

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
April 7, 2015
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, President, 12:45pm

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

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

B. Senators Present

Ian Cohen	CEPS
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS
Patrick LaCroix	COLA
Matt Smith	Graduate School
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Felicia Fowler	CHHS
Ezra Temko	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Kassie Dietershagen	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Wali Raja	UNH-Law
Stanley Quartey	Paul
Amanda Demmer	COLA

D. Members at Large Present: 3

E. Guests: none

F. Quorum (11 voting persons /18 filled voting positions): achieved with 14

III. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Motion to approve March 24th minutes:
 - a. Motion by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Tobi Afolayen
 - b. Yea: 13, Nay: 0, Abstained: 1

IV. Old Business

- A. GSS Letter on assistantship expectations - Mike Verney
 - a. GA expectations were brought up as a concern by some members
 - b. Met with Assistant Dean Moorhead to go over this
 - c. The letter is a follow up on the meeting
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Ian Cohen can you explain the what the link (in letter) is
 - 1. Mike Verney answered it lays out some of the GA appointment roles and definitions.
 - 2. Ezra Temko added that it is a link to the GA catalog.
 - ii. Patrick LaCroix asked if Dean Moorhead indicated what her feels the oversight process should be and how grievances should be handled.
 - 1. Mike Verney answered that she mentioned that she needs to tread lightly since she doesn't oversee the graduate coordinators, so she can't chastise these people. Pointed out we do need to figure out how to clarify what the chain of command is when there are instances.
 - iii. Morgan Crowley asked if the issue of field work outside of your GA come up at all.
 - 1. Mike Verney answered that this didn't come up specifically, but we did talk about how there are challenges that are specific to the different disciplines. Mentioned that is something that could added to the letter and further discussions.
 - 2. Morgan Crowley mentioned she has heard from people that they are being asked to do field work on weekends when they are a TA
 - 3. Tim Roemer commented that Dean Moorhead did express a concern of this of advisors expecting work outside of the outlines assistantship responsibilities.
 - iv. Myles Lynch mentioned one suggestion about language "spurred by report", should maybe include language of specific scenarios, making things less vague.
 - 1. Mike Verney agreed that might be able to pose some hypothetical scenarios.
 - 2. Myles Lynch commented that it will make things more broad, covering more examples.
 - v. Member at Large posed a question about the list of recommendations, commented that a lot of them speak to graduate students, but only one lines speaking to training faculty. It is difficult for a new grad student to approach a senior faculty member, who is used to taking advantage of grad students, with concerns. Maybe a workshop or refresher training would be a good thing to recommend.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz agreed with this. Commented that even though there is a faculty handbook, feel like most faculty wouldn't see any changes. Agrees that a training would be more useful.

2. Tim Roemer commented that one issue is that Dean Moorhead doesn't have that authority to make faculty go to a refresher training. We would have to go through the faculty senate to accomplish this.
 3. Mica Kurtz mentioned that even though he doesn't think the handbook isn't a good place to start, we should try and go to the senate as well.
- vi. Mike Verney wanted to call attention to the goal of being a graduate student is both a doing research, but also doing in a timely manor. Would encouraging a grad school to do a training be something we want to do?
 1. Tim Roemer asked if would it be possible to approach the faculty senate about a training?
 - vii. Mike Verney asked if we send this just to the graduate school or to the grad school and the faculty senate?
 1. Morgan Crowley answered she thinks both.
 2. Ian Cohen agreed and mentioned that the deans, provost, vice provost, and faculty senate should all be included.
 - viii. Ian Cohen asked if there is similar documentation of best practices at other universities?
 1. Mike Verney answered that he is not sure.
 2. Ian Cohen commented that it would be good to look at so we can say other universities are doing "blank" for similar issues.
 3. Mike Verney agreed and mentioned he will ask the deans if they have that information.

V. New Business

- A. President Huddleston & Provost MacFarlane visit - Mike Verney
 - a. They were originally scheduled to visit earlier in the semester but were postponed due to the snow days.
 - b. Questions for their visit
 - i. Response to the fee letter?
 - ii. What will the new provost position provide?
 - iii. What is the update on the restoration of funding from NH state senate and how can we help?
 - iv. How did their graduate school experiences influence their current positions?
 - v. For Provost MacFarlane: what does the Provost do, and what did she feel she accomplished for graduate students during her time at UNH?
 - c. Ian Cohen added, where do you see UNH graduate student education in ten years?
 - d. Tobi Afolayan added, generally speaking, how do you see affordability of graduate school changing?
 - e. Mica Kurtz added, what is your view on the role of graduate student education at UNH?
 - f. Mike Verney asked is there much more we need to know/hear about how to be involved in the restoration of funding from NH state senate?
 - i. Mica Kurtz suggested we could just ask for an update on the situation.
- B. Stacey Hall's visit at previous meeting (March 24th) - Mike Verney
 - a. We talked about graduate student usage data, Ask us what kind of data are we looking for?
 - i. Myles Lynch commented that she showed percentage of male and female graduate students using campus rec, but would be better to see frequency of use. Also asked if it would be possible to get the raw data so we can do our own analysis.

