

Meeting Minutes for the General Meeting of the UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
October 7, 2014, MUB 302
Mike Verney, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Mike Verney, President, 12:43pm

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

Mike Verney	President
Mica Kurtz	Vice President
Kelly Nifong	Clerk
Madhav Baral	Treasurer
Tim Roemer	Programming Coordinator

B. Senators Present (11/12 filled positions)

Amanda Demmer	COLA
Kassie Sarr-Dietersagn	COLA
Myles Lynch	CHHS
Wali Raja	UNH-Law
Ian Cohen	CEPS
Matt Smith	Graduate School Senator
Ezra Temko	COLA
Morgan Crowley	COLSA
Stanley Quartey	Paul
Alireza Ebadi	CEPS
Patrick LaCroix	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Amanda Sobel	Forest Park
Tobi Afolayan	External Affairs

D. Members at Large Present: 5

E. Guests: None

F. Quorum (11 voting persons / 17 voting positions): Achieved with 16 voting persons present

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes from previous meeting, September 23, 2014.
 - a. Motion made by Ian Cohen, seconded by Matt Smith.
 - b. Yeas: 11, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 0
 - c. Motion Passed

IV. Standing Committee Reports

- A. President, Mike Verney
 - a. ExecComm meeting was held on Tuesday September 30, 2014. All members and senators are welcome to join future meetings that are held the Tuesday following the GSS regular meetings. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:30-2pm in the GSS office, MUB 119E.
- B. Clerk, Kelly Nifong
 - a. In an effort to update the GSS website pictures of the Senators are being added. Anyone who has not yet agreed or disagreed for their picture to be posted needs to see or email Kelly after the meeting.
- C. Vice President, Mica Kurtz
 - a. Governance Committee met last week. No updates on the issues discussed, but they are a work in progress.
 - b. Please contact Mica Kurtz with any other issues.
- D. Programming, Tim Roemer
 - a. Programming Committee met last week about Homecoming on Saturday October 11. Instead of handing out hot beverages GSS will hold a raffle with T-shirts and gift cards. Committee also designed and bought a GSS banner and GSS stickers. Stickers and Graduate School pens will be given away at Homecoming.
 - b. Myles Lynch commented that anyone who registered for a ticket can pick it up at Thompson Hall, between 8 am and 430pm (see Sharon if Myles or Felicia are not there). Myles also mentioned an upcoming dinner and movie/lecture and PFP event the graduate school will be sponsoring soon.
 - c. Mike Verney mentioned that some tickets were available for GSS volunteers.
- E. Treasurer, Madhav Baral
 - a. Financial Affairs Committee met last week. Discussed Fee deadlines, the first being on October 31st, the day the GSS should receive the report. The report will be brought to the GSS meeting on November 4th for discussion. A meeting with the undergraduate Student Senate will follow, and FAC will bring a draft of recommendations to the following meeting. Final recommendations will be submitted on December 2nd.
 - b. Matt Smith mentioned that the FAC also discussed streamlining voting within the GSS.
 - c. Mike Verney mentioned that the Fees schedule has been edited by Mark Rubenstein, and those updates will be announced soon.

V. Ad Hoc and Liaison Committee Reports

- A. Grad Council – Mike Verney
 - a. The council discussed RCM revenue and how spending is distributed.
 - i. Increased revenue coming from increased freshman class (this year ~ 3340 freshman).
 - ii. Mark asked to model revenue income following at least 3200 freshman for next couple years.
 - iii. Patrick LaCroix about university's view on RPM, like it and keeping it vs redoing or getting rid of it.

