The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)
Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, December 11th, 2008

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:
G. Gilbert       N. Nadeau       J. Beaupre       N. Spaulding       W. Plourde       M. Royer
S. Ladd          M. Snell          M. Burgess       S. Breems          A. Kristo        J. Passanisi
E. Howell      F. Fatemi        A. Martinson    W. Slade           C. Mahaffey      M. Jones
L. Edmond   R. Feeley          V. Gaete-Martinez

Executive Committee:
J. Logan      P. Spinney        K. Soule        J. Scott          K. Hoyt

Graduate School:
D. Sandweiss    S. Delcourt

President’s Report- Jeremy

• Renee Kelly & Jesse Moriarity from the Foster Innovative Center
~Made to help students who have ideas about inventions, new products, creative projects and business plans get started or get it off the ground.
   *Open door policy, so please come in with ideas.
   *Offer some funding or how to get funding for such projects.
   *Offer space to work on these projects as well.

Opportunities for next year:

i. Commercialization sponsor of a prize for a graduate student. This sponsorship was $500 last year.
ii. A green product contest that involves submitting a proposal. Last year was a $5000 award.

Academic program: For undergraduates mostly but open to all students: Innovation Engineering. Involves teaching through a systematic approach about innovation for coming up with, evaluating & communicating ideas.
   *This can be used as a minor for an undergraduate degree if they fulfill the requirements.

*~* PLEASE SEE FLYERS AT THE END OF THE MINUTES OR THE WEBSITE (www.umaine.edu/innovation) FOR MORE INFORMATION.
*It would be great if we could extend this to graduate students. Dan Sandweiss suggested writing a proposal that would get this up and running by Fall 09 or even by the summer.

They are located on top of the hill near the Hilltop region of campus, right next to P.A.T.C.H., a beautiful glass building.

- **Health Insurance**
  
  ~ Cutler Outsourcing: Patrick & Jeremy met with auxiliary services last week.  
  GOOD:
  - Extended hours: 10-6:30pm schedule & maybe weekends  
  - Higher MD component: meaning doctor on site.  
  - Third party billing will be excellent.  
  - Cutler care program still in effect for the rest of this year.  
  BAD:
  - Will be closed for a few weeks starting at the beginning in January. During this time students can go to the Orono Medical Center.  

  ~We are not sure how our insurance policy will be affected by this but we will figure this out by next meeting.

Questions:

Pharmacy? Right now it will remain the same at Miller Drug and Orono Pharmacy, and most likely there will not be a pharmacist on site but may be able to make an integrative approach via drug vending machine or other

Name change? We are not sure yet.

How to bring this back to our departments? There may be an email sent out to all graduate students but for now we can just type it up into our GSG updates for our departments.

- **Miscellaneous Updates**
  
  ~We do not have a treasurer for next semester so we will need to elect a new treasurer next meeting at the beginning of the semester. Please let us know if you are interested in filling this position.

**Grant Officers Report – JulieAnn**

- **Break down of Fall Grants**
  
  ~Please see attached summary of GSG Grants for the Fall of 2008.  
  - 64 applications and 56 were awarded; Not a competitive semester.  
  - If you haven’t received your check yet please let JulieAnn know.
~Intermedia have asked for funding for 12 cameras in the past two years. This makes us think that we may want to offer cameras as a service to graduate students instead of funding individual students. We will discuss this further early next semester.

- **Spring Grants**

- Grant application needs to be approved.
  
  *Changes:
  
  i. Increase the amount of a grant to $850? It was changed from $777 to $800 two years ago. Increasing this may decrease the number of students funded but considering we are already increasing the number of students this isn’t going to be a significant problem.
  
  ii. Due date: Wednesday Feb. 11th. Is this too early?

  Can we spend this grant money in the summer? **Yes it is applicable.**

  iii. Reimbursement section of the application has been clearer for everyone’s convenience.

  iv. Gave an idea of what acceptable language is. Do we find this condescending or inappropriate? **We find this appropriate!**

**Standing Rules** state that the grant readers need to come up with a rubric for grant applications. Since the grant readers are not appointed yet the best decision is to have the grant committee take this on.

We need a motion to suspend the standing rules to allow the grant committee to make the rubric for the spring grants instead of the grant readers.

*Or we could just hand out the already made “Suggested Rubric” instead of doing this to allow grant readers to develop their own rubric. **Would it be useful to have the grant readers submit their rubrics before hand?** Why not use a **standard rubric**? This is a problem with the individual readers.

Motion to approve Spring grant application, and seconded.

- Approved - 18
- Opposed - 1
- Abstained - 2

**Motion passes!**

**Vice President’s Report - Patrick**

- Committee Updates
- Food Drive

~By Saturday!

**Secretary’s Report - Kara**

- Minutes

~Minutes passed!

~Adjourn~