

Meeting Minutes for General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate
Tuesday October 6th, 2015
Ezra Temko, President, Facilitating

I. Call to Order: Ezra Temko, President, 12:15

II. Roll Call

A. Executive Committee

Ezra Temko	President
Mike Verney	Vice President
Paul Rowe	Clerk
Sherard Harrington	Programs Coordinator
Patrick Lacroix	Treasurer
Andrea Jilling	External Affairs Officer

B. Senators Present

Matt Smith	GRAD
Drummond Biles	CEPS
Myles Lynch	COLA
Felicia Fowler	CHHS
Mary Grace Elliott	COLA
Wade Heath	PAUL
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Damian Manda	CEPS
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Kevin McMahon	LAW
Melika Nouri	Forest Park
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Catherine Welter	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Tom Cronin	Manchester
Dante Broadbent	CHHS

- D. Members at Large Present: Women's Commission Liaison Elizabeth Moschella and Bonnie Barlow.
- E. Guests: Graduate School Dean Harry Richards and Graduate School Associate Dean Cari Moorhead.

III. Greetings, Check-Ins, Introduction of Guests.

- A. President Ezra Temko greeted GSS members and thanked all of those members who have met with their constituents. Ezra Temko provided an overview of the Agenda, indicated that GSS would address issues from the Current Issues document, and asked Senators and Members at Large to fill in sign-in sheets with sign-ups for the GSS Newsletter. Ezra Temko asked if there were any brief announcements to be made that GSS should become cognizant of outside of the issues on the Agenda. GSS proceeded with Introductions.
- B. Members of GSS, Members at Large, and guest introductions took place. Myles Lynch announced he would share handouts from the Graduate School that visiting Dean Harry Richards and Associate Dean Cari Moorhead would extrapolate.
- C. **Ezra Temko announced the appointment of new Law School Senator Kevin McMahon** and introduced him to GSS.

IV. Outside Business: Guests Dean Harry Richards and Associate Dean Cari Moorhead, Graduate School

- A. Ezra Temko welcomed guests Dean Harry Richards and Associate Dean Cari Moorhead of the Graduate School. Ezra Temko stated that GSS was particularly interested in information for graduate students, resources that graduate students should be aware of, information regarding the pursuit of graduate degrees, and useful advice for GSS regarding graduate student advocacy.
- B. Dean Harry Richards thanked GSS senators for stepping up and representing UNH graduate students, and announced that over the years he has found the collective voice of the graduate student body much more impactful than anything the Graduate School Deans can provide. Harry Richards stated that he would give GSS a brief overview of the role of the Graduate School, and relayed the following information:
 - 1. The Graduate School is responsible for oversight and admissions policies, and although the Graduate School's authority does not extend to the Law School, UNH Law has a member on Graduate Council, the elected body of four graduate faculty and four graduate student representatives appointed by GSS. This Council is the only council including graduate students with voting rights.

2. The Graduate School works with every graduate program, including faculty members and coordinators from each program, providing information and advice. Faculty may recommend policy, and the Graduate School is open to hearing these suggestions. Working closely with Chairs of graduate programs helps the Graduate School get a sense of the pulse on campus. The line of communication between the Graduate School and Graduate Administrative Assistants is a fruitful relationship.
3. Associate Dean Cari Moorhead has been affiliated with the Graduate School for over 10 years, handling specific student issues throughout this time period.
4. The "Point Person" on Student Affairs in the Graduate School helps with Fellowship programs.
5. Graduate Admissions staff and Counselors in the Graduate School work with the graduate student body. They have an office in Manchester as well.
6. The Graduate School has an incoming enrollment of over 2,500 students this fall semester. This increase indicates turnaround after the impact of the economic downturn. When the economy declines, people usually go back to school; however, the recent recession hit hard and deep and many Americans could not afford to consider graduate school as an option. It took a number of years for UNH to bounce back from this recession. Although national enrollment figures increased last fall, enrollment did not increase at UNH until this fall, largely due to an increase in international students and a steady increase in enrollment for online programs in social work, business, and education.
7. Over 500 UNH students are enrolled in graduate programs this year. 75 students graduated from Ph.D. programs last year.
8. M.A. programs have witnessed a decline in enrollment for in-state students. Many in-state students are pursuing graduate degrees elsewhere across the country. The in-state population of younger people has declined because of this fact.
9. In-state competition has been another reason for low enrollment, although this situation is slightly improving. Almost every in-state institution provides business, education, and health-related policy for incoming graduate students. Southern New Hampshire University is a top competitor in this regard.
10. Out-of-state graduate students are faced with a price-sensitive situation: it is hard to attract graduate students from out of state with limited financial support. Although this issue is ongoing, UNH is able to attract many graduate students with Assistantships, and also attracts high numbers of UNH undergraduate students to graduate programs; both of these factors help balance enrollment numbers. Nevertheless, UNH is expensive for the out-of-state market.
11. As the federal government continues financial cutbacks, UNH is faced with many institutional challenges. The federal government is cutting research funding, making it