- iv. Mike Verney answered that McFarlane has mentioned a refresh is something they are looking into.
- B. VPFA Search Committee– Mike Verney
 - a. Process of hiring new VPFA is still very confidential but student input has been included in the process so far.
 - b. Currently meeting with candidates.
 - i. Myles Lynch asked when a decision would be made. Mike Verney answered that hopefully before Thanksgiving to prevent the office being vacant.
 - ii. Tim Roemer asked why the transition was during the middle of the semester. Mike Verney was unable to answer.
- C. Governance Affairs Committee – Mike Verney
 - a. Committee that coordinates GSS advocacy on behalf of UNH graduate students to the state of NH
 - i. Ian Cohen mentioned that last year the committee looked at the issues of re-financing student loans. A NY Senator had a bill that GSS advocated but with no success. Another bill recently proposed is similar and seems more progressive. The committee will be backing this bill with hopes of better success.
 - b. First meeting is still being scheduled
- D. Women’s Commission – Kassie Sarr-Dietersagen
 - a. The Commission has met twice. Are discussing the issue of reporting or not reporting and what the kick-back for graduate students are.
 - b. Patrick LaCroix asked who is chairing the Commission. Kassie Sarr-Dietersagan answered that it is a social work professor.
 - c. A member at large mentioned that the Graduate School is also putting together a “Bystander Reporting” workshop.
- E. Faculty Senate – Morgan Crowley
 - a. Discussed the change in common exam time.
 - b. Mike Verney mentioned issue of change in common exam time will be addressed in Old Business.
- F. MUB Board of Governors – Damian Manda
 - a. Have met twice. Discussed Homecoming events, at which all graduate students are welcome.
 - i. List of Events will be sent to Kelly Nifong & Tim Roemer for distribution.
 - b. The 3rd Floor rooms have been reclassified from meeting rooms to Event Rooms and will be undergoing construction to add doors. Rooms 156 & 158 have been converted to meeting rooms.
 - i. Ian Cohen asked why the rooms were reclassified. Damian Manda answered that the fire department reclassified them due to the fire code.
- G. UNH Sesquicentennial Planning Committee – Ian Cohen
 - a. UNH’s 150th anniversary is 2016. The committee has met several times and is a large committee of about 25 people. The committee is looking at a lot of things to help celebrate the event.
 - i. Including historical display and student activities.
 - b. Not much has been done yet, but a website portal for proposals will be up soon.
 - c. Mica Kurtz asked if the committee was looking specifically has graduate student involvement. Ian Cohen answered that yet the graduate students have been included, and mentioned that the undergraduate Student Senate representative has not been to a meeting yet.

- d. Mike Verney mentioned that Cari Moorhead was very interested in doing a history of the graduate school.
- H. Transportation – Dan Tran
 - a. Both transportation committees have met. One committee is concerned only about the UNH buses and is always looking on feedback to improve the buses.
 - b. The Rochester bus has lost a couple of routes due to lack of use.
 - c. Portsmouth bus will continue to experience changing routes due the construction.
 - d. The C & J bus is no longer servicing the UNH/Durham stop. No explanation.
 - e. There are some new bike racks on campus.
 - f. Committee is trying not to increase parking permit prices, but in unfortunately happens
 - i. Next increase will be for faculty/staff permits, not GA or commuter permits.
 - g. Main Street has been changed back to the original two-lane configuration. Committee is looking for ways to improve the traffic pattern.
 - i. Next thought is a traffic circle, but would have to be funded by UNH.

VI. Old Business

- A. Change in Common Exam Time
 - a. Morgan Crowley mentioned that the proposed change is from Tues-Thurs 12:30-2pm to Friday 2-5pm and will be a two-year trial.
 - i. The need for the change is due to not only renovation in Ham-Smith but some major reconstruction that needs to occur.
 - ii. The Faculty Senate had a lot of complaints about the change.
 - iii. The closing of Ham-Smith is resulting in the lose of 17 classrooms.
 - iv. Unfortunately there isn't a good alternative option.
 - b. Ian Cohen ask why is it necessary to change time time to make room for classes if classes aren't usually held at that time anyway.
 - c. Mika Kurtz noted that unfortunately several departments do in fact have classes during the common exam period. He also asked if moving the common exam period would be disrupting classes that occur at the proposed time. He also noted that this would potentially eliminate the times that departments use for brown bag seminars, department meetings, etc.
 - d. Morgan Crowley commented that this change in common exam time actually originated from Facilities.
 - e. Ian Cohen made the point that most professors are off on Fridays.
 - f. Mike Verney noted that Mark Rubinstein has agreed that Fridays are less used.
 - g. Ezra Temko asked if this change would affect meeting times for students as well.
 - h. Mike Verney agreed that the change in exam time could potentially decrease the GSS meeting attendance. Suggested maybe we ask for common exam time to remain unchanged fro graduate students.
 - i. Kelly Nifong made the point that the request to leave the common exam period on T/R for only graduate students wouldn't help if everyone else (faculty, advisors, etc) no longer has the period open.
 - j. Ian Cohen also made the point that not all departments have grad only classes, and that many classes are a mix of graduates and undergraduates. He also suggested creating a committee to write a letter to express our doubts on the change and the given reasons behind it.
 - k. Mike Verney mentioned the GSS had more concerns with the results of the change than doubts with the reasoning behind it.
 - l. Matt Smith asked why it isn't possible to just move more classes to Friday afternoons. He also asked why the excuse for keeping Friday's "open" seem to be culturally.
 - m. Mike Verney asked if there was interest to compose a letter expressing our questions and concerns about the change.

