The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)
Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, September 10, 2009

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:
L. Beers  D. Cassidy  J. Killarney  C. Salm  K. Klappenbach
M. Royer  K. Pingree  G. Holman  B. Hughes  A. Kristo
A. Mullen  J. Moulton  P. Bates  D. Laliberté  K. Garland
L. Holleb  D. Belanger  W. Slade  A. Potter  S. Doore
A. Shearin

Executive Committee:

P. Spinney  J. Bolton  J. Beaupre  T. Smith  C. Mahaffey  J. Scott-Pollock

Graduate School:

D. Sandweiss  S. Delcourt

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

President’s Report – Pat

Introduction to Graduate Student Government
Executive Officers:
   Patrick Spinney – President
   Jason Bolton – Vice President
   James Beaupre – Treasurer
   Trevor Smith – Secretary
   Christie Mahaffey – Grants Officer
   Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock – Board of Trustees Representative

The GSG Senate is comprised of a representative from each department on campus (departments with more than 50 graduate students are permitted two representatives) and is responsible for approving business and events sponsored by the GSG.

GSG provides: grant funding for academic travel and degree-related expenses, social events open to all graduate students, funding for graduate student clubs and organizations, annual UMaine graduate exposition.
Meetings are open to the public. Attendance is mandatory for members of a department to be eligible for grant funding. We use Roberts Rules of Order. Senators are advised to keep up to date on information and events posted to the FirstClass conference. We also have a new website (http://www2.umaine.edu/gsg); please provide feedback.

Challenges for the coming year
Campus budget – We must advocate for graduate education at UMaine. We’ll be asking for help in making a good argument to the government and general population of the state of Maine
Healthcare – We will advocate for graduate students and our concerns to the insurance companies and University officials involved with healthcare decisions.

Introduction of Dean and Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dan Sandweiss – Dean of the Graduate School
Thank you in advance for your service to the GSG Senate.
The Graduate School exists to help graduate students. We encourage you to talk with us regarding positive and negative aspects of graduate school here at UMaine. Please keep us informed of any achievements within your departments so that we may promote graduate studies at UMaine and publicize the great work that you do here.

Scott Delcourt – Associate Dean of the Graduate School
This new space (in Stodder Hall) is designed for graduate student use. You will eventually have 24-hour access, and guest housing is available for several nights at a time. The Graduate School picnic will be held on September 30, 2009.

Vice President’s Report – Jason

Responsibilities of VP
Organizing GSG committees – Each senator is responsible for sitting on at least one committee. Please indicate your top two committee choices.
Organizing Graduate Exposition – A presentation/display of research on campus: posters, oral presentations, performances, etc. The Expo will be held in Wells Commons in April, 2010 on a Thursday and Friday.

Grant Officers Report – Christie
Grant Funding
Grants help graduate students pay for expenses related to either traveling to present research or degree-related research. Grants may also fund degree-related expenses for professional programs.
The majority of the GSG operating budget goes toward funding grants.
Application is online for the first time this year. The maximum award is $850

Clubs & Orgs
GSG also funds clubs and organizations focusing on education. Paper-based application for Clubs & Orgs. The maximum award is $600.
The application deadline is October 8, 2009 for Grants and Clubs & Orgs funding.

(Shearin/Holman) Motion to accept Grant Application as posted on the Web. Passes (18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

**Treasurer – James**

**Budget**

New Line Items:

- **Interlibrary Loan ($500)** – generally well received by Senate. Concerns included:
  - Ensuring only grad students utilize this funding; unused funds being available in subsequent years; start a collection/database of photocopies of articles already requested by grad students. More information is requested regarding the administration of the GSG funds.

- **Laptop/Camera Purchase ($4000)** – Money to be used to buy several cameras to be available for loan to graduate students (similar to the laptop loan program). Rationale is that many cameras have been requested through grants in the past several years. We could save time and money by having a set of cameras permanently available through the GSG. Concerns: Will the cameras be available to take on a trip off campus? (yes) What if the camera breaks? (the student is responsible for up to $100 of damage. GSG covers the remainder.)

- **Web & Technology ($1000)** – Money is from a CD that has been cashed out and must be used to purchase technology or another CD. Proposing purchase of PA system for use during GSG socials, graduate recognition ceremony, grad school picnic, etc.

- **Officer stipends ($271.12 increase)** – 3% increase from last year. This is an arbitrary figure and will be quickly cut if necessary. Concern: No standard increase set in the Standing Rules.

- **Auditor ($500 increase)** – The cost to hire a firm to complete a full audit is steadily increasing. We could reduce this cost by $800 (to $2700) if we complete a financial review rather than a full audit. The financial review is easier, cheaper, and gives us all the information we need. Standing Rules currently require a full audit. We will be proposing an amendment in the coming weeks. Concern: Is there any advantage to a full audit? (Categories are broken down item-by-item, but that is not a real advantage for us.)

**Board of Trustees (BOT) – Julie-Ann**

**BOT Overview**

The Board of Trustees meets once every two months for a full day at a time and oversees all aspects of the University of Maine System. The New Challenges, New Directions task force report came out last summer with recommendations for reorganizing the UM system. The reorganization plan is not particularly favorable toward UMaine. A faculty committee has been formed to address the document. The report suggests giving the UM system Chancellor complete power over the system along with 5% of each campus’ operating budget to redistribute as he sees fit. The GSG Executive Committee is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Chancellor to advocate for graduate education at UMaine.
Secretary’s Report – Trevor
Approval of minutes from the GSG meetings held on April 16, 2009 and April 30, 2009.
   (Doore/Beers) Motion to accept both sets of old minutes
      Passes (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

New direction for GSG Newsletter – Online format. We don’t really need a paper newsletter any more. It is good to get information regarding research, activities, service, anything else to distribute to grad student body or any other people. I will be asking you to solicit information and “articles” from your departments. We may provide small financial incentives in the form of gift certificates to local businesses.

An updated copy of the GSG Constitution and Standing Rules will be posted soon. Any proposed amendments will be posted to the GSG Conference on FirstClass.

New Business

Meeting adjourned at 1:30