

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
March 10, 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
Madhav Baral	Treasurer
Tobi Afolayan (via phone)	External Affairs

B. Senators Present

Ezra Temko	COLA
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Felicia Fowler	CHHS
Patrick LaCroix	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Amanda Demmer	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Matt Smith (email proxy)	Graduate School
Wali Raja	UNH-Law
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS
Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen	COLA
Stanley Quartey	Paul

D. Members at Large Present: Taylor Hodgdon, Damian Manda

E. Guests: Chris Clement, Lincoln & Lisa (running for Student Trustee)

F. Quorum (11 voting persons /18 filled voting positions): achieved with 13

### III. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Motion to approve Feb 24th minutes:
  - a. Motion by Ian Cohen, seconded by Myles Lynch
  - b. Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Abstained: 1

### IV. Guest Speaker - Chris Clement

- A. Grew up in Sommersworth, UNH alum, worked in manufacturing for 18 years. Got out of manufacturing to be head of DOT commissioner for Gov. Lynch.
- B. New VP for Finance and Administration
  - a. Equivalent to COO/CFO
  - b. Oversees: transportation, MUB, campus rec, IT, campus police, facilities
  - c. Ian Cohen asked what is your feeling on RCM
    - i. Chris Clement answered that it is a budgeting tool. It is a system of decentralized funding. So it is not a use it or lose it system (when it comes to money and spending).
    - ii. It has goods and bads to it.
    - iii. It has very few discretionary funds for president.
      - 1. This plays a role in hiring
    - iv. UNH is currently "tweaking" RCM. RCM gets reviewed every 5 years.
    - v. It is very structured, so there is very little ability to be flexible.
  - d. Ian Cohen commented that the two biggest issues that grad students have with RCM is one, discretionary funds. We hear that auxiliary units have a very limited amount of budget that than can actually be used. Two, it makes things difficult for grad student tuition. Since the money gets funneled by the college, it makes it difficult for interdisciplinary tuition to get properly funneled.
    - i. Chris Clement answered that the interdisciplinary tuition issue has been discussed at the upper level and will likely be addressed.
  - e. Patrick LaCroix asked what is the plan to help keep costs low for students?
    - i. Chris Clement answered that the amount the state gives goes hand and glove with what the university can do for the students. NH give lowest amount of funds to the universities out of all the states.
    - ii. Not going to change unless we as a populus (students) start talking to legislators. We cannot just grovel to a few legislators, because it's not enough. DOT took the issues to the businesses and the people, which turned out to be very powerful.
    - iii. UNH administration is working to figure out how to encourage students to reach out.
    - iv. Chris Clement stated that his personal plan is to go out and tell the public how important investing in high education is.
    - v. UNH community needs to make the effort to reach out to state legislators.
  - f. Mike Verney commented that sounds like you are going to do great things. If you saw our recent resolution, we are in support of the state restoring funding. We want to keep working to support this. The letter to lawmakers that the undergraduate senate is hosting is huge.
    - i. Chris Clement agreed that the students and younger generation really need to be active, because you are very powerful.

- g. Ian Cohen commented that going in mass to Concord, was something we were dissuaded from doing by the administration in the past. Mike Stark convinced us to NOT descend on concord when funding was originally cut.
  - i. Chris Clement answered that he would need to talk to Mike Stark and find out why.
  - ii. View my job as spending as much time out of Thompson Hall as possible to reach the public. It took 2 years for the DOT presentation, estimate it will take 3 years for this.
  - iii. He feel this is something that really needs to be fixed because UNH can't keep charging/feeing students to death.
- h. Ian Cohen asked so isn't there a point where there is only so much money in the budget?
  - i. Chris Clement answered that this was by choice, due to tax structure.
  - ii. Some things will have to be cut, but the state needs to figure out how they want to be seen. I Feel that we should be seen as a smart state. Someone needs to take a risk to really accomplish this. I am willing to risk my job to make sure things are pushed.
- i. Chris Clement asked what can i do, what can UNH administration do, to make things better for you. Commented he is not a typical administrator.
  - i. Mica Kurtz commented that you are talking about advocating for funds for UNH overall, but there will be times that you have to distribute the funds, and sometimes something that is good for the university overall may be bad for grad students. We ask that we are included in those discussions. It has happened before that something affects us, and we learn about it after the fact. We would really like to be offered the chance to give our input.
    - 1. Chris Clement commented that he doesn't know a lot yet.
    - 2. He is restarting the central budget committee
      - a. Mike Verney commented that we would love to have a rep on that committee.
    - 3. Chris Clement commented that when he asked the deans the same question, the response was the old committee was a lot more of the administration telling them how to spend the money, so they didn't feel the committee is necessary if that trend was to be continued.
    - 4. The campus recreation expansion, the \$230 increase will be insane. It is going to be very hard to get that to go over with students.
    - 5. Ian Cohen commented that one of the things we are always find with administration is they proclaim that UNH is a research institution, but their actions dont always respect that, especially for grad students who are part of the research goal.
      - a. Morgan Crowley commented that the stipend is part of the problem, grad school is a job, but a lot of students barely have enough to live on.
      - b. Ian Cohen commented that we feel UNH needs to make a commitment to graduate students.
      - c. Mica Kurtz commented that something else is that students often refers to undergraduates, especially when saying we respect our students and research is important.
      - d. Chris Clement asked if this concern been told to provost. The answer was yes it has.

