The University of Maine

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GSG)
Minutes of the GSG Board Meeting, April 13, 2011

In Attendance:

Department Representatives:
K. Gabor        K. Brothers        K. Schild        A. Demers        J. Killarney
S. Carter       P. Muhkerjee      P. Spinney       D. Lemire*        T. Smith
R. Hodges       R. Snell          S. Hinman       S. Cottrell       M. Harris
M. Ladd         A. Dorko***       J. Jackson       Z. Helm          A. Cook
D. Laliberte    A. Martinson      C. Castagna     M. Raja           B. Looze
L. Przbylski    I. McCullough     W. Colbath       B. Force         H. Englebreth
A. Marcolini

Proxies and Guests:
* Suzanne Agro  **Rachel Pollock  ***K. Soule

Executive Committee:
J. Beaupre       K. Klappenbach  D. Belanger  B. Hughes

Meeting called to order at 12:29 pm

Vice President (acting for the Secretary)

- Approval of minutes from 3/30/11
  - There being no discussion or amendments – a call for approval was made
  - Motion to approve minutes: Robert Hodges, Second: Wes Colbath The vote was (22 in favor, 2 abstentions, 0 objections)

Vice President

- The GradExpo:
  - The Expo goes well except for the need judges in the following categories:
    - Social Science (1), Physical Science & Technology (5), Humanities (1).
  - A call for volunteers was made and volunteer lists were passed around
• Philanthropy:
  ▪ We will be doing a project at the Ronald MacDonald House in early May – keep it on your calendars.

Grants Officer:

• There are 22 grant packets still awaiting pick-up at the front desk – please remind your departments.

BOT Representative:

• Volunteers needed for hooding. The ceremony is Friday afternoon the 6\textsuperscript{th} of May. The rehearsal for which will be Thursday May 5\textsuperscript{th}.

• The next board of trustees meeting is the first week on May

Treasurer:

• No Report

President:

• Mentor Awards: The College of Education is still lacking a nomination – and they were encouraged to find one.

• Nominations for Executive Officers: All positions have nominations exempt that of Treasurer – a further call for nominations to fill that position were made.

• Meeting with future President Ferguson: The president and vice-president met with future President Ferguson was held last week – the meeting was productive and encouraging – especially for grad students – this opinion was seconded by the vice president

• Health Insurance:

• An increase to the fee that TA/RA’s pay for the optional health insurance policy has been offered as an option, this optional increase would result in an increase of the wellness benefit from $250 to $450 and would result in an increase of the fee those students now pay (approx. $2200) of which the TA/Ra’s share is $1100. The increase that the TA/RA would see is $77. The $77 reflects only our portion (50%) of the total of $154.

• The floor was opened to discussion – which continued for some minutes.
• Discussion was closed and a motion was made to keep the insurance as it currently stands with a wellness benefit of $250 – the motion was seconded by Briane Looze.

• A vote was called: 8 in favor, 6 opposed and 15 abstaining.

• The motion to keep the TA/RA health insurance wellness policy as it stands now with a wellness benefit of $250 carried. There will be no increase in the fee.

New Business:

Robert Hodges representative to the Faculty Senate’s Library Advisory Committee mentioned that the Faculty Senate via the library committee was seeking graduate student input on whether or not we as grad students would be interested in making our thesis’s, dissertation’s etc. available via a free online data base> his data base would encompass other campus writing besides our own.

After some discussion a motion was made by Haley Engleberth in favor of a positive recommendation of such a plan, the motion was seconded by Sarah Carter.

A vote was held and the motion carried 27 in favor, 2 abstentions, none opposed. The feedback to the faculty senate will be made that we are in favor of such a program.

Danille Lalliberte of the social Committee reminded the representatives of the next (and last) grad social of the year will be Friday the 22nd of April 800 pm at the Bear Brew.