The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)

Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, December 3, 2009

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:
P. Bates   L. Beers*   D. Belanger   D. Cassidy   E. Desroberts
F. Fatemi  C. Folsom  A. Fraser    G. Holman    B. Hughes**
J. Kastelein  J. Killarney  K. Klappenbach  A. Kristo**  D. Laliberté
A. Martinson  L. Matheson  J. Moulton  J. Peimer    K. Pingree
A. Potter   A. Prang   M. Royer***  C. Salm    E. Schultz
A. Shearin  W. Slade   S. Sterling

Proxies and Guests:
*V. Herath  **C. Gendron  ***J. Logan  J. Poirier

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

Meeting called to order at 12:35 pm.

Shearin/Laliberté: Motion to approve minutes from 11/19/09
Passes
(24 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

President’s Report – Pat
Meeting with President Kennedy
Discussed the New Challenges New Directions initiative.
The graduate education programs at UMne and USM will be working more closely with each other. One idea at the system level is to send all professional programs to USM, but that would academically and financially hurt the grad school at UMaine.
The business school at UMaine offers dual degrees in business and another program of the student’s choice. A similar option may be provided with through the University of Maine School of Law at USM so that student’s can get a dual degree in law and another subject

Discussion of Bursar collecting on unpaid bills
After six months, unpaid bills may be sent to a collection agency. This could have a negative impact on the student’s credit. Please pay attention to your student bills, and report all anticipated financial resources through MaineStreet.
Health Insurance
We have received some feedback on graduate students’ experiences with Cutler and our health insurance in general, but we would like to hear more. Next semester we will start getting figures for next year so that we can start negotiating for better healthcare sooner rather than later.

Sound System Rental Policy
We need a policy regarding the rental of the new GSG sound system.
Expo boards are rented at $10 per board. This fee is waived for a graduate event.
Everyone is responsible for damages.
Laptops are rented free of charge but are only available to graduate students. Students are responsible for damages up to $100.
Other sound systems are available from A/V Services in Shibles Hall. These sound systems did not work well for GSG functions in the past.
Temporary policy: The GSG sound system may be used by anyone in Stodder Hall free of charge. The sound system may not leave Stodder Hall unless it is being used for a GSG sponsored event.

Vice President’s Report – Jason
80’s night recap
The social was relatively successful but had a lower turnout than the trivia night.
Suggestions for future socials: 1) Middle of the semester when everyone is around, and deadlines aren’t typically looming, 2) Have social at a local bar or restaurant

The social on December 11th is cancelled

Meeting with the committee for undergrad research.
They want to work with the Expo committee to have a presentation of undergraduate research. In the past undergraduates have presented their research at the GSG Expo, provided there was enough space to accommodate them.
If we allow this, graduate students would have first priority to present. If necessary, the undergraduates would be responsible for finding their own easels for poster presentations. The undergraduates would not be part of the judging and would not be invited to the gala.
Allowing undergraduates to present their research alongside graduate students helps strengthen the argument that graduate students support and augment undergraduate education at UMaine.

Board of Trustees (BOT) – Julie-Ann
Mentor Award
The application is going out today; it will be due on February 26, 2010 at 4:00pm
There is a maximum of 3 letters of recommendation per mentor.
The new application includes a definition of “Mentor” in the context of graduate education.
Applications that focus on teaching or personal/emotional rationale are rarely selected to win the award.
University of Maine System web portal (MaineStreet, etc.)
The latest information states that a student fee will not be associated with the UMS web portal. Portions of campus budgets will probably allocated to fund the $1.2 million. Two questions:
   1. Would this web portal help your experience at UMaine?
   2. Do you have any suggestions?
J. Logan has been involved in conversations about rationale and development –
   Why do they want to do this? It will help with distance learning. The strategic plan is to increase distance learning. If approached from the right angle, we could benefit from this. There is a strategic piece that could help the system in the bigger picture. It may not benefit us directly right away, but it will benefit the system.

Secretary’s Report – Trevor
Newsletter collection ideas
Pat put forth the idea of soliciting information from applicants for the expo and spring grants. No Senators objected to this idea.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31