GSG Meeting 11/18/15  
Meeting Called to Order at: 12:01pm

Approval of Minutes from 11-4-15: Approved: 34  Opposed: 0   Abstaining: 0

President: Appreciate the high level of attendance

Campus Planning Committee Representative (Carly Eakin): Electric Car charging station in the works, hopefully within the next year. Charging stations may be put in parking spots at residence halls to help encourage the people making more sustainable choices.

Discussion of adding more bike racks was shot down due to cold weather arguments, but a lack of bike rack convenience has been brought up, and crosswalk designation is a concern as well. It is proposed that the Graduate Students show their support and give feedback for the potential change on and around campus.

Proposal to create a committee to work on a survey to get feedback from the student body and what their concerns are in terms of bicycle access on campus.

Contact Carly for concerns about access and other issues around campus.

Discussion: Parking passes require payment, which encourages people to drive every day so they can use their passes. Perhaps create a day-by-day system.

Parking services are the ones who decide to approve or deny a parking ticket, proposal to create a regulation that a third party reviews and makes the decision.

There is now a ListServe for the graduate students at Umaine, so the GSG ExComm can communicate directly with all members of the graduate student body. Test email will be sent out by Friday at 5pm, report to the GSG President if you do not receive the email.

Vice President: GradExpo subcommittee met this week. Because of money concerns, we are aiming to have 100% of the running costs paid for by external support and sponsorship. The only outgoing money from the GSG would then be the money awarded to students. Working to create a list of sponsors and supporters- alumni, banks, credit unions, etc. If anyone has any ideas of who to contact for donating money or time, email Jack.

BOT:  BOT meeting was in Augusta last Sunday. We will be hosting the meeting in January. This will be an opportunity to show off our campus. There will be a focus on graduate research as a multiplier. This is our opportunity to highlight our graduate research.

On January 24 (Sunday), anyone who is available is asked to help with the BOT meeting. The proposed schedule is as follows: At 2pm, there will be a tour of all of the new labs on campus. Tour guides needed. Send a list of labs and things to show off to Rain.

Afterwards, everyone will return to Wells for the beginning of the board meeting. Any scientific posters, research projects, photos, or work of any form that can be displayed should be presented in a list to Rain by Friday for presentation at the meeting. Samuel will present on his contributions to the state. Around 6pm, there is a plan to go the IMRC for drinks and further presentations. Hosts needed. Return to Wells for dinner.

Meeting on Monday.

Suggestion for a motion that the Expo Day is declared UMaine Research Day to give everyone a free day to participate in the Expo.

Email will be sent out for list of things that are still needed.

Discussion: The BOT is in charge of the University System. They are in charge of the budget,
and the individual universities.
There is concern that the BOT sees Graduate Students as something that takes a lot of money, and having a large graduate student population could be seen as more of an issue. The idea is to prove that graduate students are not only bringing in money, but are helping their community and their state.
The poster idea has to be approved by the university president before details on the set-up will be finalized. It would be appreciated if students could attend the event in some capacity.
The GSG is responsible for gathering information for this event, and we are looking to show off the work of graduate students, not faculty, so GSG senators should work to gather information from their constituents. Anyone with ties to the graduate school will ideally be involved.
Graduate student programs are generally one of the first things to be cut when looking at budgets, this is our chance to show why that shouldn't be the case.
Unified Online plan has been pushed back. If any faculty has input, they need to have their comments put in by March.
All non-thesis students are open to the benefits and support of the GSG.

Activity Fee Committee: The next two weeks will be used to discuss the committee's proposition before any voting takes place.
It has been decided that we propose a change first and foremost, and have students vote yes or no.
Send an outline of what the activity fee does and how it provides for students and underline that students are the ones that provide the fee, so they are in control of it.
Figures will be provided and readily available so students can see how it is an urgent matter and how it relates to students and their colleagues. It is an investment in their program.
Two proposals will be drafted. The first will be whether or not to proceed, and the second will be how to proceed.
Language has been carefully worded to make it seem applicable and relatable rather than being confrontational. There is a focus on inflation. There is a section on the budget and where the money goes. The student body needs to be invested in our investments.
There is not yet a document for the increase rates yet, because it depends on how they react to the first proposal.
Discussion: Suggestion to look to see if stipends have gone up to help pay for the raise in activity fee. There was a past discussion which decided that the value of health insurance was worth more than a 15-20% increase in graduate student stipends.
Suggestions welcome on improving the presentation to students. Send feedback to the committee members directly or to Sam.

Senator Updates: 3 Friday Colloquium on Water on Mars Emera Astronomy Center
Tuesday presentations at the IMRC are done for this semester, will pick up again in Jan

Grants: Grants will be out on Friday. There was a brief re-reading due to a hiccup in the rubric.
OPD: CV review event tonight 6-8 in 57 Stodder.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:00 p.m.