

The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)

Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, November 29th, 2007

**In Attendance:**

*Department Representatives:*

|                      |              |           |           |            |            |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| K. Soule             | F. Faterni   | R. Gomez  | L. Fortin | A. Shearin | J. Giguere |
| S. Perry             | A. Mortensen | J. Logan  | E. Bryce  | M. Tylka   | P. Spinney |
| A. Paradis           | L. Pinkert   | J. Bolton | M. Mann   | D. Hoyt    | A. Stiers  |
| J. Onysko            | H. Derar     | T. Smith  | J. Slavec | K. Savary  | W. Slade   |
| J. York <sup>1</sup> |              |           |           |            |            |

*Executive Committee:*

J. Worful      P. Devanney      J-A. Scott      B. Peters

*Graduate School:*

D. Sandweiss      S. Delcourt      D. Poisson

*Proxies:*

1) S. Ladd

*Guests:*

F. Naus-Thijssen (Earth Sciences)

1. The GSG meeting commenced at the scheduled time, 12:00 noon
2. Secretary's Report (Beth)
  - Motion to approve the minutes (Jason Bolton made the motion, Andrew Paradis second it) was approved. None were opposed. There was one abstention.
  - Beth gave a reminder that because it is getting close to the end of the semester laptops are becoming more popular. Get your requests in early.
3. Presidents Report (Jared)
  - Guest speakers Robert Pouliot and Betty Campell (from the Bookstore) came to the meeting to speak with us about options for new Doctoral Robes. They brought two samples with them. This would entail a 15 year contract with the University to use their services, because that is the amount of time it takes them to pay off

making them. Luckily for us, the Graduate School pays for our hoods, so our costs are all lower than most schools. As part of the rental you would purchase the tam as part of the rental. Part of the rental program also includes that if you go to teach somewhere else after graduation you can still rent the robe or purchase it from UMaine.

-Option 1: Navy robe with black velvet center with the flagship embroidered on it. Also has a black velvet tam. Option 2: Light blue robe with black velvet and embroidered flagship. Also has a light blue tam.

-Whatever we decide, ultimately President Kennedy has to approve the decision. In order for there to be enough turn around time, the decision must be made by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

-Joy G, asked if the University would be purchasing these and then we rent from them. The company actually owns them and we rent them from them through the Bookstore. You do buy the tam however, and there is an option to buy your robe. When you purchase one there will be a cost difference in purchasing the one you walked in and one just for you because the rentals have been used and such and also the one they make especially for you is more customized to your body. If faculty would like to rent from here they Bookstore needs to know about a month in advance.

-The question was raised what would happen if a Doctoral student ordered their robe in anticipation of graduating and then they don't finish their degree, would they be able to back out of it or use the money from the robe toward the next year. The robe company said that is something they would have to try to work out with UMaine, especially if the cost of shipping had already been used.

- Right now for the black retainable robe the cost of rental is \$36. The rental fee for the new robes would be about \$52 and the cost of the tam which is \$115. The cost of purchase for each of the robes is \$659 for the light blue robe and \$565 for the navy robe. It was brought up that there may be a possibility in using GSG funds to help pay for part of the tam or something of that nature. Mr. Pouliot also mentioned that tams cannot be rented because they are ruined too easily. Someone also asked if you could purchase the robes years down the road from graduating and the answer is yes. You would call the UMaine Bookstore to purchase one.

-Marilynn M. brought up the point that with the new robe plan you would be paying for the tam and an extra \$20 in rental fees, which is about \$135 more than we are currently paying.

-The point was also brought up that when faculty members are at graduation, the ones with special robes really stand out as coming from a distinguished university. Someone also asked if there was a difference in the cost of hoods. The answer is yes and the cost is \$160 for the light blue robe hoods and \$145 for the navy robe hoods. It was pointed out that it is not the color that makes a price difference, it's the fabric. Dottie also pointed out the light blue color of the education hoods may clash with the light blue robes. Trevor and Laurie thought of taking pictures of the robes next to each other and having a black retainable robe next to the new robes to see the color and quality difference. Betty then went and got a retainable robe and took pictures with the samples.

- The question was raised if there was a brighter color of blue. Mr. Pouliot said that there was not one close enough to an official color of the University.
- Wayne S. wanted to know the caliber of the current robe and many people responded as to how “cheap” they were. Wayne also pointed out that the current cost is \$36 and it will be \$167 for the new robes (which includes the rental fee and the tam).
- A poll was then taken to see which robe people preferred. The majority preferred the navy blue and two people were against the idea of new robes all together. A comment was made that if GSG were to help fund the robes, our funds could be better allocated elsewhere.
- Dan also pointed out that with rising costs, the Graduate School does not know how much longer they will be paying for the hoods, so that is another cost that will be presenting itself in the future.
- Joy G. thanked Mr. Pouliot for coming and commented on how both the robes looked great. Joy also commented on how these may be a bit more expensive but it’s probably the only doctorate we’re going to get. If we look cheap at graduations, we’ll look like cheap school. These robes make us look great and professional.
- The question was asked if these were made in the US. They are made in Virginia though the fabric may be made elsewhere.
- Jared asked if we pursue this, which color would we pursue. The majority once again said the navy blue.
- Andrew P. suggested that we poll our departments and email Beth with the outcomes in 2-3 days. Farrah commented that more were in favor of the navy, though Robert said the lighter blue will stand out more.
- Jeremy also asked if the navy would be easier to keep clean.
- Dan then pointed out that whatever recommendation we make will most likely be followed.
- Jared then took a vote of favor of making the recommendation. 21 were in favor of making the recommendation, 2 were not in favor of making the recommendation, and there were 2 abstentions.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.