increasingly important for faculty members to seek out grants and awards outside of the institution. The number of grants and awards available has sharply declined in America.

12. Positive news: With an 85% completion rate across graduate programs and a 50% completion rate for doctoral programs, UNH is experiencing higher graduate rates than the national average.
13. Wade Heath asked whether or not the majority of graduated international students are remaining in the country or returning home.
 - a) Harry Richards responded that the majority of international students are returning home due to national policies on immigration. Usually, it depends on the discipline and what their career goals are. UNH boasts 250-260 international graduate students. The graduate population of UNH represents 57-58 countries.
 - b) UNH has a relationship with NAVITAS that accounts for large numbers of international undergraduate students. Recently, this has expanded to include Engineering and Computer Science majors from Australia among other countries.
 - c) International students at UNH are increasingly successful. The People's Republic of China remains UNH's main international enrollment source, closely followed by India. There are a lot of U.S. dollars in India. UNH attracts an increasing number of students from Eastern Europe and the Middle East.
14. Harry Richards stated that the Graduate School approves all new graduate programs at UNH.
15. There will be a new M.A. program in Public Policy. The Graduate School looks forward to this opportunity.
16. There is a new M.A. program in Analytics, approved this past summer, with an enrollment of 15 students. Enrollment in Analytics is projected grow in the next couple of years to include 40-50 students.
17. Pettibook is a building that will open up to house these new programs.
18. Ezra Temko passed around information sheets regarding the Public Policy M.P.P. and Analytics M.A. programs.
19. Harry Richards indicated that the Graduate School brings in external review teams once every ten years to evaluate graduate programs.
20. Associate Dean Cari Moorhead announced that the Graduate School is very tapped in at the national level through the Council of Graduate School Committees. Cari Moorhead announced that Harry Richards is the longest serving graduate school dean in the country. Cari Moorhead states that the Graduate School tracks both regionally and nationally. Although the Graduate School feels they can do more in terms of resources, at

national meetings there is rarely anything presented that the Graduate School hasn't thought about. UNH is surprisingly closer to the cutting edge than its resources would presumably allow. UNH's Ph.D. interactive modules workshops are inter/multi-disciplinary in nature, and this is very exciting.

