

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
February 24, 2015
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, President, 12:41pm

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

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

B. Senators Present

Ezra Temko	COLA
Myles Lynch (leaving at 1:30)	CHHS
Patrick LaCroix	COLA
Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen	COLA
Amanda Demmer	COLA
Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Ian Cohen (via phone)	CEPS

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Morgan Crowley (proxy votes)	COLSA
Tobi Afolayan (proxy votes)	External Affairs
Madhav Baral (proxy votes)	Treasurer
Wali Raja (proxy votes)	UNH-Law
Matt Smith (proxy votes)	Grad School

D. Members at Large Present: 111

E. Guests: Bill Ross

F. Quorum (11 voting persons /18 filled voting positions): achieved with 15 (5/6 proxies)

III. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Motion to approve Feb 10th minutes:
 - a. Motion by Tim Roemer, seconded by Patrick LaCroix
 - b. Yea: 10 + (5 proxy), Nay: 0, Abstained: 1

IV. Guest Speaker - Bill Ross

- A. There has been a huge change in how libraries are used and how information is accessed.
- B. Have put together a group to assess the future of libraries on campus
- C. Have been looking at the various campuses library uses
- D. To balance collections, space, and access, need to distinguish between students and faculty
 - a. Grad students are more between the categories (are both students and instructors), so have purposely reached out to graduate students for opinions
 - b. Studies have showed undergrads view Dimond as “theirs” and have function concerns
 - c. Faculty don’t use the library so complaints are generally about available sources
- E. Myles Lynch asked what are you (Bill Ross and committee) generally looking for (from graduate students)? Are you looking for information on how grad students use the library?
 - a. Bill Ross answered that yes, how the library is used it one of the things they are looking for. The input is helping the faculty on committee understand the needs of grad students.
 - b. Bill Ross also noted that a large part of collections budget go to online databases.
- F. Member at Large (Damian Manda) commented that last year there was a change in the VPN, so previously could log in and able to have immediate access to library’s online resources, now have to go through library pages. Is this going to be resolved?
 - a. Bill Ross answered that Dimond has proxy server to create link for all people on campus, so need to be connected.
 - b. Damian Manda asked if the VPN be restored and is there a longer term plan for promoting how the access works?
 - c. Bill Ross answered that he feel that we (library) have fallen down on this. On last LibraryQual, got a lot of faculty responses about journals they believe we didn’t have, but we did. Case in point that if faculty can’t figure this out then the students may not as well.
- G. Patrick LaCroix commented that Bill Ross mentioned that %80 of collections budget is periodicals?
 - a. Bill Ross answered that the 80% is ALL digital resources.
 - b. Patrick LaCroix asked if all this money going to digital resources hurting monogram connection
 - c. Bill Ross answered that the focus really is digital. There has been about 75% drop in circular since 2009. Makes it hard to provide more budget for printed material since it’s not circulated. Are working to make sure we keep the balance.
 - d. Patrick LaCroix mentioned that he is concerned that key monograms in field are harder to find, only available on BLC.
 - e. Bill Ross answered that we keep tabs on the BLC usage, so if something is getting used frequently we will purchase (at least four uses).
- H. Myles Lynch mentioned one concern, that he uses Dimond a lot, and it seems to be a very noisy, probably due to undergrads. In the grad corals there aren’t computers, something he relies on. Is there any plan for more resources for grad students in the grad corals?
 - a. Bill Ross mentioned that one complaint about the quiet rooms is the keyboards for the computers.
- I. Mike Verney mentioned that he has found occasionally that groups use the grad corals as a group student space, despite the quiet space signs.

- a. Bill Ross answered that one issue is just planning, we planned for a certain amount of group study space but have seen huge increases in the need for this space. Have a working group looking at seating/spacing, so your (Myles Lynch) comment is good. Will mention to that group that we need to get grad student input on the issue. Also noted that you can reserve those group spaces online.
- J. Mica Kurtz asked what is your (Bill Ross) definition of a 2015 library?
 - a. Bill Ross answered that one thing of concern is determining HOW students, especially graduate students, USE the library. Think we need to make sure students know how to use the library effectively. We have depended on faculty scheduling that training, which as a professor I know can be hard to work into a schedule. Asked if workshops, or more instruction be helpful?
 - i. Ezra Temko answered that in my program we have a seminar class that does schedule that info session, but found the professor had better resources for me.
 - ii. Amanda Sobel answered that I would definitely like something like that since we (zoology) didn't get that. Also mentioned that it should maybe be program specific.
 - iii. Patrick LaCroix mentioned that not sure what undergrads have as far as access
 - 1. Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen answered that in teaching a 401 (English department) class we have an hour class which is hugely helpful and think it would continue to be helpful if more workshops were available.
 - iv. Ian Cohen mentioned that the grad school hosted a tutorial PFF about library usage and access. Someone from library came in and it was largely successful.
- K. Bill Ross finished by saying will provide his email address so questions can be passed on to the committee about setting up workshops (bill.ross@unh.edu)

V. Old Business

- A. Resolution AY2014-2105.4 (see attached)
 - a. Update is that Mike Verney and Mica Kurtz met with grad school deans
 - b. They are gathering data for us, so we have more information to assess
 - c. Business services will need hard numbers to consider this.
 - d. Something similar went through this process in the past, tried to waive all fees for PhD candidates.
 - i. Ezra Temko asked if the mile radius related to just where students live or is there something relating to how distances affect how students use the campus.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz answered that it is mostly just addresses.
 - 2. Ezra Temko mentioned that you would think with swiping everywhere it would be easy to collect that data.
 - 3. Mica Kurtz responded that one issue is that not all swipe systems are open due to confidentiality, making it not as easy to see.
- B. Resolution AY2014-2105.5 (see attached)
 - a. NH Governor recently proposed her new budget, which didn't match 2009 levels
 - b. BOT has determined that without the full restoration USNH will no longer be able to freeze tuition.
 - c. Motion to approve
 - i. Motion made by Myles Lynch, seconded by Amanda Sobel.
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Ezra Temko proposed a friendly amendment. Add overall to BE IT RESOLVED segment (between for its and efficiency)

- ii. Tim Roemer asked if NH only provides 90k instead of 1 mil, will tuition have to raise to fill the gap?
 - 1. Mike Verney answered that previously USNH was able to absorb the gap, but may not be able to do that again. At the last tuition freeze they (BOT) did it despite not a full restoration of funds since they thought there was enough effort made by the state.
- iii. Tim Roemer mentioned a worry that the BOT will be “thumbing” the state (by threatening to raise tuition if funds are not restored) and will negatively affect students
 - 1. Kelly Nifong commented that don’t think the BOT means to shoot themselves in the foot by hiking tuition (and potentially losing undergraduate tuition dollars) just to spite the state.
- iv. Patrick LaCroix asked what does NH legislation need as a push to restore funds?
 - 1. Mike Verney answered that Pres. Huddleston told a story that a previous governor had a senator come to their office talking about a huge influx of support for something. When the governor asked how many people had contacted the senator the senator said ten people. Point being that it doesn’t take much but people do need to make the effort to reach out to their legislator.
- v. Approval
 - 1. yay: 10 + 4 proxies, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 1
 - 2. Resolution approved

C. Tim Roemer - Assistantship Expectations

- a. Along with several lab mates have developed a concern for the exact expectations for assistantships. One question is where does the transition between GA and RA occur? Also curious about things like vacations, hours expectations, sick days, etc.
- b. Mike Verney commented that the wish is to clarify the expectations for GAs.
 - i. Tim Roemer answered that was correct. Would like to at least know where to go to find these guidelines.
- c. Patrick LaCroix asked if this is something that maybe the grad school puts on paper for all departments or is it program specific?
 - i. Tim Roemer answered that he personally would like to see just a clarification of the guidelines, may be helpful for the programs/advisors to see these to at least have the option to ignore them.
- d. Felicia Fowler commented that there are some documents, but agree that in needs to be in one place.
- e. Tim Roemer commented that he understands there are gray areas, but unsure where those are.
- f. Amanda Demmer commented that anything from grad school to apply to all grad students would have to be so vague it may be useless. Perhaps someone in GSS can go to Cary (Dean Moorhead) to try to unofficially determine a course of action without implicating anyone.
- g. Tim Roemer asked shouldn’t TAs at least be similar between departments
 - i. Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen answered not really.
- h. Mica Kurtz commented that the differences (between departments) are the reason for the vagueness.
- i. Mike Verney commented that it seems to be the issue is there are no guidelines to handle possible abuse. Agree that guidelines for how to address issues and concerns. Think this is something we could ask for.

