The University of Maine
GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)
Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, February 16, 2011

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:

M. Patterson a  K. Brothers  K. Gabor  B. Kiehl  N. Gogan
A. Demers  J. Killarney  K. Schild  W. Cobath  S. Carter
B. Force  H. Engelberth  J. Plowden  P. Spinney  T. Berrigan
B. Hughes b  B. Looze  E. White  R. Hodges  R. Snell
S. Hinman  S. Peters c  M. Ladd  A. Dorko d  J. Jackson
Z. Helm  A. Cook  D. Laliberté  M. Harris  T. Smith
N. Heller  C. Castagna  L. Przybylski  E. Call

Proxies and Guests:

aT. Parr  bW. Hamilton  cH. Inman  dKara Soule

Executive Committee:

J. Beaupre  K. Klappenbach  J. Baker  D. Belanger

Graduate School:

D. Sandweiss  S. Delcourt

Meeting called to order at 12:31 pm

Christopher Gendron – Secretary
  ✓ Diane Belanger served as proxy for this meeting.
  ✓ Approval of previous minutes (Feb. 9, 2011): Motion to approve made by Robert Hodges, seconded by Sarah Hinman. Motion carries with 25 approvals and two abstentions.

Kurt Klappenbach - Vice President

  ✓ EXPO update – A reminder that the Expo entry form is online via the GSG website, and an automated message is sent to the applicant and the advisor upon submission.
  ✓ Grant-Writing Workshop – Kurt Klappenbach and Sarah Lou Cottrell (née Peters) are designing a hands-on grant writing workshop scheduled for Friday, March 25, from noon to 4:00 PM in the Graduate Commons conference room at Stodder Hall. Although the
workshop was designed for graduate students in the Humanities, all are welcomed. Participants are encouraged to bring a draft grant for the workshop sessions. An email with a poster attachment will be sent to the Rep Forum and GSG folders in FirstClass.

Diane Belanger - Grants Officer

- **Clubs:** Seven clubs submitted applications and requested a total of $1,650. The amount available for distribution is $920. Three new clubs applied for GSG recognition and two requested funding.

  The review committee meets on Monday, Feb. 21, to recommend whether the new clubs should be recognized and/or funded. Typically, the committee’s recommendation is presented to the GSG Senate for approval. Because of spring break, the GSG Senate will not meet again until March 16, which would delay distributions of funding to all clubs pending the Senate’s vote on recognition.

  The Grants Officer inquired whether the GSG Senate would agree to review committee’s recommendations to facilitate fund distributions. The Grants Officer will post the mission statements of the new clubs to the Rep Forum and will also post the recommendations of the review committee to keep senators informed.

  Danielle Laliberté motioned to accept the Grant Officer’s suggestion, and Patrick Spinney seconded. Motion carries with 27 votes in favor and no abstentions.

- **Grants:** GSG received 125 grant applications for the 2011 spring cycle, and the total amount requested is $91,796.03. The amount available for distribution is $39,232.69, which includes unused funds returned from the 2010 fall cycle.

  Packets are being distributed to grant readers, who are scheduled to meet the week of March 14-18, the week after spring break. Results should be available the following week. There are still a couple of slots available if anyone would like to serve as a grant reader.

  As a historical note, between the fall 1981 semester and fall 2010 semester, GSG has awarded 2,791 grants and disbursed a total of $1,027,645.43. We have passed the million dollar mark!

Jacob Baker - Treasurer

- The next GSG social is scheduled for this Friday, Feb. 18, from 6:00-9:00 PM in Stodder Hall.

- The Treasurer surveyed other graduate schools, particularly within New England but including the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, to determine how their budgets are structured and what events are sponsored. Most schools have budgets that are student-fee based and hold similar events. The only discrepancy is that UMaine allocates
more of its budget to grant, while only about 33% of SUNY-Albany’s budget goes toward grants. Other schools focus more on clubs and organizations and have a greater number of them. In addition, SUNY-Albany conducts fund-raising events to augment their budget.

UMaine’s student fees fall in the middle range when compared to other schools. For example, the fee at the University of NH is $40, and the University of Massachusetts is $30.

Megan Harris suggested a $3 grant application fee to increase revenues available for grants.

- GSG has received the funds from the unified fees for the year, $16 thousand, which raises the budget to $85,900. GSG budgeted at $90 thousand, so we have a shortfall of $4,100 for the year.

James Beaupré - President

- Updated the Senate on the vote whether to move the hooding ceremony to the Collins Center for the Arts. The decision was made to not move the ceremony until next year. This year the event will be held at the Alfond Arena, and seating is unlimited.

Dean Sandweiss mentioned that upgrades are underway at the Alfond Arena, and if the facilities are improved, the hooding ceremony may remain at Alfond. Otherwise, the hooding ceremony will be held at the Collins Center for the Arts next year.

- The President announced that the fourth and final candidate for the UMaine president position, Dr. Paul Ferguson from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, will hold a graduate student session tomorrow, Feb. 17, from 1:00-2:00 PM in Wells Conference Center, room 3. All graduate students are encouraged to attend, as attendance has been minimal at these informational events.

Dean Sandweiss mentioned that Dr. Ferguson has served as a graduate dean in a number of institutions and is aware of the importance of graduate education.

- On behalf of the Board of Trustees (BOT) representative, the President reminded the GSG Senate that Faculty Mentor Award applications are posted online and can be accessed through the GSG website. Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 25, 2011. Contact Evan Pollock via FirstClass with any questions.

- The announcement of the incoming BOT representative is tabled until the next GSG meeting, because neither Evan Pollock nor the incoming representative could attend today’s meeting.

- The President reminded the GSG Senate of last week’s discussions on the 2011-2012 annual budget and the possibility of raising the graduate activities fees. Senators were
divided into small groups and asked to determine what the GSG does well, what areas need improvements, what areas should be expanded, and any areas that should be cut back.

The President will tally and distribute the results to the GSG Senate. He charged with group to discuss the items with their departments and to report at the next meeting their top three areas of importance.

Kristin Schild requested a copy of the budget, so they could make more informed decisions. The Treasurer will post the current budget to the Ref Forum on FirstClass.

Trevor Smith requested a breakdown of the costs for the hooding ceremony and the Expo. The President indicated large-ticket items were food, security, and space rental but did not have exact amounts.

Associate Dean Delcourt clarified that the Collins Center for the Arts is more expensive than the Alfond Area, and Dottie Poisson would have the expenses.

The President then outlined the process should a fee increase be recommended. The GSG Senate would need to approve the recommendation, and the entire graduate student body would need to approve the fee increase in a referendum vote.

Megan Harris suggested dividing the list of GSG responsibilities between what the organization does as a whole and the GSG meetings.

The President suggested dividing the list into complaints and organizational issues.

Meeting was adjourned.