

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
March 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 |
| Madhav Baral | Treasurer      |

B. Senators Present

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Morgan Crowley           | COLSA       |
| Ezra Temko               | COLA        |
| Felicia Fowler           | CHHS        |
| Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen | COLA        |
| Myles Lynch              | CHHS        |
| Amanda Sobel             | Forest Park |
| Alireza Ebadi            | CEPS        |
| Matt Smith               | Grad School |
| Ian Cohen                | CEPS        |

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Amanda Demmer   | COLA             |
| Tobi Afolayan   | External Affairs |
| Wali Raja       | UNH-Law          |
| Stanley Quartey | Paul             |
| Patrick LaCroix | COLA             |

D. Members at Large Present: 2

E. Guests: Stacey Hall

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

### III. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Motion to approve March 10th minutes:
  - a. Motion by Ian Cohen, seconded by Mica Kurtz
  - b. Yea: 12, Nay: 0, Abstained: 1

### IV. Guest Speaker - Stacey Hall

- A. Excited to host GRC Poster Session for second time (in Whitmore Center)
- B. Note, only had 1.7% fee increase, based on concerns raised by GSS at the initial meeting.
  - a. This information didn't make it to you before vote, hopefully that will change for next year.
- C. Oversee 11 different facilities
  - a. Rec Center and Whitmore are the 2 main buildings,
    - i. Tim Roemer asked if new extension will be third building
    - ii. Stacey Hall answered that it won't be a separate building, but will make the distinction between Whit and campus rec more clear by creating a new campus rec entrance
- D. ID Swipe data
  - a. Analyzed to show number of males & females
  - b. Ezra Temko asked what the percentage of graduate student usage is compared to undergrads usage
    - i. Stacey Hall couldn't directly answer that comparison but do know that first year undergraduates use the rec center more. Its about 73% that use the gym at least once a year.
  - c. Ian Cohen asked if there is any way to tell the difference between the different types of grad students (masters, PhD, etc)?
    - i. Stacey Hall answered not really.
  - d. Ian Cohen asked what about international students?
    - i. Stacey Hall answered that we have in the past, and it was a significant amount.
  - e. Mike Verney asked what about part time students?
    - i. Stacey Hall answered that we track anyone who has enough credits to have paid the fee (which includes part-time students).
- E. Rec Expansion
  - a. Will be taking over part of the previous outdoor pool area.
  - b. It is a many year process
  - c. We went through a 2-step process with BOT.
    - i. The idea was presented and then they voted on the proposal at a different time
  - d. Will include instructional kitchen/classroom space.
    - i. Mica Kurtz asked what classes will be held there
      - 1. Stacey Hall answered this is being funded in part by Health Services, and the idea is that it will be non-academic usage.
  - e. Will include consultation space for Health Services
    - i. Mica Kurta what consultations will health services be doing?
    - ii. Stacey Hall answered it will help them with their need for more space. It was cheaper for health services to help fund a space than them to fund their own extension.
  - f. There is a new link on website so people can keep up with the progress.
  - g. Tim Roemer asked what is the time frame for the change? What kind of disruptions will there be?

- i. Stacey Hall answered that we are trying to keep anything that would be disruptive to breaks (summer, winter, spring break) when it would be the least likely to disrupt students.
- ii. Mica Kurtz mentioned that it seems that idea is aimed more at undergrads.
  - 1. Stacey Hall answered that when we say disruptive, we mean that there will be some issue but will just be things moved around. Campus Rec will not be closing totally and will be keeping some functionality at all times.
- iii. Mica Kurtz asked if fees will be adjusted accordingly (to compensate for closure/disruptive services)?
  - 1. Stacey Hall answered that will need to know more about the time/amount of disruptive before we can consider that.
- iv. Ian Cohen asked will the locker rooms/showers be upgraded?
  - 1. Stacey Hall answered that the showers will be upgraded, getting rid of the buttons.
  - 2. One thing that we are working on is getting new lockers.
  - 3. The space and main functionality will remain the same, but improvements are planned.
- v. Mica Kurtz asked so the rec center is expanding but the locker area isn't?
  - 1. Stacey Hall answered that they will not, but there will be more lockers, restrooms, and changing spaces added.
- h. Ezra Temko asked what other changes will be occurring to the existing rec center.
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that downstairs, existing workout room (main equipment room) will be turned into martial arts and cycling space.
  - ii. Upstairs where the bikes are on the track will be turned into the functional space, the social and bouldering space will be converted to the instructional kitchen and classroom. (Showed floor plans)
  - iii. Member at Large asked if they are losing a racquetball court?
    - 1. Stacey Hall answered that unfortunately yes, will be losing two. However the thought is people who use the courts for things other than playing racquetball will move to the function space.

