

Meeting Minutes for Introductory General Meeting of UNH Graduate Student Senate  
September 8, 2015  
Ezra Temko, President, Facilitating

**I. Call to Order:** Ezra Temko, President, 12:26pm

**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 Elliot	COLA
Dante Broadbent	CHHS
Taylor Hodgdon	CEPS
Tom Cronin	Manchester
Damian Manda	CEPS
Melika Nouri	Forest Park
Jovana Milosavljevic	COLA
Devin Batchelder	COLSA
Catherine Welter	COLA

C. Executive Committee Members/Senators Not Present

Louis Trebaol	PAUL
Stephen Prescott	LAW

- D. Members at Large Present: Katherine Gillman, Jochen Wirsing, Chris Boamah-Memah, Amanda Sobel, and Christine Healy.
- E. Guests: None

### III. Greetings, Check-Ins, and Introductions

- A. President Ezra Temko greeted GSS members and thanked all of those members who attended orientations and met with their constituents. Ezra Temko explained that he would go through the meeting's agenda, beginning with Check-Ins, and asked if anyone had special circumstances, required leaving the meeting early, or had anything urgent to report on briefly before Roll-Call and Introductions.
  - a. Roll Call and Introductions: GSS Binders were passed out. 14 Senators and 6 Executive Committee members introduced themselves.
  - b. President Ezra Temko introduced himself as Ph.D. student in Sociology and described his past service on the GSS, briefly discussed programs and goals for the year to involve more graduate students, address their specific concerns, and effectively broaden and expand the GSS.
  - c. Vice President Mike Verney introduced himself as former President of the GSS and 5<sup>th</sup> year History Ph.D. student. Mike Verney explained that he would run meeting attendees through orientation and answer any questions they may have.
  - d. Matt Smith introduced himself as 3<sup>rd</sup> year member of the GSS interested in the financial aspects of the university, specifically finding ways to limit graduate student fees.
  - e. External Affairs Officer Andrea Jilling introduced herself as 3<sup>rd</sup> year Natural Resources student interested in getting more graduate students behind various sustainability issues.
  - f. Katherine Gillman introduced herself as a member-at-large.
  - g. Drummond Biles introduced himself as 1<sup>st</sup> year Sociology student looking for deeper involvement with the inner workings of the university.
  - h. Myles Lynch introduced himself, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year member of the GSS expressing interest in leveraging different disciplines and informing the administration of graduate student needs.
  - i. Felicia Fowler introduced herself and expressed her interest in continuing to develop solidarity amongst graduate students.
  - j. Jochen Wirsing introduced himself as a member-at-large.
  - k. Mary Grace Elliot introduced herself as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year English Ph.D. student and 1<sup>st</sup> year GSS Senator interested in improving communication between disciplines on campus, and community-building.
  - l. Dante Broadbent introduced himself as a GSS Senator interested in conflict-mediation and policy-making.
  - m. Taylor Hodgdon introduced himself as a GSS Senator.
  - n. Tom Cronin introduced himself as a GSS Senator interested in improving cross-campus communication.
  - o. Amanda Sobel introduced herself as a member-at-large who previously served the GSS as Forest Park Senator, interested in figuring out how to get decision-makers to take the GSS into account.
  - p. Damian Manda introduced himself as a Senator of the GSS.

- q. Melika Nouri introduced herself as a Senator of the GSS.
- r. Yoka Milosavljevic introduced herself as a 1<sup>st</sup> year COLA Senator of the GSS.
- s. Christine Healy introduced herself as a member-at-large.
- t. Catherine Welter introduced herself as a COLA Senator of the GSS.
- u. Chris Boamah-Memah introduced himself as a member-at-large.

#### **IV. Outside Business**

- A. President Ezra Temko addressed anyone outside of the GSS who had any comments on broader issues regarding the university, and announced that Deans Moorhead and Richards will attend October meeting. Ezra Temko asked if there is anything to share outside of the agenda contained in the binders and if anyone must leave early.
- B. Devin Batchelder announced she would be leaving early.
- C. Ezra Temko announced that Mike Verney would be leading GSS orientation. Ezra Temko announced that GSS would discuss current issues listed on the agenda and discuss any feedback on these issues.
- D. Ezra Temko announced that GSS members should contact him should they wish to join any of the discussed committees. Tom Cronin asked a question about how a resolution would be made. Ezra Temko answered that he will be at the meeting and represent all GSS members. Ezra Temko requested that if any member is leaving early to let him know who will be voting as their proxy.
- E. President Ezra Temko introduced Vice President Mike Verney as leader of GSS Orientation, Vice President of Governance Committee, and oldest member of GSS by continuous service.

