

# Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 4/6/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | Zoom

**1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS**

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:06pm.

**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	Absent
Sarah Widlansky	Communications	Present
Dominic Payne	CEPS	Present
Kerry Dykens	CEPS	Present
Francesco Preti	CEPS	Present
Sanchari Kundu	CHHS	Absent
Emily Whalen	CHHS	Absent
Sumeyra Gok	COLA	Present
Martine Grenier-Burtis	COLA	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Allison Giannotti	COLA	Present
Ben Remillard	COLA	Present
Lauren Breza	COLSA	Present
Yoka Milosavljevic Ardeljan	PAUL	Absent
Karen Moran Rivera	International	Absent
Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu	Grad School	Present
Michael Fazi	Law	Absent
Surya Kranthi Siyadri	Manchester	Present
Karla Oñate Melecio	Housing	Present

**3. Approval of the 3/30/20 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS**

- a. We will approve the minutes at the next meeting (4/13/20)

**4. Old Business – Spring 2020 pass/fail option for graduate students - VPGSS/POGSS**

- a. Social media results: 42 total votes on the Twitter poll

- Opt-in to pass/fail – 52.4%

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- Opt-in to letter grade – 16.7%
  - Mandatory pass/fail – 26.2%
  - Mandatory letter grade – 4.8%
- b. Casey and Liz met with Dean Moorhead and Provost Jones to discuss the resolution, along with amendments from last meeting.
  - c. Dean Moorhead said that it would be difficult to classify anything below a B- as passing, but that she is hoping professors are taking into account that these are unusual circumstances. Provost Jones said that it is easier for the registrar to have the opt-in to pass/fail option, and this is why it was stated this way on the resolution for undergraduate courses. The GSS resolution will probably be treated in a similar way. Liz added clarification that the opt-in process would not be through the instructor, though the exact implementation hasn't been decided yet. Professors would therefore not know if a student chose to take a pass/fail grade for the course.
  - d. Based on the recommendations from Dean Moorhead, the current version of the resolution does not ask for the pass cutoff to be lowered to a C-. Someone can choose to friendly amend if they wish.
  - e. Opening discussion:
    - I. Dominic asked about the “penalty-free drop of a single course” statement and whether this was mentioned in the resolution for undergraduate courses as well. Liz confirmed that it is part of that resolution.
    - II. Sumeyra asked to clarify how this option would be communicated to students. Liz said that the registrar’s office would communicate with all students and it would not be up to GSS to do this.
    - III. Liz thinks we should add a friendly amendment to change the wording to “opt-in” rather than “opt-out” of pass/fail. This is based on the results of the Twitter poll and the meeting with Dean Moorhead and Provost Jones. Surya spoke to people from UNH Manchester and most were supportive of this option too.
    - IV. Surya didn’t feel like he was in a position to help students understand this resolution and was unclear how it would affect students’ cumulative GPA. It seems that taking a pass/fail grade would not affect a student’s GPA.
  - f. Dominic made a motion to friendly amend the wording in the resolution to say that students will opt-in to a pass/fail option. The amendment was seconded by Liz. The amendment was approved with a unanimous vote.

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- g. Casey asked whether we feel we need to specify a day that students would need to opt-in by. Liz thinks that unless someone thinks April 28<sup>th</sup> is inappropriate, we don't need to specify. Dominic agrees.
  - h. Liz made a motion to pass the amended resolution, seconded by Dominic. The resolution passed unanimously.
  - i. Casey will send the resolution to the Grad Council and other officials today and update GSS during our next meeting.
- 5. Adjournment**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:34pm