1. Mica Kurtz added that with whatever caveats they need to make to maintain privacy.
- ii. Mike Verney asked if the gender break down something we want to see?
 1. Myles Lynch answered why? We really only care about number of graduate students, so gender doesn't matter as much. Also if we get the raw data we can do that ourselves.
- iii. Mica Kurtz mentioned that masters vs PHD students would be a good break down.
- iv. Tobi Afolayan asked what about commuter vs non-commuter? And what about distance from campus?
- v. Tim Roemer mentioned that time of day of usage might be interesting, day-time or night-time might show something about how far the student has to travel to get home.
 1. Ezra Temko commented that this might be good for showing when graduate students use the rec center to show when/how the future closures might affect us.
 2. Morgan Crowley commented that it might also be interesting to see the time of year.
 3. Tim Roemer added that it might be good to see how many went in the summer in previous years, vs how many went last summer with the new summer fee.
- vi. Mike Verney commented that Stacey Hall has expressed interest in graduate student usage assessed by the survey.
 1. Ian Cohen added that with the current results of survey - 153 responses to campus rec question
 - a. 10% use it daily
 - b. 18% use it several times a week
 - c. 11% use it several times a month
 - d. 32% use it less than several times a month
 - e. 29% use it never
- vii. Ezra Temko commented that comparing fee levels to other institutions would be something good to look at.
- b. Mike Verney commented that we will see how much of this we can get. Never hurts to ask.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. President - Mike Verney

a. GSS Survey

- i. We are really trying to get a lot of surveys to help inform our fee process for upcoming years.
- ii. The goal is that we will be able to take the numbers to the administration. We gave ourselves an ambitious goal of getting 500 surveys.
- iii. The grad school and Myles Lynch have been very kind in allowing us to piggy-back on the GRC and GPSAW
- iv. At the GRC we will have a table at the poster session and the oral session to promote the survey
 1. Will have GSS banner and a computer so people can take the survey.
 2. Will need people to manning the table, would like to see at least two people at the table at all times.

- v. Alireza Ebadi mentioned he had question about the survey. Took it and really liked it, but was wondering if someone who does/knows surveys involved?
 - 1. Ian Cohen answered that yes we worked with the UNH survey center and Ezra Temko helped.
 - 2. Ezra Tenko commented that also all of the auxiliary units provided feedback before the release of the survey.
 - 3. Mike Verney commented that also the deans approved it.
 - 4. Mica Kurtz add that we can/will likely change some things in the future, but the core of the survey hopefully will be helpful for future years.
- vi. Also we are doing a competition about the percentage of graduate students in the different departments. the senators whose colleges have the highest percentages will be able to pie Mike Verney and Mica Kurtz, one at the last meeting on May 5th and the other at the last first thursday, May 7th.
 - 1. Kelly Nifong added that Ezra Temko has put a lot of work into posting weekly updates on facebook about which colleges/programs are in the lead.
 - 2. Ezra Temko added that if your college/program aren't in the top three on the facebook post, one: work harder, and two: email me since I have all the information and can tell you where your college/program stands.

B. Vice President - Mica Kurtz

a. GSS Elections

- i. Have a couple positions that are still open
 - 1. Clerk
 - 2. One COLA senator
 - 3. Two CHHS senators
 - 4. UNH Manchester senator
 - 5. Housing senator
- ii. CEPS and Paul are unclear, since they have been elected by haven't responded about accepting the position.
- iii. Ezra Temko asked if there is a deadline for accepting?
 - 1. Mica Kurtz answered that not officially, but that is something we can look into for the future.
- iv. Mike Verney commneted that there is a process if the person is inactive, come fall the person can be removed.
 - 1. Mica Kurtz commented that process can begin as soon new senate takes office in July.
 - 2. Mike Vernery added though the focus SHOULD be getting people to be involved instead of getting rid of them.
- v. Mica Kurtz commented that if you know anyone to fill those empty positions let any of the ExecComm know.

b. Binders

- i. We would like to get them back if you will not be serving again next year to keep us from having to buy new binders.