21. Cari Moorhead stated that she works closely with Harry Richards on curricular issues, although her specialty is dealing with individual student needs and/or concerns. Cari Moorhead deals with issues concerning students and their departments, handling infrequent arrest reports.
22. Cari Moorhead stated that campus mental health concerns have posed the biggest challenge to her role as Associate Dean for twelve years. The depth and breadth of mental health concerns has become increasingly complicated over the years. Thankfully UNH has many resources to address these concerns. Students at UNH with Asperger Syndrome go on to complete Ph.Ds. Graduate students going through psychologically daunting processes such as gender reassignments, although these processes cannot and should not be conflated with mental health concerns, go on to obtain Ph.Ds. at UNH. This is all thanks to behind-the-scenes support.
23. Cari Moorhead encouraged members and members at large of GSS to inform her if they are aware of someone who needs additional support who isn't receiving the attention and support that they require. Cari Moorhead will get them into the system and make those initial steps towards providing support. In some cases, a simple call to the Dean's office can make all the difference: oftentimes this can determine whether or not a graduate student completes their degree program. Usually, however, graduate students do reach out, and this makes all the difference.
24. Graduate School programming is working to rebrand Professional Development services, general research at UNH, overview of Preparing Future Faculty (PFF), and the annual Graduate Research Conference (GRC). The goal for attendance at this year's Graduate Research Conference is 300. Last year, there was a massive leap in attendance: 280. The goal is to increase that from 280 to 300 graduate students. The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition will be incorporated this year: these are trending on an international level and will bolster future conferences. Australia is incorporating this competition more and more; examples of these can be found on YouTube. There are regional and national competitions for the Three Minute Theses in the U.S. This will happen every spring, and anyone involved will be a part of the Graduate Student Research Conference. Graduate students may win a public vote as well as a judge vote.
25. Cari Moorhead thanked graduate students for taking part in Graduate School polls. Many people were awarded a free Graduate School sweatshirt. The original 80 responses spiked to 300 responses a week after announcing the sweatshirt.
26. Top Ten Topics: The areas in the poll that graduate students want to see for professional development are on the docket for the fall. Sherard Harrington stated that some of these presentations would occur in the Dimond Library.

27. Cari Moorhead stated the Graduate School is collaborating with Stonewall Grads and the Alumni Association on October events. As these presentations are in high demand, RSVPs are essential to preventing food shortages at these events.
28. In October, there will be a mishmash of Professional Development events offered by the Graduate School including Dissertation and Fellowship information sessions. Money for fellowships is frequently given out, and these information sessions give graduate students an idea of what to look for. Mike Verney stated that these information sessions are incredibly helpful for those applying for Fellowships.
29. Cari Moorhead announced that the Graduate School is working with the Alumni Association on a LinkedIn information session.
30. Cari Moorhead publically thanked GSS Graduate School Myles Lynch for his commitment to outreach and creativity.
31. Cari Moorhead announced that the Graduate School is using BlackBoard this year to send information to graduate students and faculty members.
32. Canvas has agreed to allow the Graduate School to exist as a "Course" on "MyCourses" with specific sections for specific programs such as M.A. and Ph.D programs, etc. Anything Canvas can do to educate graduate students about the Graduate School will be implemented.
33. Harry Richards announced that Felicia Fowler and Myles Lynch are enrolled on this site.
34. Harry Richards announced that the Graduate School is implementing guidelines encouraging Departmental Program Handbooks for graduate students across UNH as well as for these handbooks to address certain areas. These handbooks will help graduate students navigate their respective programs. Myles Lynch and Felicia Fowler helped the Graduate School with these guidelines in the spring. Myles Lynch and Felicia Fowler helped develop a Departmental Handbook template, in addition to updating Graduate Assistant handbooks for all Graduate Assistants. GSS reviewed the GA Handbook and will also have an opportunity to review the other documents prior to them being finalized and released.
35. Cari Moorhead addressed concerns surrounding Graduate Assistantships. Academic re-appointment does not stop in January. There are different expectations regarding Assistantships across various departments. The Graduate School keeps an eye on GA work hours and how they relate to family care. These are national issues and deans are watching them nationally: Financial aid laws are under scrutiny and are continually re-examined. UNH Deans keep track of everything going on at the national level, and we address these concerns on an institutional level as appropriate.
36. Cari Moorhead announced there is no polite way to address her concerns surrounding recent events in Oregon: Universities must implement phone alert systems so that students are aware of emergencies. From a weather-related standpoint, UNH has implemented this system.