- j. Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen commented that another option is a contract.
- k. Ezra Temko commented that can't really tackle an abuse unless we know what qualifies. Would be helpful for grad school to have various departments determine answers to some of these questions.
- l. Patrick LaCroix commented that another contract option could be fill-in by the individual departments.
- m. Ian Cohen mentioned that some departments have the contracts options that are successful. Another thing is that a grad school handbooks may have information about how to hand this.

VI. New Business

A. Bylaws Amendment 2015.1

- a. Mica Kurtz mentioned that this amendment will be adding a CEPS and CHHS senator (each). This addition is based on growing and changing grad student population. The GovComm did an informal assessment based on number of students and programs in order to determine the new number of Senators per college.
- b. This amendment will also be combining the Forest Park and Babcock Hall senator seats to make one Graduate housing seat in response to the changing grad student population in Babcock Hall.
- c. This amendment also added programing requirement for Senators (attend one event per semester) that was previously discussed by GSS.
- d. Motion to approve
 - i. Motion made by Ezra Temko, seconded by Amanda Demmer
- e. Discussion
 - i. Amanda Sobel asked when this would it go into effect.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz answered for next election.
 - ii. Amanda Demmer showed support for the amendments and agreed these are straight forward amendments.
 - iii. Ezra Temko mentioned that it may be worthwhile to mention to new senators that they can also host their own GSS events for other types of activities they may be engaged in.
 - iv. Patrick LaCroix asked if will there be a need to assess which programs the senators represent.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz answered that in the past the split of programs between Senators have been done on a case by case basis. Usually is based on the department the Senator is in and has contact with.
 - 2. Mike Verney also commented that due to the fluxes between year to year of the different programs, we try to keep things fair.
- f. Approval
 - i. Yay: 10 + 5 proxies, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0

B. Bylaws Amendment 2015.2

- a. Mica Kurtz commented that this amendment seeks to allow interested parties to run for both a Senator seat and an Executive Officer seat. In the past, without this, potential GGS members were lost due to losing an election.
- b. This amendment gives people an option to stay in GSS in a voting capacity.
- c. If someone wins both, the elected person will choose which position to fill.
- d. Second part is to increase number of votes required to win from one to two in order to deal with the write-in issues.
- e. Discussion

- i. Ezra Temko asked in the case of someone win both a Senator seat and Executive Officer seat, what happens to the position the person doesn't fill.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz answered that the runner up takes the position left empty.
- f. Approval
 - i. Yay: 10 + 5 proxies, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
- g. Ezra Temko commented that one way to deal with voting is approval voting, meaning people could vote for more than one person and persons with most votes win.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

- A. President - Mike Verney
 - a. Taylor Hodgden is new MUB-MOG representative
- B. Vice President - Mica Kurtz
 - a. Election
 - i. Nominations are open
 - b. Mike Verney commented that a massive turnover expected for next year, so nominations ARE important.
- C. External Affairs- Tobi Afolayan
 - a. None.
- D. Treasurer - Madhav Baral
 - a. None.
- E. Programing Committee - Tim Roemer
 - a. Change to GSAW - will be mentioned at next meeting.
 - b. First Thursday is next week - March 5th.

VIII. Ad-hoc Committees

- A. Grad Council - Mike Verney
 - a. Met on Feb 17
 - b. Overall trend of grad enrollment at UNH down
 - c. Approved new one-year Master in Public Policy (MPP)
 - d. Stipend proposals from Dean Richards; around a 3% increase
- B. Library Information Access Group - Mike Verney
 - a. Dimond and branch library check-outs down by ½ between 2009 and 2014
 - b. Dimond gate count is steady
 - c. Engineering gate count up a little and has stayed consistent
 - d. Chemical and Physics branch libraries also stayed consistent and nearly level.
- C. Provost Search Committee
 - a. Met Feb 13
 - b. Provost MacFarlane leaving to be principal of Phillips-Exeter Academy
 - c. Confidential process
 - d. Big Search Committee including faculty, student reps, BOT rep and Chief Paul Dean, and Associate Provosts
 - e. Idea is to finish by May and have new Provost for Fall 2015
- D. MUB-BOG - Taylor Hodgden
 - a. Kristen Mclinnle is speaker tomorrow at MUB. The talk is being co-sponsored by OSTEM (graduate student group focusing on support on LGBT community in STEM fields)
 - b. She will be talking about science as a performing art.
- E. Library Dean search committee - Amanda Demmer
 - a. Spoke with candidate for new library dean.