#### **V. Orientation**

- A. Vice President Mike Verney began orientation.
  - a. Mike Verney asked if all representative members of the GSS received orientation binders. Three binders were missing. Three binders were passed out. Mike Verney thanked Executive Committee members for putting the binders together, asked members to contact him if anything from binders was missing, asked non-representative members to share binders due to cost limitations.
  - b. Mike Verney briefly mentioned the importance of the Overview: Purpose and Function of GSS.
  - c. Mike Verney explained the Acronyms page of the orientation binders, a reference guide for campus organizations, and other entities with acronyms, mentioned that there is empty space for Senators to fill in other acronyms they need to remember.
  - d. GSS Organization Chart: Mike Verney explained that the Executive Committee represents general members, stated intention to let all of campus know they represent them: The Executive Committee advises the Senate but the issues discussed come from the general members.
  - e. Mike Verney explained that GSS members are organized on the Org chart by colleges, noted that all members should be in touch with President Ezra Temko about their constituents.
  - f. Mike Verney noted that 2015-2016 GSS features a large amount of Senators representing COLA, one of the university's largest divisions.
  - g. Mike Verney mentioned an open Center for Health and Human Services seat on the GSS, encouraged everyone to recruit.
  - h. List of GSS members, including contact information, colleges they are representing, and programs they are enrolled in, was discussed by Mike Verney.

- i. President Ezra Temko noted that all the information on GSS members is on Google Drive.
- B. Constitution And Bylaws:
- a. Mike Verney instructed members to turn to article 1 section 5 and explained this is where to turn for any member who has a question about rights or responsibilities as a member of senate. All members are expected to sit on at least one committee. Mike Verney explained that GSS needs committees to talk about issues internally and externally. All senators expected to be at all meetings, attend one committee, and attend one GSS programming event per semester. This increases the likelihood that someone will be there to represent us the GSS as a whole.
    - i. Ezra Temko noted that if GSS members hate the programs, that's okay, because the Executive Committee are always willing to co-sponsor events suggested by members.
  - b. Mike Verney stated that it is the duty of Executive Committee members to attend the meetings. Skipping to the guide to being a good member of GSS, Mike Verney explained the Guidelines: keep in touch and be available to your constituents. A couple of years ago Mike Verney was representing COLA and had access to emailing history but not Poli Sci students. Secretaries' ability to give members mailing lists to contact all of their constituents was discussed.
  - c. Mike Verney directed GSS members to attend any constituents' Happy Hour programs to maintain a GSS presence, emphasizing the importance of maintaining contact, to invite them to one of Sherard's events, and the senate meetings, so that they can know the GSS is aware of their needs. Communication was discussed: Mike Verney reminded members to be concise when they speak so that they can have successful contributions in external meetings. In senate in the past, there have been strong voices that have dominated. Mike Verney stated that GSS is changing the way they conduct meetings to a new process to re-administer power dynamics within meetings. Mike Verney reminded members to think about how they can be positive and thoughtful contributors.
    - i. Requirement to sit on one committee is explained.
  - d. Mike Verney suggested that members consider representing GSS on a second committee. Some don't meet very often, some are more intensive: Anyone who wants to can find one they will be interested in. Mike Verney advised those sitting on external committees: Make sure you are a good ambassador, represent GSS accurately, ask questions when you need to but be concise, thoughtful, and prudent to wait a while before you begin speaking. Mike Verney reminded members sitting on these external committees to bring up any issue that represents one's constituents.
  - e. Mike Verney reminded members to get familiar with the GSS Constitution and Bylaws, which explain to members the organization of the university. The ORG chart for UNH was discussed: this helps members get a sense of how UNH, and other higher institutions of learning, run.
  - f. Mike Verney discussed GSS internal standing committees (GSS committees) sanctioned by the GSS.
    - i. Governance Committee was discussed in detail. Mike Verney chairs, safeguards, and updates GSS Con. + Bylaws, and stated these committees have recently experienced a lower enrollment than usual. Mike Verney suggested that someone sign up for the open slot on the Governance Committee so there are more members vetting important ideas besides those presiding on the Executive Committee.
  - g. Mike Verney described the Programming Committee run by Sherard Harrington. Mike Verney explained how internal ad hoc committees are appointed by Ezra Temko.
  - h. Ezra Temko noted that senators should be on liaison committees and external committees. Ezra Temko discussed the need for close communication on these committees that are open to graduate students more broadly.

