GSG Meeting 9/9/15
Meeting Called to Order at: 12:10 pm

Carol Kim opening comments- Looking forward to working with GSG. Upcoming changes to Umaine & UMaine system with potential impact to graduate studies/graduate school. Trying to collaborate with other schools within the system to ensure that the changes made are good for the system and the graduate school. Bring forward issues to GSG regarding any aspect of graduate experience.

Introductions of ExComm & explanation of officer roles

Scott Delcourt introduction

Introductions of senators and ice-breaker partners

TREASURER:

Budget presentation: Last year's budget is almost done being balanced and finalized. Previous budget shown and explained to senators. We were almost $4,000 below budget last year, but we were almost $11,500 under what we planned to make. Cuts have been made for this year's budget. Proposed budget shown and explained to senators- proposed cuts to socials, office supplies, grant expenses, and orientation expenses. Grants cannot be cut. Expo budget would like to be raised.

Would like to leave budget as proposed unless other suggestions are brought to the table. Money to cover deficit is in accounts for another year. Would like to raise activity fees. Activity fee at Umaine is $40 a semester, whereas other schools often have higher activity fees (chart provided for comparisons). Proposed raise of $10 for a $50 activity fee per semester. This fee provides funding for socials and workshops as well as the Expo and gives students access to $17,000. Has only been raised $5 in the last decade.

Question raised of how much the revenue increase would be brought in from additional $10 or $20 (recommended by senator) fee.

Question raised of the consequences of holding the Expo every other year. Discussion of the importance of the Expo in showing the relationship and the relevance of the University to the state of Maine. Noted that master's students might not have the opportunity to hold a professional presentation if the Expo is only every other year, and some programs are only one year long.

Discussion of Expo sponsors, who they are and how they help.

Question asked of how much of the student percentage needs to vote for this proposition to pass. Possibly present the student body with multiple options of how high it can be raised.

More information to be presented next meeting, voting to take place in two meetings. Information will be tabled to next meeting for the sake of time.

Idea raised of putting some extra income from the fee toward grants for further incentive.

Budget will be voted on next meeting.

PRESIDENT:

Health insurance and updates postponed to next meeting for timing concerns. Keep ears open for issues with health care.

Provost council update: Credit hours budgeted for graduate students has been reduced from last
year. We cannot make as much money as we made last year, so increased revenue stream is implausible.

GRANTS:
Upcoming deadlines. Applications open for Individual Club Grants are now open. Grants workshop coming up Sept. 16. Sept. 18 at 4pm- deadline for Club recognition application and petition for eligibility exception. Oct. 2 all grants due at 4pm.
Grants office will be temporarily moved.

VICE PRESIDENT:
Potential 2016 referendum for whether Maine should adopt ranked voting system. It has been suggested that the universities adopt this system to increase familiarity with it. If anyone is interested in the system, visit rcvmaine.com or fairvoteme.com for more information.

Committee Sign-Up sheets passed around.

Further discussion tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:06pm