- b. She seems very open to communication with grad students.

IX. Adjournment - 2:00pm

- A. Motion by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Felicia Fowler.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly L Nifong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire

A Resolution Regarding the Requirements for Waiving Graduate Mandatory Fees

Sponsored by: Ian Cohen, CEPS Senator & Michael Kurtz, Vice President

WHEREAS, the mandatory fees assessed to graduate students at the University of New Hampshire currently total \$1,788.00 for the 2014/2015 Academic Year; and

WHEREAS, those mandatory fees include Health Services, Campus Recreation, Memorial Union Building, Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP), Transportation Services, Counseling Center, and Technology; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the mandatory fees supplement the budget of campus-based services and amenities in Durham; and

WHEREAS, graduate students at the Manchester and Concord campuses pay different fees assessed for those campuses; and

WHEREAS, current policy states that doctoral students at candidacy are only qualified to petition for the waiver of mandatory fees if the student “recently relocated and/or permanently resides out of the immediate geographic area (50 miles) prior to the beginning of classes.”

WHEREAS, students living more than 30 miles from campus are unlikely to utilize the on-campus facilities covered by the mandatory fees because of preference for other alternatives closer to their place of residence; and

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages that the radius used to define “the immediate geographic area” when regarding waivers for mandatory fees be reduced from 50 miles to 30 miles.

A Resolution Supporting the USNH Biennial Budget Request for FY16-17

Sponsored by: Ian Cohen, CEPS Senator

WHEREAS, the University System of New Hampshire (USNH), composed of the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, and Granite State College, graduates over 6,500 people into the New Hampshire workforce each year and contributes more than \$2 billion into the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the state appropriation for USNH was cut by 49 percent for FY2012; and

WHEREAS, the budget request from USNH for the FY2014/2015 biennium promised to freeze tuition for in-state students in return for restoration of funding to the FY2011 level; and

WHEREAS, the state appropriation for USNH's operating budget was \$69 million and \$84 million for FY2014 and FY2015, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the USNH Board of Trustees committed to that tuition freeze despite only partial restoration of FY2011 funding levels; and

WHEREAS, despite the reduction in state appropriation in FY2012 and FY2013, USNH continued to fund financial aid at FY2011 levels to minimize the direct impact on New Hampshire students; and

WHEREAS, USNH expenses are about 25% lower than the regional average and about half as much as NH private nonprofit colleges; and

WHEREAS, USNH receives only 7 percent of its operating budget from the state- the lowest level of support per capita in the nation; and

WHEREAS, USNH students graduate with one of the highest debt loads in the country and the price of attendance at USNH institutions is far greater than it would be if the state met its obligation to properly fund public higher education; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's public colleges and universities struggle to retain the state's best and brightest high school graduates in the state because they can often go to other states' schools or private institutions at less cost after scholarships are factored in; and

WHEREAS, the USNH Board of Trustees approved a Biennial Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2015-2016, requesting \$100 million for FY2016 and \$105 million for FY2017; and

WHEREAS, the USNH Board of Trustees has committed that any increases over the current appropriate level would be targeted toward enacting another two-year freeze on in-state tuition,

lowering net tuition for students focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)-related majors of study, and lowering net tuition for community college transfer-students in targeted workforce programs,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) at UNH commends the University System of New Hampshire for its efficiency and effectiveness in supplying high-quality education to the students of New Hampshire, despite the lowest state support per capita in the nation; and

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSS of the University of New Hampshire implore both Houses of the New Hampshire State Legislature to approve the Biennial Budget Request for FY2015-2016 as submitted by the University System of New Hampshire.