

GSG Meeting 04/17/2019

Meeting called to order at: 12:03 PM

Approval of minutes from 04/03/2019 : Majority apparent, APPROVED

Speaker:

Walter McCulley, walter.mcculley@maine.edu: Walter came to speak to the GSG on behalf of Young People in Recovery, a group dedicated to helping people through tough times. This is an all inclusive program for all forms of recovery, not just those struggling with addiction. The group is currently recruiting allies for their program.

Today, April 17th, there is a meeting title "Voice in Recovery" at 3 PM in the Bangor Room in the Memorial Union.

Healthcare Vote:

Senators voted on the 2019 - 2020 Academic Year Healthcare Package. A copy of this will be attached to the minutes.

Yes - 29, No - 0, Abstain - 0.

President:

The Senator of the Year Award was presented to Ehsan Tabatabaie.

The President talked about NAGPS, National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, and the potential of GSG becoming a member of this organization. With this membership, all graduate students at the University of Maine will be eligible to sign up for any discounts and programs NAGPS offers. There was overwhelming support for adding this as a line-item in the 2019-2020 budget.

The GSG plans to take a year trial period of instituting per diem rates for food coverage on GSG grants. GSG will also be writing a letter to the UMaine System about this yearly trial period.

Vice President:

The Vice President thanked everyone who was involved with the 2019 Student Symposium. If you have any feedback regarding the symposium, please fill out the survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/umss19survey>.

Volunteers are requested for the Hooding Ceremony on May 10th. If you are interested, use the link below:

<https://umaine.edu/graduate/grad-commencement/volunteers/>

Grants Officer:

N/A

Treasurer:

N/A

Board of Trustees Representative:

An update on the Chancellor Search: The Board of Trustees has allows graduate students to serve on the Advisory committee for the Chancellor Search who will speak to the top four candidates for the position. However, this search is private so any questions the graduate student body may have must be directed towards the Board of Trustees Representative.

Secretary:

The Secretary requests that all senators begin looking for replacements for the 2019 - 2020 academic year. Replacements' names and email address should be directed towards the new secretary.

Outreach and Professional Development Officer:

The representation committee has brought an amendment of the constitution to the senate. The document can be found attached to the minutes. Voting on the amendment will happen at our next meeting.

Adjournment: 1:02 PM, apparent majority

University of Maine
Graduate Assistant, Fellows and Trainees
 2019-2020 Renewal

Benefit Category	United Healthcare ~ Harvard Pilgrim		United Healthcare ~ Harvard Pilgrim	
	<i>GATA Population +Int'l Population - 18-19</i>		<i>Renewal - GATA Population +Int'l Population - 19-20</i>	
Maximum Benefit	Unlimited maximum per policy year		Unlimited maximum per policy year	
Policy Year Deductible	\$250 per policy year <i>Deductible applies to all categories unless otherwise noted</i>		\$250 per policy year <i>Deductible applies to all categories unless otherwise noted</i>	
Coinsurance	90% In-Network~70% Out-Network		90% In-Network~70% Out-Network	
Out-of-Pocket Maximum	\$5,000 Ind./\$10,000 Family <i>Preferred Provider</i>	\$10,000 Ind./\$20,000 Family <i>Out-Network Provider</i>	\$5,000 Ind./\$10,000 Family <i>Preferred Provider</i>	\$10,000 Ind./\$20,000 Family <i>Out-Network Provider</i>
INPATIENT EXPENSES				
Hospital R&B-semi private	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Hospital Miscellaneous	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Dr. Visits	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Surgical Expense	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Anesthetist	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Mental Health	Paid as any other sickness		Paid as any other sickness	
OUTPATIENT EXPENSES				
Emergency Room Expense	90% of PA, \$150 copay	90% of U&C, \$150 copay	90% of PA, \$150 copay	90% of U&C, \$150 copay
Office visits	100% of PA, \$25 copay	80% of U&C	100% of PA, \$25 copay	80% of U&C
O/P Surgical Expense	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Anesthetist	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Mental Health	Paid as any other sickness		Paid as any other sickness	
Diagnostic x-rays & lab	90% of PA	70% of U&C	90% of PA	70% of U&C
Preventive Care	100% of PA <i>not subject to deductible</i>	No benefit	100% of PA <i>not subject to deductible</i>	No benefit
Adult Vision Exam/Eyewear	90% of U&C up to \$200 per policy yr		90% of U&C up to \$200 per policy yr	
Sports Injury Expense	90% of PA to \$10,000	70% of U&C to \$10,000	90% of PA to \$10,000	70% of U&C to \$10,000
Ambulance	90% of PA	90% of U&C	90% of PA	90% of U&C
Prescription Drug Card	\$10 generic/\$40 pref. brand/\$60 non-pref. brand copay <i>Not subject to deductible</i>		\$10 generic/\$40 pref. brand/\$60 non-pref. brand copay <i>Not subject to deductible</i>	
	NOTE: The Policy Year Deductible of \$250 will not apply to a covered Office Visit incurred at the Cutler Health Center; Plan Copays will apply, including the \$25 Physician Visit Copay.		NOTE: The Policy Year Deductible of \$250 will not apply to a covered Office Visit incurred at the Cutler Health Center; Plan Copays will apply, including the \$25 Physician Visit Copay.	
Student Annual Rate:	\$2,845		\$2,845	

Graduate Student Government

Amendment from the Representation Committee on Article IV - Representation:

Background:

The proposed amendment aims to address several issues that the Representation Committee has discussed under the mission to examine the GSG constitution with a focus on adherence, representational equality, and continued growth of the GSG. While examining the constitution and the current state of GSG adherence, two primary issues emerged.

The first issue we discussed was focused on the wording used in Article IV Section 2: "There shall be one representative from each program for every fifty enrolled graduate students or fraction thereof. Each program shall have at least one representative". The constitution specifically uses the word "program", which is currently a smaller unit of representation than is currently in practice. For example, a department might have 70 students enrolled and in the past this has meant 2 senators, but the department might contain 5 separate programs, some with only a handful of students enrolled. Under the current constitutional language, that department would instead need 5 representatives, some of them coming from small programs.

In addition, we discussed the current state of the GSG's adherence to the policy as it currently stands. We examined the existing senator roster and what constituency units those senators represent, and found that not only did some constituency units have fewer representatives than needed, but some also appeared to have too many. From an adherence perspective, it seems that the current state of representation is such that it becomes difficult to keep track of which senators are representing which constituency unit, and this has repercussions for things such as health insurance votes and grants eligibility.

Ultimately our primary responsibility is to our constituents, and we must also keep in mind that much of GSG's funding is sourced from a fee sent to each constituent. It is our duty as GSG to ensure that ample opportunity exists for our constituents to achieve representation and equal access to our grants program, and as such it is important for us to clarify our constitutional language on representation to allow for stronger adherence and management by future GSG Officers.

Amendment:

Article IV:

Section 1 - The GSG activities shall be governed by a Senate consisting of representatives from ~~graduate programs~~ graduate degree offering units (Units) at the University of Maine.

Section 2 - There shall be one representative from each ~~program~~ Unit for every fifty enrolled graduate students or fraction thereof. Each ~~program~~ Unit shall have at least one representative. The new ~~program~~ Unit representative shall notify the Secretary of the GSG in writing of her/his appointment. Programs recognized by the Graduate School are eligible for GSG representation. Other ~~graduate degree programs~~ Unit may submit a request to the GSG for separate representation.

Section 3 - The appointment of the ~~program~~ Unit representative(s) shall be the responsibility of the graduate students in each ~~program~~ Unit, with the assistance of the Chair ~~or the~~ Graduate Coordinator, or Grad Board Representative.

Section 4 - ~~Program~~-Unit representatives shall be graduate students.

Section 5 - The President of the GSG may appoint representatives to represent those ~~programs~~ Units which are otherwise not represented with the approval of the GSG.

Section 6 – ~~Program~~ Unit representatives shall serve at least one semester.

Statement from Representation Committee:

The proposed amendment changes the language used from “program” to “graduate degree offering unit”, or “Unit” for short. Through the Representation Committee’s communications with Scott Delcourt and the Graduate School, we have learned that a “Unit” is the commonly understood term to denote the organizational level above program and below College (CLAS, NSFA, etc). This level can have several names (school, department, college, etc) but functionally represents the same level. (See supplemental figure 1.) This is also the unit that the Grad Board uses to organize their representatives, which allows access to a contact person from each of these units.

The Representation Committee believes that this minor adjustment to the language of the constitution will clarify existing confusion about representation and will allow the incoming GSG to be more deliberate in their tracking of GSG representation. This amendment does not fix all of the issues surrounding GSG representation, but provides a strong foundation from which further adjustments can be made. There will of course be a short period of adjustment that occurs if this amendment is passed, as the current GSG structure comes in line with the proposed Unit structure (See supplemental figure 2). The Representation Committee suggests that the incoming GSG officers make use of Article IX Section 5, which allows the President to appoint representatives for Units that may not have representation. We believe that use of soft policy changes in combination with this amendment serves as the best method for stabilizing GSG representation.

School of Marine Sciences	
Aquaculture	-
Aquaculture & Aquatic Resources	2
Ecology and Environmental Sciences*	8
Interdisciplinary (PhD)*	1
Marine Biology	32
Marine Policy	9
Marine Science	0
Marine Bioresources*	0
Master of Science in Teaching*	0
Oceanography	13
Professional Science Master's-Marine Sciences	3
Total	68

Figure 1 – structure of the School of Marine Sciences, a “Unit” under the proposed amendment

Units	Enrolled	Senators needed
Maine Business School	97	2
Chemical & Biomedical Engineering	24	1
Civil & Environmental Engineering	40	1
Electrical & Computer Engineering	13	1
Mechanical Engineering	46	1
School of Engineering Technology	1	1
Engineering Other	20	1
Communication Science & Disorders	31	1
Molecular & Biomedical Sciences	25	1
School of Biology & Ecology	15	1
School of Earth & Climate Sciences	43	1
School of Economics	25	1
School of Food & Agriculture	47	1
School of Forest Resources	49	1
School of Marine Sciences	59	2
School of Nursing	41	1
School of Social Work	135	3
Wildlife, Fisheries, & Conservation Biology	19	1
"Other"	100	*2*
School of Education Leadership, Higher Ed, & Human Development	137	3
School of Kinesiology, Physical Education, & Athletic Training	11	1
School of Learning & Teaching	336	5
Non-Degree	322	*5*
Anthropology	11	1
Chemistry	38	1
Communication & Journalism	18	1
English	23	1
History	41	1
Mathematics & Statistics	11	1
Modern Languages & Classics	8	1
Music	7	1
Physics & Astronomy	23	1
Psychology	27	1
School of Computing & Information Science	35	1
School of Policy & International Affairs	16	1

Figure 2 – Table describing current list of “Units” within the grad school, and their current levels of enrollment. Not including “other” units or those not currently listed, this would be a total of 43 Representatives.