the MUB does an excellent job promoting a more cohesive community
 - 7. Matt Smith mentioned that the quest lecturer series is not something available through the other auxiliary units.
- iii. Vote to approve the fee
 - 1. Yay: 15, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 1
 - 2. Approval of the MUB fee passed
- e. MUB fee increase
 - i. Tobi Afolayan moved to approve the MUB fee increase of 2.2%, seconded by Matt Smith
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Alirez Ebadi mentioned that GSS should reject the increase. Believes that the fee should be less
 - 2. Member at Large responded that when looking at all of the auxiliary unit increase the MUB is one of the few units that isn't looking for the maximum allowed increase. The MUB operations budget is staying the same so the fee increase is due to RCM and salaries, which the MUB has no control over.
 - a. Mica Kurtz mentioned that the MUB made movie tickets the same cost for undergrads and graduates
 - b. Ezra Temko asked if the difference in movie ticket prices comes from the MUB fee, Member at Large answered no.
 - 3. Ian Cohen mentioned that the GSS could strong message by denying all fee increases
 - iii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 7, Nay: 9, Abstaining: 0

2. Approval of the MUB fee increase was denied
- f. Health Services fee
 - i. Time Roemer moved to approve the Health Services fee, seconded by Alireza Ebadi
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Amanda Sobel mentioned that no emails were sent by graduate students concerning the fee
 2. Amanda Demmer mentioned that a opt in/opt out option for Health Services might also spark some interest.
 3. Mica Kurtz mentioned that the health insurance package is offered completely separate from Health Services
 4. Mark Rubenstein mentioned that the health insurance is linked to health services.
 - iii. Vote to approve the fee
 1. Yay: 8, Nay: 6, Abstaining: 2
 2. Approval of the Health Services fee passed
 - g. Health Services fee increase
 - i. Tobi Afolayan moved to approve the Health Services fee increase of 0%, seconded by Amanda Demmer
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Mica Kurtz mentioned that a 0% increase isn't necessarily a good thing. Asked why the increase couldn't be negative.
 2. Tobi Afolayan mentioned that that question could be posed in the GSS Fee Recommendation Letter
 - iii. Vote to approve the fee increase
 1. Yay: 12, Nay: 2, Abstaining: 2
 2. Approval of the Health Services fee increase passed
 - h. Counseling Center fee
 - i. Amanda Demmer moved to approve the Counseling Center fee, seconded by Patrick LaCroix
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Amanda Demmer mentioned that it can be difficult to find similar services for graduate students outside of the university.
 2. Matt Smith agreed that the services are worth the cost
 3. Alireza Ebadi mentioned that the counseling services can be very important particularly for international students.
 - iii. Vote to approve the fee
 1. Yay: 16, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
 2. Approval of the Counseling Center fee passed
 - i. Counseling Center fee increase
 - i. Amanda Demmer moved to approve the Counseling Center fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Stanley Quartey
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Ezra Temko mentioned that the reason for the increase is salaries, and that seems reasonable
 - iii. Vote to approve fee increase
 1. Yay: 11, Nay: 4, Abstaining: 1
 2. Approval of Counseling Center fee increase passed
 - j. Transportation fee

- i. Tim Roemer moved to approve the Transportation fee, seconded by Stanley Quartey
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Amanda Demmer mentioned that the UNH buses overwhelming offer some kind of service to every type of student
 - 2. Mika Kurtz mentioned that the fee also goes towards plowing and parking
 - iii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 16, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
 - 2. Approval of Transportation fee passed
- k. Transportation fee increase
 - i. Tobi Afolayan moved to approve the Transportation fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Myles Lynch
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Alireza Ebadi mentioned that the GSS should be wary of fee increasing to include new bus routes
 - 2. Mike Verney responded that wasn't an issue for this year
 - iii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 10, Nay: 4, Abstaining: 2
 - 2. Approval of Transportation fee increase passed
- l. Dining fee
 - i. Ezra Temko moved to approve Dining fee, seconded by Amanda Sobel
 - ii. Vote to approve fee
 - 1. Yay: 13, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 3
 - 2. Approval of the Dining fee passed
- m. Dining fee increase
 - i. Tim Roemer moved to approve Dining fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Amanda Demmer
 - ii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 9, Nay: 5, Abstaining: 2
 - 2. Approval of Dining fee increase passed
- n. Housing fee
 - i. Tim Roemer moved to approve Housing fee, seconded by Ian Cohen
 - ii. Vote to approve fee
 - 1. Yay: 12, Nay: 1, Abstaining: 3
 - 2. Approval of Housing fee passed
- o. Housing fee increase
 - i. Amanda Demmer moved to approve Housing fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Ian Cohen
 - ii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 12, Nay: 1, Abstaining: 3
 - 2. Approval of Housing fee increase passed
- p. SHARPP fee
 - i. Ian Cohen moved to approve SHARPP fee, seconded by Amanda Demmer
 - ii. Vote to approve fee
 - 1. Yay: 15, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 1
 - 2. Approval of SHARPP fee passed
- q. SHARPP fee increase

- i. Mica Kurtz moved to approve SHARPP fee increase 0%, seconded by Tim Roemer
 - ii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 14, Nay: 1, Abstaining: 1
 - 2. Approval of SHARPP fee increase passed
- r. Technology fee
 - i. Myles Lynch moved to approve Technology fee, seconded by Alireza Ebadi
 - ii. Vote to approve fee
 - 1. Yay: 13, Nay: 3, Abstaining: 0
 - 2. Approval of Technology fee passed
- s. Technology fee increase
 - i. Tim Roemer moved to approve the Technology fee increase of 2.5%, seconded by Ian Cohen
 - ii. Vote to approve fee increase
 - 1. Yay: 9, Nay: 6, Abstaining: 1
 - 2. Approval of Technology fee increase passed

VIII. Adjournment - 2:02pm

- A. Motion made by Amanda Demmer, seconded by Tobi Afolayan.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire