Meeting called to order at 12:32 pm.

Folsom/Peimer: Motion to approve minutes from 2/25/10
Passes (19 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

President’s Report – Pat
Health Insurance Committee Update
Insurance quote: $2200 (half paid by the Graduate School). This is a 5.2% increase from this year.
The only difference from the current plan is that the money for the Wellness Benefit and the money for Dental coverage has been combined. This money would be more flexible and is available before the standard deductible has been met.
We are looking into supplementary plans and will have a quote from the insurance company sooner. These plans would increase the maximum coverage and would be optional.
The insurance agent is under the impression that UMaine is not interested in looking for quotes from other companies this year. We will be talking with the UMaine employees in charge of health insurance, and see what they say
A system is being implemented to allow grad students to register for health insurance ahead of time in order to get insurance cards by September 1. This would eliminate the 2-4 week gap that has existed for the past several years.

Academic Program Prioritization Working Group (APPWG)
The preliminary report will be available around March 21. Senators will be notified when it is out. Proposed changes will not take effect until July 2012.
There will be one public forum for students, faculty, and staff to voice their concerns.
The forum will be held in the Wells Conference Center March 29, 2010 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will be a table for each college with deans, administrators, and faculty who are members of APPWG. They will listen to concerns and answer questions about the proposed restructuring plan.
President Kennedy has announced that he will be resigning in July 2012.

Nominations for 2010-2011 GSG Officers
Description of Officer responsibilities
All – All officers are expected to hold two office hours each week. Each officer receives a stipend. Officers meet during weeks when the senate does not to discuss relevant business.
President – The president is responsible for: running meetings, overseeing other officers, meeting with President Kennedy and Dean Sandweiss, attending and voting at Grad Board meetings, signing all checks, and providing a public face for the GSG.
Vice President – The VP is responsible for: chairing the Graduate Exposition committee and planning the Expo, attending all Faculty Senate meetings, overseeing all GSG committees, meetings with President Kennedy and Dean Sandweiss, managing GSG poster boards and easels, Overseeing the President, and signing checks when the president is unavailable.
Treasurer – The treasurer is responsible for: writing all checks (paying bills, distributing grant money, officer stipends), working with other officers to establish a budget for the year, and assembling the financial review to be submitted to our accountants so that our taxes can be filed.
Secretary – The Secretary is responsible for: taking minutes at GSG meetings and keeping a record of all business conducted by the GSG, assemble a meeting agenda with the other officers, corresponding with GSG Senators and other grad students, managing the GSG laptop loan program, and putting together a graduate student newsletter.
Grants Officer – The Grants Officer is in charge of the Individual Grants and Clubs & Orgs funding programs. The Grants officer is responsible for: coordinating the application processes; enlisting, coordinating, and gathering responses from graduate students who volunteer to read and evaluate the grant applications, using basic statistics to determine how much funding each student will receive, meeting with students to go over drafts of grant applications. The commitments for Clubs & Orgs is much smaller than that for the Grants.
Board of Trustees Representative – The BOT Rep is responsible for: meeting with the BOT once every other month in the University of Maine System office in Bangor (next year some meetings will beheld at other campuses) and reporting relevant issues
at GSG meetings. The BOT Rep should have a good knowledge of the workings of UMaine, and what makes us different from other campuses. BOT members like it when a graduate student can speak from the perspective of a variety of different grad students so that they can get many viewpoints. The BOT Rep is appointed by the President.

Dean Sandweiss: We rely on the Executive Committee to get an idea of grad student needs. It has been an excellent experience since I have been here, and I encourage anyone who is concerned with graduate studies to become a member of the ExComm.

James Beaupre accepts nomination for Treasurer. Treasurer is the only current officer who plans on running for the same position.

**Vice President’s Report – Jason**  
**Graduate Exposition Update**  
All submissions for abstracts should be in. 76 posters, 36 oral presentations. Wells commons, starting 8:30 a.m. 4/15/10 Schedule will be up Monday morning (3/22/10). Tentatively, Keynote speaker at 6:00 pm, Gala at 7:00 – 9:00 or 10:00. Around 2:00 the Foster Innovation Center will have a presentation about bringing products into the marketplace. Closing ceremony around 5:00. Looking for Judges. Send to Jason Bolton on FC. Could be professors, Postdocs, members of the community, etc. They will get a nice thank you gift afterward. An e-mail will be sent out to confirm poster presenters.

**Social Committee Update**  
Social event: At The Dime, Friday 3/26/10, 6:00 – 9:00, some food & drinks. This will be the last big social event other than the Gala. We will also have a family friendly picnic/barbecue toward the end of the semester

**Treasurer – James**  
**Budget Update**  
We have received the 2009 end-of-year statement from the UMaine Foundation. We initially invested over $98,000. At the beginning of 2009 the value of the account was just over $78,000. At the beginning of 2010, the value of the account is a little over $95,000. We gained over $17,000 last year, but we are still about $3,000 short of what we originally invested.

**Grant Officers Report – Christie**  
**Clubs & Orgs Update**  
Two additional clubs applied for funding. They each got the maximum $300.
Grants Update
Announcements will be going out tomorrow, March 19.
Requests for funding were about $90,000, and we budgeted for $38,000, covering 42% of the requested funding
29% of applicants will receive 0% funding (about 34 people), 52% of applicants will receive 50% funding, 12% of applicants will receive 75% funding, 7% of applicants will receive 100% funding
We had 116 applications in total (34 more than spring 2009).

Board of Trustees (BOT) – Julie-Ann
BOT Update
The Web portal is going forward in the next 2-3 years, probably starting in Fall 2012.
They’ve invited random people for a focus group about the web portal.
The “Web Portal” is an idea for UMS to have a system that is like “facebook and PeopleSoft combined into one.” They want this to help students who are taking courses at various campuses (or through distance) feel more connected to the UMaine System. Other university systems across the nation have already done a similar thing.
The focus group is 1:00-3:00 Thursday, March 25, 2010.
Native American students with scholarship has been changed such that room and board are not covered during the summer unless it is required for the degree.
USM has begun to unveil its restructuring. They’ve gotten rid of their college of education. Restructuring is a very serious thing right now. Financial report is “looking up” not as good as two years ago, but better than they thought it would be.

Mentor Award Update
Not many mentor awards came in. Committee will meet after this meeting.

New Business
Julie-Ann – I’m in an interdisciplinary program. I found out recently that my transcript says “Interdisciplinary” not “Interdisciplinary in Communication”. If anyone else has this issue, please talk to me, and we can storm the castle
Dean Sandweiss – Talk to Stuart Marrs. He knows the guy who can fix PeopleSoft to make it happen.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13