In Attendance:

Department Representatives:

- P. Bates
- L. Beers
- D. Belanger
- D. Cassidy
- P. Damkot
- E. Desroberts
- K. Garland
- P. Heacock
- K. Healy
- G. Holman
- B. Hughes
- J. Kastelein
- J. Killarney
- K. Klappenbach
- D. Laliberté
- A. Martinson
- L. Matheson
- J. Moulton
- N. Nadeau
- J. Peimer
- K. Pingree
- J. Poirier
- A. Potter
- M. Royer
- E. Schultz
- N. Spaulding

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

President’s Report – Pat

Discussion: Interlibrary Loan Support

Spoke with Susan Buzzell in the ILL office.

- Last year 108 grad students declined to get a paper because of cost.
- They will check for graduate student status to insure our funds are used appropriately.
- They can limit the number of papers per student per semester.
- We can’t keep copies of articles that are purchased using these funds.

This year will be a trial run. We may consider changing the amount of funding in the future.

Announcement:

The Graduate School Picnic will be held on Wednesday, September 30 from 4:00-6:00 pm in front of the Graduate School, in the Stodder quad. Please inform your departments. Faculty, grad students, and families are welcome. Rain date is Thursday, October 1.

Vice President’s Report – Jason

Committees

Sending around committees list. Open spaces are indicated. After today you will be assigned to a committee arbitrarily.
Faculty Senate

Much time on H1N1 outbreak possibility. Directions to undergrads if worried about contracting disease: stay in home, away from public; contact 581-H1N1

Message from Dean Dan Sandweiss – Let the administration know if you or anyone you know has any outbreak information. They want to monitor focus points.

UMaine will hold a large vaccination clinic (up to 1100 people) on November 9 and 10. The cost is currently unknown, but it is reported that no one who wants the vaccine will be turned away.

Discussion of various committees (Social, Expo, Grants, Newsletter, BOT, Mentor Awards, Health Insurance, Philanthropy). The frequency of committee meetings varies greatly: some are twice a week, some are once a month depending on needs of committee and desires of committee chair.

External Committees
Faculty Senate Library Advisory Board (What to do with theses/dissertations when students graduate)
FS Finance and Institutional Planning (Issues relating to the University’s budget)
University Environment (Greening and quality of life for faculty and students)
Administrative Appeals Board
Parking & Transportation
Cultural Affairs (Funds speakers, events, and such. Helped us fund last year’s expo speaker.)

Grant Officers Report – Christie

Discussion: Camera Loan Program
Cameras are currently available through the Intermedia department for rental up to 24 hours. Cameras are also available through AV Services and through the Collaborative Media Laboratory in Fogler Library. Concerns have been raised as to the quality and availability of these cameras. We are currently involved in gathering more information regarding graduate students needs and desires for a camera loan program. This program is likely to begin in the Fall of 2010. For this year grant applications asking for cameras will still be considered.

Announcements:

Grant Application Deadline is October 8, 2009 (online application)
Clubs & Orgs Application Deadline is October 8, 2009 (paper application due to Graduate School)
Reimbursement applications must submit one hard copy with receipts.

Solicitation for Grant Readers
There are two categories of grant applications: Travel to Present, and Degree Related. We need volunteers to read the applications from each category. A free meal is provided for all volunteers. It is a good opportunity to see what is looked for in grant applications.
Treasurer – James

Discussion: Full Audit vs. Financial Review
Standing Rules currently require a full audit. Last year we moved to perform a financial review. In the coming weeks we would like to amend the Standing Rules to allow for this option.

Benefits of a financial review – cheaper and easier than a full audit
Benefits of a full audit – every check/expenditure has its own line item. This makes things easier if we are ever audited by the IRS, but otherwise is not much of a benefit.

An amendment to the Standing Rules will be proposed that changes the language of “Audit” to read “Audit or Review”

Revised Budget (Discussion points)
Total budget has been reduced by $4,000.
An income of $6,000 is being included from a pool of unspent funds from previous years. This money is intended to offset the losses sustained by our account with the University Foundation this past year.
Concerns raised about not getting all of the income we expect – The budget has been created to err on the conservative side. We are more likely to have a higher income than is reflected in the budget.
The “Laptop” line item could be used to purchase either a new laptop or to invest in new cameras, but we are current unsure as to the best course of action. That money will not be spent until we come to a decision in that matter.

Motion to remove stipend increase from budget (Holman/Beers)
Discussion in favor of the motion – These increases seem unnecessary considering the fact that we just reduced our yearly budget by $4000.
Discussion opposed to the motion – Stipend increases have generally been every two years. The stipend for the BOT rep. Was increased last year, but the others were not. The total dollar amount for the stipend increases is roughly equivalent to the amount of money we will be saving by getting rid of our fax machine that was never used.
All agree that an amendment should be made to the Standing Rules to include a regular schedule for stipend increases.
FAILS (2 in favor, 21 opposed, 2 abstentions)

Motion #1

Board of Trustees (BOT) Representative – Julie-Ann

Discussion: The Board of Trustees
News from the BOT is not encouraging.
Systemwide budget cuts of 2%-5% annually until 2013: the desired strategy is to leave vacant faculty positions unfilled.
Undergraduate students are more likely to be adversely affected than graduate students.
Many people don’t understand the role of graduate education or its importance to the Maine state economy. Our goal in this regard must be to publicize the importance of graduate education to the general population of the state so that they may become advocates for us.
A call for information:
  How can I (the BOT rep.) represent graduate students fully and more appropriately?
  What concerns do you have?
  What is your perspective?
  Do you have anything you’d like me to bring to the BOT?

Secretary’s Report – Trevor
Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2009
Motion #2

New Business
1. (Cassidy/Garland) Motion to approve 2009/2010 budget as distributed
   PASSES (24 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions)

2. (Royer/Beers) Motion to approve minutes from September 10, 2009 as posted
   (25 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

Meeting adjourned at 1:31