C. External Affairs- Tobi Afolayen

a. BOT meeting coming up on April 18th

- i. Will be presenting the GSS survey, so will need to go over process and the results
- ii. Ian Cohen asked has the invitation to the GRC been extended to the trustees?
 - 1. Tobi Afolayen answered yes, but verbally.

2. Ian Cohen commented that it might be better to send a formal email from the GSS as an invite.
 3. Myles Lynch added I have the formal flyer that can be attached.
- D. Treasurer - Madhav Baral
- a. Nothing new
 - b. Looked at the numbers for the remaining events and we are in good shape.
 - c. Likely we will be able to save some money to spend on things for the GSS at the end of the semester
 - i. Kelly Nifong added that we would like to look at options for GSS swag, so any suggestions are welcome.
- E. Programming Committee - Tim Roemer
- a. Last week was a successful first thursday, finished all the pizza
 - b. Next week is GPSAW, a lot of events
 - i. Monday - commuter breakfast
 - ii. Tuesday - GRC poster session
 - iii. Wednesday - GRC oral session and Take a Grad to Lunch
 - iv. Thursday morning - at all UNH dining coffee spots, show graduate student ID and get a regular size regular coffee or tea for free.
 - v. Friday - Spring Fling, pasta dinner at Scorps 5-7:30pm.
 - c. Patrick LaCroix asked what is the Take a Grad to Lunch?
 - i. Myles Lynch answered if you are presenting or helping to moderate the oral presentation, you'll get a free pass to UNH dining.
 - ii. Alireza Ebadi asked so not all grad students?
 1. Myles Lynch answered no due to it being expensive
 - iii. Ian Cohen commented that we should probably take it off our events calendar since it isn't for everyone.

VII. Ad-hoc Committees

- A. GRC - Myles Lynch
- a. We have a lot of presenters and moderators, but still need two more moderators.
 - b. Created a flyer that lists all GRC satellite events
 - i. This list includes 5 poetry students reading original works
 - c. Moderators or presenters will get free meal pass on Wednesday
 - d. Food will be provided at poster session
 - e. If you are a TA, we are really trying to draw in undergrads
 - i. We have a number of undergrads moderating.
 - f. Member at Large asked is the satellite event flyer online?
 - i. Myles Lynch answered not yet but can send flyer out.
- B. Library Information Access Group - Mike Verney
- a. Met recently. Presentation on the study of undergraduate honors thesis and their citation sources (online, print, etc).
 - b. Commented/suggested a similar study be done for graduate students.
 - c. Patrick LaCroix asked do online sources include online journals and ebooks?
 - i. Mike Verney answered yes. The method used was if things were available both online and in print, assumed online source was used.
- C. MUB-BOG - Taylor Hodgdon
- a. The board agreed on list of presenters for next year.
 - b. When we get the funding proposal back that list will be passed on.
- D. Advisory Council to Community Equity and Diversity – Ezra Temko

- a. The newly formed committee met on March 30th.
 - b. Will advise VP Jaime Nolan's office and is composed of joint co-chairs of the President's Commissions as well as representatives from Social Justice Educators, the Diversity Team, Dean of Students, student governments, etc.
 - c. The council will focus on programming, professional development, and student support - including potentially support for attending conferences. It will also be a place to talk about issues and collaboration.
 - d. On March 27, President Huddleston sent a campus-wide e-mail out with a link to a report about the incident surrounding the misconduct of a men's basketball coach. The report can be found at
<http://www.unh.edu/president/sites/unh.edu.president/files/UNH%20Basketball%20Team%20Investigation%203-27-15.pdf>
 - i. President Huddleston noted in his e-mail that he has created a task force under VP Nolan around campus climate, "charged with looking beyond simple compliance with the rules." GSS will have a representative on the task force.
- E. Women's Advisory - Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen
- a. Also talked about men's basketball coach report.
 - b. Found it to be pretty derogatory and will be drafting a letter about that.
- F. Vice Provost of Student Affairs and Dean of Students - Mica Kurtz
- a. Three open forums, one yesterday, one this morning, and one tomorrow
 - b. This new position is a combination of two positions that used to exist.
 - c. Mike Verney asked when will the decision be made?
 - i. Mica Kurtz answered that the recommendation will be sent to provost by end of week.
 - d. Ian Cohen commented that we should maybe get rid of question to Pres Huddleston about the new position since we already know the answer.

VIII. Adjournment - 2:03 pm

- A. Motion by Ian Cohen, seconded by Mica Kurtz.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire