

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
November 4, 2014, MUB 302
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

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

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

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

B. Senators Present (8/12 filled positions)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Amanda Sobel | Forest Park |
| Kassie Sarr-Dietersagn | COLA |
| Patrick LaCroix | COLA |
| Ian Cohen | CEPS |
| Morgan Crowley | COLSA |
| Ezra Temko | COLA |
| Alireza Ebadi | CEPS |
| Stanley Quartey | Paul |

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Amanda Demmer | COLA |
| Wali Raja | Paul |
| Myles Lynch | CHHS |
| Matt Smith | Graduate School |

D. Members at Large Present: 4

E. Guests: David Cross (Student Counseling Center)

F. Quorum (11 voting persons / 17 voting positions): Achieved with 13 voting persons present

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes from previous meetings, October 7, 2014 and October 21, 2014.
 - a. Motion made by Mica Kurtz, seconded by Ian Cohen.
 - b. Yeas: 10, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 1
 - c. Motion Passed

IV. Guest Speaker – David Cross

- A. Counseling center - auxiliary unit, funded by fees
- B. Year in review report for academic year 2013/2014 was just released
 - a. Consists of 2 parts
 - i. Part 1 consists of data and statistics
 - i. Part 2 is the topic of the millennial generation and issues associated
- C. Last year 1200 student were seen clinically
 - a. This year so far, over 500 students have been seen this semester
 - i. Seeing more anxiety and stress issues
 - ii. No successful suicides this year, but several attempts
- D. Thanks for increase in budget last year, allowed for the hiring of 2 new staff members
 - a. Has resulted in no wait-list thus far this year
- E. New programs - to address suicides and homicides (shooting) issues. About 1300 students nationally lost to suicides.
 - a. These online programs/training to help you recognize the clues. Feedback is welcome.
 - i. Peer to Peer
 - ii. Faculty Staff
 - iii. Programs for LGTG community and veteran community as well
- F. Questions
 - a. Tim Roemer asked if rising numbers of students seen clinically is due to rising numbers in students or rising ability to deal with the issues. David Cross answered that it is a little bit of both, due to mental health issue awareness (more students are able to attend colleges), and the lose of the stigma of attending counseling.
 - b. Mica Kurtz asked about the lack of a wait list thus far. David Cross answered that several interns plus staff are busy with clinical loads. The center only sees students on a short term basis (6-8 sessions), and if issues are beyond that time frame then the students are referred out. The center is currently right on the verge of having to make students wait for openings with staff (offer 60 intake appointments a week). There are walk-in hours available, emergencies are for a session that day, and students are encouraged to come in no matter what for emergencies.
 - c. Mica Kurtz asked what additional fees are expected. David Cross answered that counseling center will be going by the recommended guidelines.
 - d. Mike Verney asked if the center is still waiting for guidelines from BOT. David Cross answered yes.
 - e. Mike Verney mentioned that the GSS is currently in process of scheduling a meeting with auxiliary units. Asked if the auxiliary units haven't gotten the guidelines, is there any information on the budget that can be given? David Cross don't have a lot of operating functions, so operating budget is likely to only have recommended increase.

V. Standing Committee Reports

- A. President, Mike Verney
 - a. Nothing to report
- B. Vice President, Mica Kurtz
 - a. Goals for Governance Committee
 - i. Continue to discuss initiative to increase attendance at sponsored events
 - 1. Goal is to require, via amendment to GSS constitution, each senator attend 1 event per semester

- 2. Have sign-up for the remaining events for this semester (4 events)
- ii. Mike Verney mentioned being at the events is a good friendly way to connect with constituents. Tobi Afolayan mentioned that the requirement isn't to host the event but to just be present and for now is totally voluntary.
- C. Programming, Tim Roemer
 - a. 1st Thursday is this week, November 6th
 - b. Margarita's (in Dover) Event on November 12th
 - i. GSS is paying for appetizers, restaurant deal is ½ price entrees with college ID
 - c. Programming Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the Holiday Extravaganza
- D. Treasurer, Madhav Baral
 - a. Discussion moved to Fee Process discussion in New Business

VI. Ad Hoc and Liaison Committee Reports

- A. President Search Committee for VP of Finance and Administration – Mike Verney
 - A. Search is finished
 - B. Chris Clement, NH's Commissioner of Transportation since Sept. 2011, works with the Governor
 - i. oversees a \$700 million transportation agency of over 1,600 employees
 - ii. was the NH Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer of the Department of Transportation from summer 2008 to winter 2010
 - iii. Feb. 2010-Sept. 2011 was director of the Governor's Office of Economic Stimulus
 - iv. Dealt with personnel/human resource issues, implementing policies and adhering to law
 - v. Transportation falls under VPFA
 - C. Ian Cohen asked if the new hire will be involved in Fees? Mike Verney answered that no, Nick Cannon will oversee fees this year.
 - D. Patrick LaCroix: asked if there was any idea of new hire's thoughts on RCM. Mike Verney answered that the feeling from other search committee members was RCM was not necessary to mention with new-hire interviews, however assuming he knows of it due to being hired.
 - E. Tobi Afolayan asked if there is a link or anything to provide students with info on new hire? Ezra Temko answered yes.
 - F. Tobi Afolayan asked if the GSS should address how this affects grad students. Ian Cohen suggested GSS invite him to a meeting in the spring. Mike Verney agreed.
- B. Graduate Council – Mike Verney
 - A. Program updates
 - i. New hires in Economics Department; should get Economics PhD back on track
 - ii. Program reviews of History, MALS, NRESS, Chemistry, and Mechanical engineering still in process
 - iii. New MS in Analytics, dealing with Big Data
 - 1. Still waiting for proposal after pre-proposal
 - 2. Q. of having external reviewers review proposal in person or digitally
 - 3. We preferred having them come in person
 - B. Working on how to advertize and recruit more graduate student applications
 - i. Grad enrollment is down from 2286 in Fall 2010 to 2046 in Fall 2014
 - ii. Drop especially with MA students
 - iii. Trying to determine why and how to boost applications
 - C. Looked over a survey of non-enrolling and enrolled Fall 2014 admits about their decision to come to UNH or not
 - i. Nothing terribly surprising
 - ii. Interaction with faculty most commonly cited reason to apply to UNH for both
 - iii. Campus location was most commonly cited reason for applying,
 - iv. Followed by reputation of program

- v. For those admitted but who did not enroll, only about 41% cited the cost of UNH tuition as a reason,
 - vi. But close to 50% for not receiving an assistantship or scholarship
- D. More research mapping spreadsheets
 - i. Academic Analytics and SciVal methods
 - ii. Showcase strong research programs (faculty productivity)
 - iii. How much research funding goes to graduate students
 - iv. Showed only 5.6% university wide for program research funding going to PhD students
 - v. Varies by Department and discipline
 - vi. Council felt data slightly misleading
 - vii. Did not include data on Teaching Assistantships, for ex
 - viii. hiring full time postdocs is cheaper than for RAs---might be a factor
- E. I gave my report, interest about our concerns and questions regarding the change in common exam hours
- F. Tobi Afolayan asked the letter shared to the grad council? Mike Verney answered that no grad council was not specifically address as a recipient of the letter, but where aware of it.
- G. Amanada Sobel mentioned the 5.6% has not been compared to universities across the country.
- H. Ian Cohen noted that the grad council is doing a comprehensive survey of all Ph.D programs
 - i. asking about ideal capacity
 - ii. if programs have room for growth, what can grad school due to increase capacity
- C. External Affairs - TA
 - i. BOT Meetings
 - 1. Capital projects - more or less passed. funded by internal borrowing and some other sources (will present at ExecComm)
 - a. outdoor pool
 - b. ham smith
 - c. expansion of west stadium
 - 2. Funding for Online Enrollment Services Center - recently approved as a pilot
 - a. help center for students to call about enrollment, open late hours
 - b. asking for 6 million (not exceeding 2mil/yr for 3 yrs)
 - i. funding from USNH short-term investments
 - ii. shouldn't increase fees
 - c. benefit(?) is student retention to increase by making enrollment easier
 - i. MV: How is this supposed to help retention?
 - ii. TA: no data shown but "anecdotally" support. retention and complaints system wide. students not being able to enroll in necessary classes
 - iii. MK: guess is that students are able to get more help in staying on track?
 - iv. TA: this is side-benefit
 - v. IC: Schools with online programming have these systems, so this will help UNH be more competitive in that market
 - ii. Voting - go vote today
 - 1. poles up from 7am-7pm
 - 2. website : vote411.org
 - a. can vote at oyster river high school
 - b. IC: shuttle at the MUB circle
 - c. voting for NH representatives can matter, since NH politics does in fact affect the funding available for UNH
- D. SARC - Patrick LaCroix
 - i. possible integrated science facility?
 - 1. in planning phase. over 300k budgeted for planning phase.

- 2. support is hopefully coming from legislation
- ii. new water plant
 - 1. current plant treating drinking water, but in floodplain
 - 2. pilot program (for 3yrs) to monitor water quality
 - a. results will then open discussion of movement or raising of plant
 - b. moved towards Mill Road, will include some deforestation (thought not College Forest preserve)
- iii. Boiler #5 in heat plant damaged last year, needed to be replaced for Forest Park
 - 1. close to 1mil allocated for replacement
- E. MUB BOG - Damian Manda
 - i. Oct 24th,
 - ii. budget discussed. thinking 2-2.5% increase, proposal/budget drafted
 - 1. majority of budget goes to RCM (charged higher rate)
 - 2. payroll is the rest, has been decreasing while RCM increases
 - iii. Oct 7th - assembly on budget
- F. FSSA – Morgan Crowley
 - A. The committee discussed their first charge to review the Student Senate Resolution regarding Advisor-Student Expectations. This will be prepared to bring to the Faculty Senate as a whole after the next meeting.
- G. FS - MC (see notes)
 - A. Deb Dutton from UNH Advancement gave a presentation about the campaign to increase donations to UNH and the time scale. She said that she represents the donors when she meets with them and they decide to donate money to UNH, and this was the reason that graduate students were not included in the recent donation for undergraduate in-state financial aid.
 - B. The ongoing proposal for the Honors Plan review was voted on and passed.
 - C. A proposed minor change to the policy about not scheduling athletic practices to conflict with courses was voted on, and passed.
 - D. The ongoing proposal for the PI for studies commissioned by UNH to be a UNH admin was tabled for further discussion, with many senators unsupportive of the vague current language and wanting more information.
 - E. Finally, the ongoing proposal for Non-tenure track faculty to be included in the faculty senate was also tabled for further discussion, with senators unsure of how the asymmetry in service needs between tenure track and non-tenure track faculty would be reflected in this proposal.
- H. Inclusive Excellence and Equity- Ezra Temko
 - i. met Oct 22nd

VII. Old Business

- A. Wildcat Link for Senator Discussion Forum
 - a. Please request membership via Wildcat Link

VIII. New Business

- A. Fee oversight discussion at GSS has been delayed
 - a. FAC Report – Madhav Baral
 - i. scheduling meeting with auxiliary units for discussions
 - ii. if not about fees than about “proposed” budgets
 - iii. members interested in being involved are welcome
 - b. Mike Verney mentioned that he will be meeting with Mark Rubinstein about crunch due to delay in fees. Asked if should we express to BOT that GSS is being hindered in fee oversight process. ExecComm and FAC requested to be available to meet Nov 13th, 1230-2pm to
 - c. Special GSS Meeting has been scheduled for Nov 25th to vote on Fee Letter
 - d. Ian Cohen agreed that we should definitely need to mention to BOT that this time crunch is becoming unacceptable. Also agreed that the Nov 25th meeting needs to happen.

- B. Resolution AY2014/2015:3 - Ezra Temko
 - a. Was moved to Old Business due to time constraints
- C. SHARP - "Carry that Weight" campaign
 - a. invite from SHARP for GSS to support of campaign
 - b. short video of support to post on website

IX. Announcements/Upcoming Events - None

X. Adjournment - 2:00 pm

- 1. Motion made by Patrick LaCroix, seconded by Ian Cohen.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Nifong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire