The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)

Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, April 29, 2010

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:

D. Belanger  A. Burke  P. Damkot  E. Desroberts  N. Gogan
P. Heacock*  L. Holleb  J. Killarney  K. Klappenbach  A. Kristo
D. Laliberté  B. Looze  L. Matheson  A. Melton  J. Moulton
J. Peimer  K. Pingree**  A. Potter  A. Prang  R. Rioux
M. Royer  C. Salm  W. Slade  A. Speers  S. Sterling

Proxies:

*A. Hofmann  **F. Naus-Thijssen

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 12:36 pm.

Correction to minutes:
Added Klappenbach/Burke to “Motion to approve minutes from 4/1/10”
Added attendance record

Peimer/Speers Motion to approve minutes from 4/13/10 as corrected
Passes (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

Grant Officers Report – Christie
Please remind your departments that letters of explanation and receipts are due by August 30. Please get them in sooner rather than later.

President’s Report – Pat
Health Insurance
The committee met with head of UMaine auxiliary services and company regarding a better way to address needed changes to our policy each year
Here is a list of criteria for when to look for quotes from other companies
Request a new quote at least every 3-5 years
If increase from previous year is more than 10%
Policy benefits not consistently covered (problems with insurance company)
Underwriter not flexible with changes we want to make
Cost above what we want to spend
The decision of whether or not to look for another quote is ultimately up to Janet Waldron, Vice President for Administration and Finance

Norumbega and Cutler are still big problems. This is outside of our insurance issues, but next year’s senate should be prepared to address these concerns.

**Academic Program Prioritization Working Group (APPWG)**
The final report from APPWG has been published. Not much different from the interim report. Fewer program cuts.
President Kennedy will present his final recommendations on Tuesday, May 4, at 10:00, in the Collins Center for the Arts

**Announcement: Joint GSG Grad Board Meeting**
This afternoon at 3:15, refreshments at 3:00. Graduate Center in Stodder
Topic: IPhD students’ transcripts do not include their specialties before they graduate.
   This is bad if you are looking for a job before you graduate

**Vice President’s Report – Jason**
**Expo Wrap-up**
Everything went pretty well. Please send comments to Jason Bolton and/or Kurt Klappenbach

**Social Announcement**
Picnic tomorrow afternoon, 12:00-1:30, outside Stodder
Wings, chips soda, vegetarian option, etc.
Now with more kickball

**Faculty Senate Update**
Long meeting (only dozed off twice)
A letter is being sent to President Kennedy disapproving of the APPWG process
Another letter is being sent to Chancellor Pattenaude with 7 concerns:
   the system’s organization,
   the Strategic Investment Fund,
   the cost of developing a system-wide web portal,
   concerns regarding PeopleSoft,
   the proposed combined Academic Calendar,
   the marginalization of the New Challenges New Directions report,
   and the fact that the system office has the third largest portion of the state appropriation but teaches no students
The goal is to ask for dialogue about the decisions the system is making. Janet Waldron (VP for Administration and Finance) warned that an angry letter would not promote
dialogue. The discussion of the letter to the Chancellor was tabled at the end of the meeting. They will probably shorten it and come up with items that they’re concerned with. Contact Jason Bolton on FirstClass for more information on Faculty Senate Updates.

Relay for Life
May 21-22 Old Town High School Track
Looking for people to walk. We have combined with the GSBS team.
6:00 Friday to 12:00 Saturday

Treasurer – James
Hooding Ceremony
We need ushers.
We have 9 and need 18. It’s really easy, especially if you’re going to be there anyway.
Please contact your departments to get volunteers

Financial Audit vs. Review
Doing a review or audit over the summer would make things much easier for the treasurer in the fall. The review is cheaper than the audit.

Laliberte/Peimer Move to complete a financial review during Summer 2010 to be approved by the Senate in Fall 2010
Passes (25 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Board of Trustees (BOT) – Julie-Ann
Mentor Awards
All awards have been ordered, plaques will be in soon.

System Web Portal
The May BOT meeting will be pretty busy.
Going into the Portal discussion, please be aware that Georgia uses PeopleSoft to do everything that the University of Maine System wants to do, but we chose the cheap version of PeopleSoft when we got it. We should try to make sure that, if they insist on sinking money into this project, they do it right and do not cut corners like they did before. It’s not going to be worth it if we don’t do it right.
Julie-Ann will be writing to the Bangor Daily News to publicize how much money the System is spending on this. Let her know if you want to be a part of this. She has requested a letter from the system about how their offices are cutting their budget.

Secretary’s Report – Trevor
Newsletter
Thank you to everyone who has sent items from their departments. Please keep them coming. The newsletter will be finalized and distributed toward the end of Finals week or the beginning of the week after.
Software Access
Grad Students want access to software that is available to Faculty only. The Faculty Senate seems to be looking into this, but next year’s GSG should be aware of this issue.

New Business
Please send the name(s) of next year’s senator(s) to Trevor I. Smith and/or Lynn M. Clark on FirstClass.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26