

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 4/27/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

a. Meeting called to session at 12:05 pm.

2. Roll Call – COGSS

Name	Role	Attendance
Casey O'Heran	President	Present
Liz Weidner	Vice President	Present
Alex Padilla	Financial Affairs	Present
Jacob Koile	Community Coordinator	Present
Jacob Bennett	External Relations	Present
Sarah Widlansky	Communications	Present
Dominic Payne	CEPS	Present
Kerry Dykens	CEPS	Present
Francesco Preti	CEPS	Present
Sanchari Kundu	CHHS	Absent
Emily Whalen	CHHS	Present
Sumeyra Gok	COLA	Present
Martine Grenier-Burtis	COLA	Absent
Allison Giannotti	COLA	Present
Ben Remillard	COLA	Present
Lauren Breza	COLSA	Present
Yoka Milosavljevic Ardeljan	PAUL	Present
Karen Moran Rivera	International	Present
Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu	Grad School	Present
Michael Fazi	Law	Present
Surya Kranthi Siyadri	Manchester	Present
Karla Oñate Melecio	Housing	Present

3. Approval of 4/13/2020 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS

a. Karla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Dominic. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Kevin Charles Guest – Executive Director of Health and Wellness

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- a. Giving a short presentation that introduces Health and Wellness, then will discuss our immunization letter and any other questions.
 - b. Changed from Health Services to Health and Wellness 2 years ago to better reflect their focus on public health and student wellness.
 - c. Health and Wellness (H&W) maintains a robust webpage on COVID-19. There is also a university COVID-19 page as well.
 - d. Based around the Wellness Wheel – seeing students as holistic individuals.
 - e. Two main locations – Main building across from Holloway Commons and satellite office in the Hamel Rec Center (Thrive).
 - f. Gave an overview of medical services and Living Well services.
 - g. H&W wants to expand opportunities for grad student internships/involvement, including a social work grad student position. They are open to hearing ideas for unpaid grad student positions.
 - h. Spoke about the Student Health Benefits Plan (mentioned that it is not the same thing as insurance but provides coverage in the same way). Grad students are the biggest users of SHBP.
 - i. Least costly option for students is to use on-campus services.
 - j. SHBP incorporates Basix Dental Savings and Davis Vision Savings programs. It also includes emergency travel assistance program.
 - k. No premium increase since 2014.
 - l. Large social media presence #BewellUNH. Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.
 - m. Open discussion: Liz asked what H&W will look like in the fall and summer. Response: nothing is definitive and this is mostly at the university level. Seems like summer will still be more of a virtual experience. Kevin Charles mentioned that there is still a physical presence at H&W primarily serving the ~100 students still living on campus. Liz asked about proportionality of telehealth to in-person services. Short term answer is that it will be primarily telehealth for summer. Seems like there will be a university-wide effort to open up in fall. Jovana thanked him for what H&W is doing and the level of coverage.
- 5. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs**
- a. Governance committee (Liz) – still haven’t heard from Dean Moorhead about the timely notice amendment. This will need to be picked up by next year’s GSS. Person who would be filling the Financial Affairs position has withdrawn from UNH and this position is now open. Interested people can reach out to Casey, Liz, Dominic, or Karla. Appointment can be made officially in the fall.
- 6. Old Business**
- a. Pass/fail for Spring 2020 graduate courses - **POGSS & VPGSS**

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- i. We passed our resolution and later found out there isn't an option for universal credit/fail. Administration will not be putting in this option. Grad Council passed some wording urging faculty to be flexible with students. Dean Moorhead and Dean Levine will act as proxies if needed between faculty and students. Grad School made an official statement urging flexibility and GSS shared this statement on social media.
- b. Housing - **POGSS**
 - i. Main Street
 - 1. Nothing is moving forward given the current situation. Casey joined the Housing and Transportation committee meeting last week to discuss moving forward. Town of Durham wants to know demand for grad student and family housing and is worried there won't be enough demand.
 - 2. We are going to make a new survey and the Grad School will send it out to gather more of this information. Casey is looking for input on things to include on the survey. This will be continued next year.
 - 3. Jacob B. shared questions from a previous survey and wants to make sure we are asking consistent questions. Jovana has the information from a previous survey and thinks this should be reviewed and re-assessed. She also mentioned that the survey on financial security from 2 years ago had some housing questions. Jovana will share this with Jacob.
 - ii. Woodside pilot program
 - 1. Alex hasn't heard from Kathy Irla-Chesney.
 - 2. Liz and Casey met with the President and Provost. Because of the halt on capital expenditures, Babcock renovation is being pushed back. The timing hasn't been determined yet (at least 6-9 months, but this could change).
 - 3. Jacob B. added that the Board of Trustees met Thursday and Friday and didn't discuss housing.
 - iii. Housing letter amendment – **POGSS**
 - 1. Casey proposed amending the housing letter because the timing of Babcock renovations is different, but isn't sure if it's necessary.
 - 2. The Grad Council and Faculty Senate are currently reviewing the letter. Has not been sent to administration yet. Liz thinks we can

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edit it before the Grad Council meets (May) and give them the amended version.

3. Karla commented that it may not be necessary to edit because regardless of timing, we weren't told about the renovation.
 4. Allison thinks if we leave the current language, it will be easier for them to dismiss it and that we should be as informed as possible.
 5. Jacob B. thinks we should say both ideas (i.e., there was previously a timeline, but it is now in question). People generally agreed this was a good compromise.
 6. Liz made a motion to change language to reflect our understanding of changes in the renovation timeline, along with input from Karla. Motion was seconded by Allison.
 7. Since this is a minor edit to the original letter we will just be voting on the amendment. Amendment was approved unanimously.
 8. Casey will send the amended letter to Dean Moorhead to share with the Grad Council.
- c. Immunization letter – **POGSS**
- i. Casey has already sent the letter to the administration and undergrad leadership.
 - ii. Kevin Charles gave some background from his perspective. There has been a process in place for a while trying to get this nailed down, so it was timely for Ben to reach out with this concern. Registration being held has an inherent flaw because it wouldn't impact someone until the following semester. It also creates a jam during registration time. They are looking at other ways to enforce it. Most USNH campuses are supportive of the policy too. GSS's input is now part of a larger conversation and he's happy to continue hearing our input.
 - iii. No other discussion.
- d. Exit surveys – **POGSS**
- i. Everyone should have gotten a link to the online survey and should fill it out before next Monday. Trying to review them during the last meeting. No one has reported any problems with the survey.
- e. Budget – **FAO**
- i. No new updates on swag. There was some discussion in ExComm last week. Alex is still waiting to hear back from the licensing office about using the UNH logo.

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- f. MUB letters - ***H & W Committee***
 - i. Renovations letter:
 - 1. Letter incorporates some changes from last discussion, including making it more general to all graduate students. Jovana helped to add more specific requests as well. No major changes.
 - 2. Discussion: Jovana commented that her rationale for the changes was based on a history feeling like the MUB does not value accommodating grad students. She feels that more specific requests will help us either get something we want or be able to negotiate better.
 - 3. Jovana wanted to clarify whether this was the GSS office space too or just general grad student space. Casey added that it is separate from the GSS office and that he has put in a room allocation request but hasn't heard back. Jovana thinks this should be explicitly said so it is not confusing. Jacob B. added that it's important to distinguish as well. MJ added some clarifying language also to help with this.
 - 4. Jacob B. made motion to approve the amended letter, seconded by Liz. Letter was approved unanimously.
 - ii. Students with families letter:
 - 1. Letter incorporates some input from Jovana since the last discussion. Ben added some language to include more specific requests.
 - 2. Discussion: Jovana thanked Ben for working on this.
 - 3. Allison made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Jovana. Letter was approved unanimously.

7. New Business

- a. Jovana asked about summer stipends for grad students and whether there has been any discussion of assistantships. Casey and Liz have not heard anything about stipends and it did not come up at their meeting with the President and Provost. No decisions have been made about grad student research over summer, but there is a goal to have campus open in fall. They anticipate making this decision before June because prospective undergrads will need to sign and pay fee at the end of May if they are coming. MJ mentioned that the Chemistry department has already said that stipends will be maintained for the summer. Liz confirmed Oceanography has said this as well.

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- b. Jacob B. suspects that the decision to open will be based on public health as well as financial concerns. Jacob will add questions about summer stipends to his list of things to bring up with the Educational Excellence Committee.
 - c. Jovana added that the 3MT competition is today at 3pm.
- 8. Upcoming Events/Important Dates - POGSS**
- a. May 11th: Last GSS meeting (Partial meeting/end of year celebration)
 - b. June 1st: Terms for the next session begin
- 9. Open Forum – POGSS**
- a. Jacob K. hosted trivia last week. Some issues getting teams set up at the beginning, but overall it went well. Liz suggested having shorter breakout room time where you get the questions first before going to breakout room. She liked the questions.
 - b. We may end up doing another one this semester.
- 10. Adjournment**
- a. Jacob K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Liz. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.