37. Myles Lynch discussed transportation to the UNH Boston Alumni event at the Omni Parker House, and indicated that Megan can arrange transportation to this event. Anyone without a car or means of transportation should feel free to reach out to her to work out transportation.
38. Ezra Temko asked GSS for any questions, comments, or suggestions for Dean Harry Richards and Association Dean Cari Moorhead.
 - a) Mike Verney asked if the Deans would be willing to discuss their efforts to coordinate events with the Alumni Association and Network Foundation.
 - I. Harry Richards stated the Graduate School's participation with these organizations: The 603 Challenge, fundraising events, the signed MOU, the 50k fundraiser were all at requests from the Alumni Association. The Graduate School works with these organizations to raise money to support interdisciplinary programs. The Graduate School attended the Network Foundation last week to meet with alumni and continues to participate in these events. At one of these events, staff came up with 50,000 to 100,000 dollars in a single evening. Individual colleges and their staff members need to look for additional fundraising opportunities.
 - II. Cari Moorhead announced that the Music Hall, a local theater in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, now has a relationship with UNH. From now on, all movies there will be free for all UNH students: undergraduate and graduate students.
 - III. Harry Richards mentioned Career Development professional access targeted towards undergraduates. Graduate students also need jobs. Graduate students are beginning their careers and approaches to writing resumes or CVs are different for graduate/undergraduates and academic/non-academic careers. The Graduate Schools works to ensure that graduate students are represented in these activities. Harry Richards emphasized that UNH is an academic, as opposed to a technical, institution.
 - IV. Cari Moorhead brought up various points: Ph.D. students are pursuing careers in academia, many degree holders go on to the higher education job circuit: this is where teaching philosophies become paramount. UNH's e-Portfolios are one way that sets us apart.
 - b) Yoka Milosavljevic asked how the Gallup Report affects the Graduate School and its employees.
 - I. Cari Moorhead responded that the Graduate School asked for this breakdown and has not yet received this data.

- II. Harry Richards indicated this issue was brought up at Dean's Council and the deans intend to dig into information well beyond an initial, cursory report.
 - III. Cari Moorhead stated 6,000 responses were received from alums all the way back to the 1960s. Questions included: How happy are you in life? How engaged were you with the UNH campus? There were 5 metrics all on UNH. The results indicated that the more involved you were on campus, the happier you became in life. There is no bad news there. Cari Moorhead indicated that giving back to your alma mater matters. People reached out to Graduate School Deans as well. UNH student alums are above the national average for alumni satisfaction, but also in terms of debt.
- c) Patrick Lacroix stated there is increasing emphasis from upper levels of the University on "STEM," and asked what UNH can do to promote the Humanities, COLA, and the Social Sciences. There is very little visibility there.
- I. Harry Richards indicated this issue came up at Graduate Council. The clear perception is that it's all about "STEM." At Dean's meetings, it is not just about "STEM." We need to find a way to get more publicity for research in the humanities and the disciplines beyond "STEM." The jobs are in the humanities. We need to promote, and be on top of this issue, all the time. "STEM" is constantly changing, important over the longer term, but institutions may forget that.
 - II. Cari Moorhead stated this is a national discussion: "The Plight of the Humanities." Cari Moorhead stated she has attended community career events in the manufacturing sector of New Hampshire, and presidents are looking for the skill sets of those in the humanities: the ability to write, to think, to be interdisciplinary, to bring a complex skill set to the table. We need to bring the humanities in as strengths, rather than apologizing for them.
- d) Mary Grace Elliott stated the plight of the humanities is a Catch 22: Those at the higher levels of the university contemplate the importance of the humanities, but financial cuts create a lack of opportunities for the teaching experience graduate students in the humanities need in order to break into the job market. If these cuts take effect, graduate students in the humanities will not attend the university, and thus we have a self-fulfilling prophecy. Mary Grace Elliott indicated the connection between lack of support and lack of jobs, lack of students coming in and lack of support. Are there any ideas on how to break the cycle?
- I. Harry Richards stated that the short answer is "No." There are other opportunities outside of the academy in the non-humanities areas. It is common to get jobs outside of the academy, then re-enter later on.

Faculty still do not retire when they should, and when they do retire, these tenure-track positions aren't filled due to a lack of finances. When majors aren't there, we see a decline. The reality is that we have to do something: technical writing, analytics, government, the publishing industry are all outside the box avenues for well-educated people. These people want to teach at liberal arts colleges, yet community colleges are good opportunities for opening up the horizon. Harry Richards stated that professors in the humanities like it here and they don't want to leave, so those on the job market must be willing to get out of their comfort zones.