- n. Ian Cohen said yes there is interest, and that the change was occurring to quickly and without enough information.
- o. Morgan Crowely mentioned that it appeared the final vote by the Faculty Senate would be two weeks from Monday (on Monday Oct 20th). This is because the decision needs to be made before mid-October.
- p. Ian Cohen asked what the Undergraduate Student Senate thoughts were on the change.
- q. Mike Verney mentioned that Tobi Afolayan has been in communication with the undergraduate student senate, but he was unfortunately out sick.
- r. Deanna Silva mentioned that her undergraduate students were unhappy about the change.
- s. Mike Verney suggested that no vote was necessary but it seemed enough interest was present for the GSS Exec. Committee to write a letter.
- t. Ian Cohen asked if it was possible for all of GSS to see the draft.
- u. Mike Verney confirmed it was possible and would be a good idea.

VII. New Business

- A. Resolution AY2014-2015: 1
 - a. Written by Amanda Demmer on the disposal of books from Dimond Library in April
 - i. Read by Kelly Nifong
 - b. Mike Verney opened the floor to discussion.
 - i. Patrick LaCroix asked if this resolution relates to GSS mandate and asked if it was too late after the fact.
 - ii. Amanda Demmer mentioned that due to bad press the library has taken steps for avoid the same issue in the future, and mentioned that a meeting Dimond Library staff may help clear up any questions.
 - iii. Ian Cohen agreed that the resolution does fall under GSS responsibilities and mentioned that since the disposal happened at the end of the semester the timing shouldn't be an issue. Also mentioned that the resulting changes made by the library should be included in the resolution.
 - iv. Mike Verney spoke with Cari Moorhead and the library did ask for Faculty oversight before the disposal but no help was given. Agrees that meeting with library staff would be beneficial.
 - v. Ezra Temko agrees that the issue is important to acknowledge and it would be helpful to meet with library staff to determine the extent of the changes made.
 - vi. Wali Raja agreed that the time delay is not an issue.
 - vii. Amanda reiterated that this resolution is yet a draft, and the intent was to open a dialogue.
 - viii. Mike Verney mentioned that the feeling of the senate is that while the idea is good, we don't have enough information yet for a vote. Asked Amanda Demmer to meet with a Dimond Library representative to gather more information.
 - ix. Ian Cohen mentioned that it might be helpful to get input from Faculty Student Senate on the issue as well.
 - x. Kelly Nifong mentioned we need to tread carefully as to not cause a battle.
 - c. Mike Verney asked for a motion to create an Ad-Hoc committee chaired by Amanda Demmer to gather more information and re-draft the resolution.
 - i. Patrick LaCroix moved, motion was seconded by Matt Smith.
 - ii. Vote: 14 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstained.
- B. Possible Resolution on a Shuttle to Concord or Manchester – Alireza Ebadi
 - a. Looking to see if there is interest in writing a resolution to recommend shuttles to Concord and Manchester.

- i. International students need to travel to Concord to go to the DMV
 - ii. Would benefit the Law School.
 - iii. Would benefit UNH-Manchester
 - iv. Airport in Manchester
 - b. Would also like to add a shuttle at the Dover or Portsmouth C & J bus stops.
 - i. Ian Cohen mentioned that President Huddleston has brought this idea up before.
 - c. Mika Kurtz agrees resolution would be good, would like to see a draft.
 - d. Ian Cohen offered to help draft the resolution.
- C. GSS Senator Discussion Forum – Mike Verney
 - a. Mike Verney opened the floor for discussion.
 - b. Ian Cohen agrees that the idea is good, but needs to be a private forum since GSS is an open body and business cannot be conducted outside of meetings.
 - i. Mike Verney agrees that the Facebook page should be limited to announcements.
 - c. Ian Cohen mentioned that LinkedIn is a possibility.
 - d. Member at large mentioned that Wildcat account has the ability of discussion boards and is private to members only.
 - e. Mike Verney moved issues to old business due to time constraints.

VIII. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- A. Safety Walk - Mike Verney
 - a. Happening tomorrow night (October 8th). Email any campus safety concerns to Mike Verney before 6pm.
 - b. Homecoming is October 11th, and volunteers are needed to help with the GSS raffle.

IX. Adjournment - 2:02pm

- 1. Motion made by Mika Kurtz, seconded by Tim Roemer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Nifong, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire