

The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)

Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, November 8th, 2007

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:

K. Hoyt	F. Faterni ³	S. Tunc ¹	L. Fortin	A. Shearin	L. Brothers
S. Perry ²	A. Mortensen	J. Logan	E. Bryce	M. Tylka	C. Oliveri
J. York	P. Spinney	L. Pinkert	J. Bolton	M. Mann	G. King
D. Hoyt	A. Stiers	H. Derar	T. Smith	J. Slavec	K. Savary
W. Slade					

Executive Committee:

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

Graduate School:

D. Sandweiss

Student Affairs:

A. Gifford

Proxies:

1) S. Walton 2) J-A. Scott 3) T. Morley

Guests:

S. Ladd (Counselor Education)

1. The GSG meeting commenced at the scheduled time, 12:00 noon

2. Secretary's Report (Beth)

-Motion to approve the minutes (Trevor Smith made the motion, Louis Fortin second it) was approved. None were opposed. There were two abstentions.

-Newsletter Update- the first newsletter was released November 2nd. It is available on the GSG folder and soon to be website.

-There are now nametags for senators and blank ones from proxies and guest. Please use these so that names may be present in the minutes.

3. Presidents Report (Jared)

-John Mahon was supposed to talk today but could not make it so Irv Cornfield has asked to speak instead. He is from the Center of Teaching Excellence and they are currently searching for a new director. They would like a grad student to be on this search committee. Irv was asking if there were any TA's who could not access Crossman Hall (where CFTE is located) because it is not handicap accessible. No one present in the room had ever been there. Irv would like as many people as possible to come over and check it out. The Center for Teaching Excellence would also like to centralize their facility and would like GSG's endorsement on this. Jared asked the question what kind of services does the CFTE provide for graduate students. Irv responded that there are many physical materials and resources available for TA's and there are also seminars that graduate students can attend. The hope is that the new director will take an inventory of resources and also work with graduate students/ TA's about how better to serve us. Please send an email to Irv on firstclass with any further questions.

-Jared will be meeting with Auxiliary Services with other student leaders to discuss what we need from them. Jared would like to talk to Christy Oliveri about insurance. Julie-Ann mentioned that the percentage of students living on campus is very small. Laura B. mentioned that we would like to be able to pay a lower rate for parking. Jared also mentioned the graduate students moving to Stodder Hall and asked what types of amenities would we like to see with this. Julie-Ann also mentioned that wireless internet would be good because they do not have that right now in Estabrooke. Laura B. also said that she has heard a lot of displeasure with the mandatory gym membership (for the Recreation Center). Patrick S. said that it can be waived if you are off campus most of the time doing research. Dan mentioned that as far as he knows graduate students were never involved in the voting process to determine who would pay the fee, etc. This fee is also going to be mandatory for students for the next 25 years. Andrea is going to check to see if we voted on it and what the process is for waiving (since meeting has posted information to the GSG folder, please look there for more information). Andrea knows of students that have been reimbursed that are on satellite campuses. Contact Kenda Scheele to be reimbursed. Andrea also mentioned that if you live in the area there is a strong possibility you will not be reimbursed. Patrick S. mentioned that it cost as much as other gym's in the area but does not have as many offerings. Andrea encouraged anyone who would like to see something at the gym that is not currently there should contact Jeff Hunt because he would like to know what to do to make the rec. center better. Jason B. asked if the fee changes. Andrea said yes based on the amount of credits you are taking. Julie-Ann asked if the amount of credits you are taking affect accessibility to the gym. Andrea said she believed so but if so, you can pay the difference of what most people pay and have everything be accessible. Jared once again mentioned that without our voice nothing will change so please email Kenda Scheele on firstclass with concerns. Jared also asked if students would like to be able to take their coffee out of the University Club. Many students said yes. The membership for

the University Club is \$20 and for more information contact Mary Cady on firstclass.

- Jared also mentioned the Financial Planning Workshop on November 27th. Please take a flyer and hang them up. Sign ups were taken until Thanksgiving. Rob Strong who will be presenting is very knowledgeable so everyone is highly encouraged to go!

-The Rights and Responsibilities committee is still getting under way. More students can sign up for it if they are interested! The next step in this process is to look for faculty who are interested in being on the committee. Please email Jared with names of people you think may be interested.

4. Vice President's Report (Patrick)

- Patrick mentioned that people are still needed for the Student Employment Advisory Committee and the Commencement Committee.

-There was an updated from Ken Hoyt and the Finance and Institutional Planning Committee. They would like student input on how space is being utilized and also are currently developing protocol for what students, researchers, and teachers need. The question was posed to the resources fit what you're trying to do.

-Jason B. mentioned the Pub Crawl on Friday (November 16th) and to email him with your teams.

-Patrick has mailed out letters for funding for the Graduate Expo and has received \$2800 so far.

-Please email Patrick Devanney and Laurie Pinkert with any Graduate Student successes.

5. Treasurer Report- Jared

-Lauren is not able to be here due to research but Jared discussed how they found a discrepancy in the budget because they never withdrew the money from the foundation account last year that was voted on. The foundation account paid for the furniture, awards, laptops, and easels last year. Dottie is finalizing expenses for the expo and hooding and will have exact numbers once Lauren gets back.

6. Grants Officer Report (Julie-Ann)

- If you applied for a grant it was announced yesterday and you should have heard either way. We ran out of checks however, so as soon as we get more in they will be filled and available.

-Julie-Ann will be on research next week however will be available through email hopefully. Hopefully for next meeting there will be a report on expenses for

grants and clubs and orgs. Great job to all readers. The Grants Committee will meeting to discuss reader fatigue because some of the categories are getting too large. Ideas will be brought to the Senators. If you have feedback about the applications please email Julie-Ann.

-The last check for Clubs and Orgs will be handed out soon.

-The plaques for the Mentor award have been priced. It's \$600 for a 20-25 year plaque or \$550 for 12 years. For aesthetic reasons will order the 12 year ones so they are not as bulky. Right now plaques are being given to mentors which are about \$25 each and also buying a University Club membership for them for the year. It is getting to be very costly, maybe should we move to a certificate in a frame or something similar?

-The Doctoral Robes are turning into a much larger process. We would have to declare a color for our robes which is very expensive even for the cheaper robes. There is the possibility if we still wanted to change the color we could buy a set of robes and have them available for rental. The crest is also available to put on the robes.

7. Board of Trustees Report

-Jeremy went to Augusta for the November Board of Trustees Meeting. The highlights are as follows. There was a resolution from the trustees requesting an additional 8 million from the government to balance out the tuition increase. There were also discussions are efficiency such as oil contracts, energy contracts, and energy and financial efficiency. There was an annual summary and fall enrollment for graduate students is up. The first year retention is the biggest issue discussed at meetings. There were also appointments made including Dr. Robert Dana is now the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students and there is also a new interim dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The BOT is also in strong support of a Rights and Responsibilities Document.

8. Motion for adjournment was made by Jason Bolton and second by Wayne Slade.