- II. Mary Grace Elliot states that graduate students in the humanities need more support, conference opportunities and finances. Mary Grace Elliot acknowledged that the financial situation is tight.
- III. Cari Moorhead noted incremental ways to change this problem: loosened up grant funding to support more students to attend conferences. Money for Teaching Assistantships comes from colleges, not the graduate school, but there are peripheral things we can do such as supporting travel grants, etc.
- IV. Yoka Milosavljevic asked if it is possible to talk about making connections between "STEM" and the Humanities. ESL students in Mechanical Engineering in particular may need support in writing. Undergrads have courses they can take, yet ESLs coming into grad school have less support in terms of writing.
- V. Harry Richards stated that the Writing Center could step into that role as it has in the past.
- VI. Yoka Milosavljevic noted that ESL students are not being taught to write at the Writing Center. They need more explicit teaching, and members of the graduate Humanities community could step in and aid them, resulting in experience gained.
- VII. Harry Richards noted we all need to think about the best approach.
- VIII. Cari Moorhead indicated there is team-teaching in CEPS with Humanities people. The Writing Center comes in for "boot camp," there is Writing Week during January Term, but we can discuss how to enhance those opportunities.
- IX. Mike Verney indicated a Technical Writing and History teaching overlap is available.
- X. Ezra Temko encouraged senators who have questions or ideas to follow up with him or the Graduate School.

V. Internal Business

A. Minutes

- a. Ezra Temko asked for a process vote to approve GSS minutes for 22 September 2015.
- b. Mike Verney proposed a change to the language of the 22 September 2015 minutes. Change approved.
- c. The September 22 minutes were approved.

B. University/Liaison Committees

- a) **Reports:** Ezra Temko asked for questions/comments regarding submitted reports that were emailed to GSS Senators.
- b) **Graduate Council:** Ezra Temko stressed the importance of Graduate Council and shared its enrollment list with GSS.
- c) **Spark Magazine:** External Affairs Officer Andrea Jilling discussed Spark Magazine, an advocacy effort for research at the graduate level meant to go out to stakeholders and lawmakers. This year, the goal is to reach out to lawmakers to get more support for graduate research. An event will be organized in November featuring 20 lawmakers and stakeholders taking rounds of research facilities to make a splash on graduate research. Andrea Jilling stated she would reach out to involve GSS. This is one resource we have to expose the importance of our research.
 1. Mike Verney asked if GSS could invite Spark Magazine to the GRC as there will be graduate research presented there.
 2. Andrea Jilling remarked that this is something to follow up on.
 3. Ezra Temko noted that the American Sociological Association does something like this as well for their annual meetings.
- d) Ezra Temko shared a recent summary of graduate applicants admitted, enrolled, etc.
- e) Ezra Temko announced there will be a meeting with **Health Services**, including Kathleen Grace Bishop, Cindy McGahey, and Kevin Charles next Tuesday October 13th at 2:00pm at the Second Floor conference hall of Health Services.
- f) Ezra Temko indicated that GSS members have been rotating as guests for **undergraduate Student Senate (USS)** meetings, and announced a gap for October 11 and November 15. Ezra Temko thanked all members who have committed to attending USS meetings, or have already attended. Anyone interested in signing up for one of these vacant slots was informed to contact Ezra Temko via email, or personally sign up on the Google Doc sign-up sheet sent to senators via email.

