The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)
Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, November 19, 2009

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:
L. Beers      D. Belanger      P. Damkot      E. Desroberts      F. Fatemi
C. Folsom     K. Gabor         P. Heacock     L. Holleb*        G. Holman
B. Hughes     M. J. Jones      J. Kastelein   K. Klappenbach   D. Laliberté
A. Martinson* L. Matheson     J. Moulton     N. Nadeau        K. Pingree
J. Poirier    A. Potter        M. Royer       C. Salm           E. Schultz
W. Slade

Executive Committee:

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

Graduate School:

D. Sandweiss  S. Delcourt

Proxies:

*Z. Macklin

Meeting called to order at 12:32 pm.

Klappenbach/Laliberté: Motion to approve minute from 11/05/09
(21 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)
Passes

President’s Report – Pat
Graduate Center Update
New furniture
Working on getting 24-hour access for all grad students
We now have wi-fi but no printing yet.

Health Committee Update (D. Laliberté)
There will be a student advisory committee for Cutler comprised of undergraduate and graduate students and employees of Cutler and Norumbega.
We are currently creating a survey for grad students to report their good and bad experiences with Cutler.

UMaine Website
If you have opinions on the University of Maine website, contact Joe Carr. The current design will be propagating throughout all UMaine websites.

Vice President’s Report – Jason
Social Event – 80’s night
Tomorrow night (11/20/09)
Entry fee is 1 nonperishable food item (or $1) (for the Philanthropy Committee)
Beer from Black Bear Brewery

Philanthropy Committee Update
Canned Food and Turkey Drive (also affiliated with 80’s night)

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary
Majority of meeting concerned questions toward the administration (President Kennedy): What does he see as the mission of UMaine? Where is UMaine going? What are his goals? UMaine is currently in the top 100 public universities in the US. He wants us to be in the top 50. UMaine in top 45 for research universities without med schools

Treasurer – James
Financial Review
In contact with accountant, getting paperwork together. Review should be complete before Christmas
Note: GSG checks (for grants, etc.) MUST be cashed before next semester or they will be voided.

Grant Officers Report – Christie
Fall Grants Report
We gave out 62 grants, but one person no longer needed support
$29,439.92 spent in total
78% of applicants were funded, 50% of requested funds granted. About half of the applicants received 50% funding
I’d be happy to meet with any departments or individuals who are concerned with poor funding rates.

Board of Trustees (BOT) – Julie-Ann
BOT Meeting: 11/15/09-11/16/09
The GSG officers drafted an op-ed piece for the Bangor Daily in opposition to the Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF) that would divert up to 3% of each campus’s operating budget to be redistributed by the Chancellor’s office.
The op-ed was written too late to be in the newspaper before the vote, but it was read aloud to the BOT members. Our biggest concern was how the money would be spent and who would make those decisions. Both of those questions remain unanswered. Chancellor Pattenaude has
indicated a plan to form a committee to oversee the distribution of SIF money, but it is still unclear who might be on this committee.
The BOT unanimously approved the proposed restructuring plan, including the SIF.

Chancellor and BOT are proposing the development of a front-end web-portal to be used with MaineStreet (PeopleSoft), Blackboard, and the maine.edu mail system. This would cost $5 Million to implement. Some are suggesting imposing a $25 fee per semester for all students that would go directly to the System office to maintain the software.
All chief financial officers across the system are vetoing the idea, but their still going with it. There are enough trustees that are NOT on board with the web-portal that we could actually make a difference if we send them an impression that we think it’s a bad idea.

We are working on getting more direct communication to BOT members.

Each BOT meeting includes a public comment section that starts at 3:00. Anyone can talk for 3 minutes. Please e-mail Julie-Ann if you would like to speak at a future meeting.

**New Business**
J. Kastelein – Bangor Art Walk happening tomorrow (Friday 11/20/09 4:00-7:00 pm). Bangor is trying to compete with Portland Art scene.

Pat and Jason will be meeting with President Kennedy. Please send them any issues you’d like discussed.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:24**