#### F. Fee

- a. Budget is 30 million for expansion
  - i. This is the max loan from the state, this is the max number, so worst case scenario right now. Will likely be a little less since the health services funding hasn't been included yet.
- b. 5.5 million of the budget is for deferred maintenance
  - i. That money will not be paid back and won't impact student fees
- c. With the worst case scenario loan interest, the fee raise is \$230. \$145 is loan payment, the rest is RCM.
- d. Myles Lynch asked if the old entrance be sealed?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that yes it will be sealed as main entrance, but an emergence exit will be kept.
- e. Myles Lynch asked what will be done instead of card swipes?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that it hasn't been figure out completely yet but will have something.
- f. Mica Kurtz mentioned that never heard of a construction project not going over budget.
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that we have several steps in place to try and prevent us from going over budget.

- ii. We will be getting an updated budget soon. Another budget assessment will be when we start trying lock prices. We will be aiming at bidding out not at peak construction times to try and keep costs lower.
- g. Ian Cohen asked how long is loan? 30 years?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered yes.
- h. Ian Cohen asked when the Whit loan expires, will the loan interest (in student fees) go down? Seems like this project was based largely on undergrad interest, we just don't want to be stuck with the bill with no guarantee we will get the money "back".
  - i. Stacey Hall answered didn't know what will occur when the loans expire. Mentioned that the loans won't be applied to the student fees until the services are fully functional.
- i. Myles Lynch asked with health services are being included. is there any other group you could include to maybe help with costs?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that Northeast programming (working with veterans) has been really involved with planning to make the space more usable. Mentioned that looking at possible funding would be nice.
- j. Tim Roemer mentioned that I know grad students have asked in the past for more precise swipe data, what is the update on that?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that haven't had a chance to really look at it. Would like to know more about what questions you guys are trying to answer from the data. Mentioned it is likely we've lost a lot of data this year due to some server outages.
  - ii. Ian Cohen answered that GSS is looking mainly for individual usage, not the total number of swipes that has been presented in the past.
    1. Stacey Hall mentioned that the information presented (today) was individual persons, not total swipes.
    2. Ian Cohen mentioned have to be careful about invading privacy, but demographics are something that we are interested in as well.
    3. Stacey Hall answered that data would require pairing with the registrars office, but could be done, especially if we know what information you would like.
    4. Mike Verney answered that we could certainly figure out some questions and send them to you.
- k. Ian Cohen mentioned surprise at not seeing any sort of food, smoothy bar, etc.
  - i. Stacey Hall answered thaty have looked at it, but hard part of partnering with dining is they wouldn't share revenue, which is something we need.
  - ii. We are looking at doing more premium classes (wilderness training, tennis lessons) something that students could pay for since it would be an easier revenue stream for us.
- l. Mike Verney mentioned a question about revenue. Looking at all the classes, is there any way for those units to help fund themselves?
  - i. Stacey Hall answered that the personal training area would be one area.
  - ii. Mike Verney commented that would rather see the gym focusing on the core services than using money on random classes.
- m. Tim Roemer asked did you look at something besides dining services?
  - i. Stacey Hall mentioned there is a possibility for using food services in the whit, (concessions) since that is under campus rec.
  - ii. Another revenue source would be renting out the space for larger events, possible donor dinners, etc.

- n. Ian Cohen commented that paying premium seems strange when we already pay so much in the fee (related to Mike Verney's comment)
  - i. Mike Verney commented that with the goal of decreasing overall fee, students paying for the extras they want.
  - ii. Stacey Hall commented that they have been looking at reducing costs based on RCM, using less resources, so possibly lowering things that way. The repairs and extension will likely help with that.

## V. Old Business

- A. Resolution AY2014/2015.6 (see attached) - Mike Verney
  - a. Some changes made based on Ian Cohen's comments at last meeting.
  - b. Friendly amendment (4th whereas "following year" changed to "previous year")
  - c. Motion to pass
    - i. motion made by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Tim Roemer
  - d. Discussion
    - i. Ian Cohen proposed a friendly amendment (taking out only undergraduate students students are eligible to be candidates). Commented that we shouldn't draw attention to the fact since we want to change it and don't support it.
    - ii. Ezra Temko had a question about us not being on the initial election but only the run-off.
      - 1. Mike Verney answered that it was too complicated to figure out how to be on the initial election since there weren't any candidates and it was write in only.
  - e. Vote
    - i. Yay: 12, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 0
    - ii. Resolution Passed.

## VI. New Business

- A. GRC - Myles Lynch
  - a. Still need volunteers!!
  - b. You can help campaign
    - i. Trying to get as much involvement as possible
    - ii. Will offer meal for people who go to at least four of the different events (will get sheet and stamps to keep track).

## IV. Standing Committee Reports

- A. Vice President - Mica Kurtz
  - a. Voting is live, until midnight
    - i. have 10 more voters than last year :)
  - b. Health Insurance Advisory board meeting tomorrow
  - c. Lincoln won student trustee election
- B. External Affairs- Mike Verney
  - a. Student Governance
    - i. Is an association being formed now that includes all student governance bodies (actually 7 on campus included greek life).
    - ii. Working on becoming a recognized student org
    - iii. Goal is to encourage more involvement between student organizations across university.

- C. Treasurer - Madhav Baral
  - a. none
- D. Programming Committee - Tim Roemer
  - a. Next thursday is first thursday
  - b. Don't forget you need to attend at least one programming event per semester!!
- E. President - Mike Verney
  - a. Library's Information Access Group
    - i. Met March 13, 2015
    - ii. Provost MacFarlane was present, talked about RCM review process.
  - b. Val Harper, Natural Science Resource Center
    - i. Wanted to know how to reach out to stakeholders.
  - c. Update on assistantship expectations
    - i. Met with Dean Moorhead on Thursday March 12
    - ii. Drafted letter and recommendations
  - d. Provost Search Committee met on March 23
    - i. still a closed process so no updates.

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

- A. Survey Committee - Ian Cohen
  - a. Have been putting together a survey in order to gather information, especially for fee process
  - b. Annual surveys were done regularly at the beginning of GSS, but last one is from 2008.
  - c. Will be given through Qualtrics - a survey tool available via UNH
  - d. There will be prizes available, so make sure to take it and get your friends to also!
- B. 150th anniversary committee - Ian Cohen
  - a. this year has been working on framework for what they want to do
  - b. main things is taking things that already exist and making them 150th anniv-themed
  - c. nothing will be launched until next year, so will need someone to pick up ian place in may
- C. Equity Committee to Council for Inclusive Excellence and Equity - Ezra Temko
  - a. Committee was disbanded
  - b. Working on bringing people together in a different capacity, so reforming but as part of something else
- D. 5th annual UNH Anti-Violence Rally and Walk - Thursday April 9 on T-Hall Lawn 12:30-2pm
  - a. Need people to March wearing GSS gear

#### **VIII. Adjournment - 2:03 pm**

- A. Motion by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Tim Roemer

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk  
 Graduate Student Senate  
 University of New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Resolution AY2014/2105.6  
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>1</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>1</sup> BOT.1.A.3 and BOT.1.A.4, respectively