- g) Ezra Temko announced that there are 5 existing Committee vacancies that need to be filled: Honorary Degrees and Awards Commencement, The President's Commission on the Status of People with Color, a subcommittee of the latter commission: Microaggressions Video Project Working Group, Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, Space Allocation, Repairs, and Renovations Committee, although the latter two committees are scheduled to meet during GSS General Meetings.
- h) Ezra Temko instructed anyone interested in signing up for these committees to contact him.
- i) Ezra Temko indicated that discussion of constituent relations and Constituent Unit Liaisons will be tabled until the next GSS meeting.
- j) **Upcoming GSS Sponsored Events:**
 - 1. Tuesday October 27th at 5:30pm: "The Mask You Live In," a film handling topics of gender and constructed masculinity, is screening in the MUB. Health Services and SHARPP members will be in attendance. There will be free dinner offered in Holloway Commons directly after the film for those graduate students in attendance.
 - 2. ~~Thursday, November 5, at 6:00pm: First Thursday: Night at the Museum.~~ There will not be beer or wine at the event even though it's 1st Thursday. Sherard Harrington indicated there will be cheese + crackers, or some sort of h'or douevres. Space will be reserved for the group. *Update: This event has been postponed until next semester.*

C. Current Issues

- a. **Common Exam Hour**
 - i. Ezra Temko discussed the draft motion to change the Common Exam Hour that was changed last year. Ezra Temko asked for any clarifying questions regarding the desire to change Friday Common Exam Hour. Ezra Temko asked if anyone had any questions regarding this proposed motion.
 - ii. Sherard Harrington expressed a dislike for Common Exam Hour on Fridays.
 - iii. Drummond Biles indicated surprise that the Common Exam Hour was changed because of the fact that the back of Hamilton Smith is under renovation. D. Biles asked if this team has the data to prove this was a necessary step.
 - iv. Mike Verney indicated that data was presented. Faculty Senate Vice Provost was allowed to come in and present these legitimate reasons. There was no interest in people teaching, etc. during Friday, when people work.
 - v. Matt Smith indicated that there was a point of contention to put classes on Friday because it's basically perceived as a "three day weekend."

- vi. Ezra Temko asked if there was anything any member wanted to change about this motion.
- vii. Mary Grace Elliot indicated to acknowledge what “this change” refers to.
- viii. Damian Manda suggested a change to the language of the Common Hour Exam expression on the Current Issues document.
- ix. Ezra Temko took note of this suggested revision.
- x. Mike Verney suggested a language addition about past GSS action.
- xi. Ezra Temko noted that he would update the language according to these suggested revisions.

xii. Ezra Temko asked if there is a motion to adopt the following updated draft language:

“Last year the UNH Faculty Senate, at the recommendation of its Academic Affairs Committee, voted to move the Common Exam (afternoon) time set at Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:40pm-2:00pm to Fridays from 2:10pm-5:00pm (MOTION #XIX-M5). This motion included language noting that, because this change was made to accommodate the renovation of Hamilton Smith Hall, the change would only remain in effect for two years.

We understand that this was a difficult decision that Faculty Senate was (as stated in the motion from the Academic Affairs Committee) reluctant to make. In October 2015, the GSS wrote a letter of concern to President Huddleston and Vice President Mark Rubinstein regarding this issue and its impacts. The Graduate Student Senate has taken steps to adapt to this change, but it has nevertheless impacted our ability to be as inclusive and effective as we would like to be; it has additionally created scheduling conflicts among the graduate student community. We would like to iterate our full support for the changes to the afternoon Common Exam Hour time reverting back to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:40pm-2:00pm after these two years have elapsed (or as soon as practical following the completion of the Hamilton Smith renovation). As we deal with this new reality, we wanted to express our sincere hope that placement of Common Exam Hour on Fridays not be permanent.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work for our community.”

xiii. Mary Grace Elliot made a motion to adopt the updated draft language.

I. 15 Yay, 1 Nay. Motion passed.

- b. Ezra Temko noted that anyone could contact him with suggested issues to discuss as a Current Issue on the agenda for future GSS meeting.

- c. Mike Verney stated that he and Ezra Temko would meet with the Durham Chief of Police to discuss **safety issues** on campus. Mike Verney suggested that Senators meet with their constituents to discuss anything you/they want to bring up.
- d. Ezra Temko noted that there would be no check-outs, announced that the next GSS meeting is on Tuesday October 20th at 12:15pm in MUB 203, and thanked all of those in attendance.

X. Adjournment – 1:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk
Graduate Student Senate
University of New Hampshire