- e. Morgan Crowley said one possible next step is for grad students to unionize.
- f. Chris Clement asked if that was possible.
- g. Ian Cohen answered that lots of other universities have unionized grad students.

## V. New Business

- A. Student Trustee Election - Mike Verney
  - a. Started working the undergrads last year about grad students voting in the Student Trustee election.
  - b. This was accomplished this year. We have proposed a resolution to thank them for that effort.
  - c. There are two candidates
    - i. Lisa - [imt99@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:imt99@wildcats.unh.edu) (junior)
    - ii. Lincoln - [jy55@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:jy55@wildcats.unh.edu) (works on USS)
  - d. Mica Kurtz commented that your experiences are as undergraduates, but the position represents not just undergrads and grads at UNH but at all USNH schools. How will you work to understand the different constituencies?
    - i. Lisa - will work to reach out and ask what the different school/student groups need.
    - ii. Lincoln - see no reason why the trustee couldn't come to GSS meetings to help stay in touch. Also should keep in close contact with GSS Pres and External Affairs.
  - e. Ian Cohen asked how do you feel you'll be able to put away your UNH undergrad bias when BOT has to vote on issues that affect the overall system. One example being grad students being able to run for the student trustee position.
    - i. Lisa - do have to think about the greater good. Definitely think grad students should be able to (run for student trustee) since the position affects them as well.
    - ii. Lincoln - need to look at the issue from all sides before making the decision. Do also support graduate students running for student trustee

## VI. Old Business

- A. Assistantship Expectations - Mike Verney
  - a. update: meeting with Dean Moorhead thursday morning (any are welcome to attend, just let us know beforehand)
- B. Resolution AY2014/2015.6 - read by Kelly Nifong (see attached)
  - a. Motion to approve
    - i. Motion by Ezra Temko, seconded by Tim Roemer
  - b. Discussion
    - i. Ian Cohen: friendly amendment
    - ii. Ian Cohen would like to point out that we took the issue to BOT, where they supported graduate students voting. So we need to make it sure it doesn't seem like the USS idea, since they were only following what the BOT said.
    - iii. Ezra Temko asked if we should add language about grad students being able to run for the position?
    - iv. Ian Cohen answered that the BOT needs to change their policy about who can run. They told us to confer with undergrads and figure out the details behind how that would work.

- c. Motion to table until next meeting
  - i. Motion by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Tim Roemer
  - ii. Yay 13, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
- C. Graduate Research Conference - Myles Lynch
  - a. Need volunteers in helping with set-up for poster session or help as moderators for oral presentations. Passing around sign up.
  - b. Mike Verney commented that as the gss we really should support the GRC.

#### **IV. Standing Committee Reports**

- A. President - Mike Verney
  - a. Reaching out to undergrads to keep the information flow going. Will be having a meeting soon with them.
  - b. Library's Information Access Group, met March 6th.
- B. Vice President - Mica Kurtz
  - a. Voting is live, will run until March 24th
  - b. Student trustee link will be active starting tomorrow
- C. External Affairs- Tobi Afolayan
  - a. UNH Alumni Association
    - i. Met last week
    - ii. Discussed updates about ongoing initiatives
- D. Treasurer - Madhav Baral
  - a. none
- E. Programming Committee - Tim Roemer
  - a. First Thursday last week - way too much pizza. Will have to adjust number of pies again.

#### **V. Ad-hoc Committees**

- A. none

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

- A. Motion by Patrick LaCroix, seconded by Mica Kurtz.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Resolution AY2014/2105.6  
March 10, 2105

A Resolution Thanking Student Senate and the University of New Hampshire Administration for  
Allowing Graduate Students to Vote for Student Trustee  
Sponsored by Michael Verney, President

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of Student Senate and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) met on April 4, 2014, and agreed that the position of Student Trustee ought to represent all student within the University System of New Hampshire and that graduate students therefore ought to be able to vote and run in elections for Student Trustee in the following spring 2015 election cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee is a voting position on the University System of New Hampshire's (USNH's) Board of Trustees, and therefore holds appreciable influence over the lives of all students in the USNH; and

WHEREAS, in a meeting between members of the Executive Committee of Student Senate and the GSS on February 27, 2015, the leadership of Student Senate agreed to honor its agreement from the following year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustee's Governance Policy states that only undergraduate students are eligible to be candidates for Student Trustee, but that "all students eligible to vote for student body president at the institution scheduled to hold the student trustee election shall be eligible to vote for student trustee;"<sup>i</sup> and

WHEREAS, there are two student body president at the University of New Hampshire, one for undergraduate students and one for graduate students, which fact allows graduate students to currently vote for Student Trustee but not run for the position; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Mark Rubinstein and President Mark Huddleston have supported the agreement between Student Senate and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) regarding graduate student suffrage in elections for Student Trustee, and have otherwise offered helpful counsel and information;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the GSS expresses its gratitude to Student Senate for fulfilling its promise and Vice President Mark Rubinstein and President Mark Huddleston for their advice and support.

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<sup>i</sup> BOT.1.A.3 and BOT.1.A.4, respectively