- i. During the previous year shared committee reports were given at meetings, yet this year the Executive Committee asks members to give very brief reports and submit them online, noting if anything needs to be discussed or action needs to be taken. For strict informational purposes: post online, as this won't be discussed in depth at meetings.
  - i. Ezra Temko stated that by next semester there will be specific liaisons within every program, department, and housing unit to the purpose of improving two-way communication. Bylaws talk about members going to faculty committee meetings. Ex Com wants to make sure grad students have this opportunity.
  - ii. Ezra Temko implores members to talk with students at their constituency levels.
- j. Mike Verney pointed out that Departments may have systems beyond the GSS, and thanked Ezra for his comment.
- k. University ORG chart is discussed by Mike Verney: Shows who is in charge of what areas of campus, who is responsible for what, and some of these individuals may sit in on GSS meetings.
- l. Student Affairs and the Modified Feminist Process, a new system of communication at GSS meetings, are discussed. Mike Verney notes there has been a lot of turn over at high levels of UNH: reorganization. There has been a substantial realignment of who is in charge of what.
- m. Mike Verney handed out a quick guide to the Modified Feminist Process. Ezra Temko stated that he would make sure GSS revisits the Modified Feminist Process. There will be a larger, expanded version beyond the quick guide that will be approved.
  - i. Mike Verney explained the organization of discussion at GSS meetings: check ins, guests, members at large introduce, then reports, internal business, discussion protocol: introduction of topic, discussion, then clarifying questions so GSS can make sure everyone knows exactly what is being proposed on the table. Then, discussion: a list of people wishing to speak.
  - ii. Ezra discussed "The Stack," ensuring that everyone is contributing to the discussion and that no one dominating discussions. Ezra Temko stated he will arrange this and will order who talks. How to speak: you can lightly tap the table: it's encouraged.
  - iii. Hand gestures of the Modified Feminist Process were openly discussed.
    - 1. Ezra Temko introduced hand gesture C as "Clarifying." This shows that members have a particular clarifying question that may help everyone else.
    - 2. The D hand signal indicates a "Direct Response" to a comment.
    - 3. The P hand signal indicates a suggestion or "Proposal." The P symbol communicates that members should amend a proposal or suggest a vote, etc.
    - 4. Ezra Temko explained that as members get closer to a vote, "thumbs up" communicates their general feelings on the matter.
    - 5. Thumbs down = No. This indicates that the individual believes that members need to discuss the issue more in-depth.
    - 6. Side thumb = Indifferent.
  - iv. Proxy voting. Ezra Temko instructed that GSS would not commit to proxy votes unless someone has to leave a GSS meeting early. In this case, they can designate someone else to represent their views, etc.
    - 7. Mike Verney explained policies on missing meetings. If you're going to a conference, you can contact Executive Committee to request to vote one way or another. Ex Com can grant this upon written request. Ezra Temko expressed his understanding that things come up in schedules and meetings will be missed from time to time.
    - 8. Mike Verney expressed an interest in expanding absentee voting and suggested that if any member has any suggests on absentee voting procedures, they should e-mail Clerk Paul Rowe and President Ezra Temko.
    - 9. Ezra Temko stated that senators should not vote absentee and request a vote via Executive Committee, but should let Clerk Paul Rowe and him know who their proxy person is.

10. Mike Verney reminded GSS Senators to put their agendas in their binders, along with blank paper to use for note taking. Mike Verney instructed Senators to bring these on days of committee meetings, and informed members that if they needed the GSS to hold on to their binders, they could be stored in the GSS office. Mike Verney informed Senators that if there is anything missing from Orientation binders, these could be obtained after the meeting.
11. Ezra Temko stated Executive Committee is happy to collect nameplates or not, depending on personal preference.
12. Mike Verney effectively brought the GSS Orientation to a close.

## **VI. Reports**

- A. 5 May 2015 Minutes.
  - a. Ezra Temko stated those who were at the meeting would be able to look over and recommend whether to vote to approve these minutes.
- B. Sherard Harrington, Programs Coordinator.
  - a. Sherard Harrington announced the switch to Mailchimp.
  - b. First Thursday was discussed. Sherard Harrington reported a turnout of 63+ graduate students. Sherard Harrington explained that in the past First Thursday has been once a month, and has been cut back to September and December.
  - c. A Flyer was passed around for the Ice Cream Social. Sherard Harrington indicated that flyers could be posted wherever Senators thought necessary. Sherard Harrington announced there will be a raffle for a juicer. There will be Gifford's ice cream, money boots, Maine deer tracks, and non-dairy options at this event.
  - d. Mike Verney asked about Curt Kenoyer. Sherard Harrington replied that Kurt is Head of Commuter Services, and is in charge of sending out the "Commuter Connection" emails.
  - e. Mary Grace Elliot asked if Curt Kenoyer gave free coffee on Tuesday mornings.
    - I. Mike Verney indicated approval of the free coffee. Ezra Temko clarified that there are also free lunches given out from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays.
  - f. Sherard Harrington indicated that Programs is attempting to stay under budget this year as they are trying to make room for Manchester campus.
- C. Ezra Temko brings up TNH.
  - a. Mike Verney indicated that TNH is a good example of an organization on the Acronyms Chart. TNH has reported primarily on undergraduate issues. Mike Verney stated that GSS would attempt to become involved, meet with TNH Director, and expressed excitement and gratitude that GSS would be doing that. Thanks to Sherard, TNH has included the GSS on flyers. Mike Verney announced that something could be published by Ezra soon in the Letter to the Editor section of TNH.
  - b. Ezra Temko suggested that flyers would be put out, and members could take extras if there's somewhere to put them: there is no shortage of these.

## **VII. Internal Business.**

- A. Ezra Temko moves the discussion to Internal Business topics.
  - a. Ezra Temko reports that all constituencies are covered besides Nursing and it's hard for these individuals to find representation. Ezra Temko reminded Senators that they don't have to be involved in the program already to sign up for these

under-represented programs, and suggested if anyone was interested, to remain in touch. Ezra offered information on committees and informed GSS that if anyone had anything to ask about committees, he would answer these. Ezra Temko requested that members ask any graduate students they feel would be interested, and opened the floor for questions about committees.

- I. Mary Grace Elliot asked about the Joint Committee on Advocacy and Internal Affairs and how she ended up on this committee.
  1. Ezra Temko explained that this committee is about creating advocacy both outside and inside UNH for sharing grad student concerns about specific issues, which may or may not be about policies. Ezra Temko announced that External Affairs Officer Andrea Jilling attends Board of Trustees meetings and keeps track of issues at Faculty/senate meetings that GSS should be aware of, although a committee that won't have regular, full meetings. Ezra Temko turned the floor over to Andrea Jilling to speak on this committee.
  2. Andrea Jilling announced that these issues would be discussed via email.
- II. Mary Grace Elliot asked if these meetings would be announced.
  1. Ezra Temko announced that these meetings will be announced and they will be based around everyone's schedules. Ezra Temko clarified that there is a Faculty/Senate member who makes sure relevant people will come.
  2. Yoka Milosavljevic identified herself as this member.
  3. Ezra Temko stated that navigating everyone's schedules helps set up these meetings.
  4. Ezra Temko addressed Yoka Milosavljevic and stated that the administration added her to their list but Ex Com can reach out to them as well.
- b. Ezra Temko announced that GSS had been invited to attend USS meetings and although their issues have overlap with GSS, they also meet Sundays from 6:00-8:00p.m. or 9:00 p.m. Ex Com discussed if senators could volunteer to sign up for one of these. Ezra Temko suggested that although this is a tough time slot, this would get GSS through the semester and half way through next semester.
  - I. Mary Grace Elliot signed up for the first USS meeting at Paul College.
    1. Ezra Temko informed he would follow up with Mary Grace Elliot regarding the location and time confirmation, thanked Mary Grace Elliot for volunteering, encouraged others to sign up for one meeting, and thanked GSS for working with USS.

## **VIII. Upcoming Programs**

- A. Ezra Temko announced there were ten minutes remaining in the meeting and shifted gears towards Upcoming Programs.

- B. Ezra Temko reminded GSS about the Graduate Student Resource Fair and Ice Cream Social, and asked GSS members to attend, to meet one another, and to reach out to undergrads.
- C. Ezra Temko reminded GSS about University Day (U-Day) Wed. 9/16, from 3:30pm-6:30 p.m., T-Hall (Thompson Hall) Lawn *Rain Date: Thursday, September 17.*

#### **IX. Current Issues**

- A. Ezra Temko brought up the Center for Global, Race, and Diversity Studies, stated that Jessica Fish was in position last year, and explained that they coordinated issues for minors. Ezra Temko stated we did the “Dear White People” movie in the MUB, with free tickets and popcorn. CGRD do work with Grad/UG. Jessica was lined up, but left, and the position has not been filled. This organization was partially filled by COLA/Provost and they decided not to fund it. There was going to be a summer meeting, and there was interest in meeting with the COLA Dean about this organization. Ezra Temko announced that the meeting is this Friday and he will take a back seat.
- B. The Current Issues document stated the following on this issue: the Faculty Directors of the Center for Global, Race, and Diversity Studies are having a meeting with COLA Dean Fuld, likely on September 11, to discuss the Managing Director position for the Center for Global, Race, and Diversity Studies as well as institutional support for the interdisciplinary undergraduate minors supported by COLA. GSS has been invited to attend this meeting and Ezra Temko has volunteered to attend. The discussion before GSS is intended to decide if GSS has a position for which they want to enable Ezra Temko to speak on behalf of GSS at the meeting.
- C. Ezra Temko stated that the question is regarding whether or not this position should continue, and if GSS is concerned about this position not being filled. Ezra Temko opened the floor for discussion.
  - a. Dante Broadbent requested a quick lowdown on this Center.
  - b. Andrea Jilling noted that undergrads have been active with this center in the past.
  - c. Mike Verney answered that they have contributed to African American studies, American studies, and global studies for undergrads. For grads, they help with diversity, awareness, Diwali, and put on the South Asian Student Committee Annual Festival celebrating the spiritual value of light. Mike Verney noted that it’s great to have a group like this to celebrate cultural background/diversity of the UNH campus.
  - d. Ezra Temko offered that seven different minors are involved with the Center, and they screened films such as “Selma.”
  - e. Dante Broadbent asked whether or not it’s one position that isn’t being funded, or the whole Center.
    - I. Ezra Temko answered that one person essentially runs the Center and this person is not coming back.
  - g. Myles Lynch asked who was funding the position.
    - I. Ezra Temko answered: COLA and Provost University wide.
    - II. Patrick Lacroix asked if she was a faculty member.
    - III. Ezra Temko answered that she may have academic history but was hired for a staff position.
    - IV. Patrick Lacroix asked if she took time off to perform this position.
    - V. Ezra Temko answered she was hired to perform this coordinating/programming job.
    - VI. Drummond Biles asked if there is a plan for resuming the roles she performed with this position.
    - VII. Ezra Temko answered that GSS reached out to coordinators in an attempt to see what they can do to keep these efforts going whether they look the same or not.

- VIII. Dante Broadbent asked whether or not there are other organizations to fill this gap, or if there will there be a void.
  - IX. Ezra Temko answered that GSS is concerned about this issue, will make sure these things continue, and will personally report back on what he learns, stating GSS will discuss our concerns, and determine what to do from here.
  - X. Yoka Milosavljevic asked if international students are involved in this Center.
  - XI. Ezra Temko stated he would access the Annual Report to determine whether or not international students were involved, and asked if anyone would like to make a Motion on this issue.
    - a) Myles Lynch stated that based on our discussion, we don't have enough information to make an informed decision or take a legitimate stance.
- A. Mike Verney asked Myles Lynch if he would support the GSS statement on Current Issues document regarding Language. Mike Verney proposed a motion as to whether or not GSS Senators support the following statement: The GSS is concerned about the decision made over the summer not to continue the position of Managing Director of the Center for Global, Race, and Diversity Studies. GSS supports re-filling this position and/or taking comparable measures to ensure the Center's important work continues.
    - i. Motion: Yay: 16, Nay: 0, Abstaining: 1.
    - ii. Motion Passed.
  - B. Ezra Temko thanked the GSS for their attendance and staying in touch with their constituents, announced that next time at check in if there is any word of mouth knowledge of Grad school any member would like grad students to know about: Have this for check in next time.

**X. Adjournment – 1:35 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Rowe, Clerk  
Graduate Student Senate  
University of New Hampshire