

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 12/10/2019 | 11 – 1 PM | T-HALL G15

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 11:11am

2. Roll Call – COGSS

- a. GSS Senators and Executive Officers in Attendance: Casey O'Heran (President), Liz Weidner (VP), Alex Padilla (Financial Affairs), Jacob Bennett (External Relations), Sarah Widlansky (Communications), Emily Whalen (CHHS), Sumeyra Gok (COLA), Martine Grenier-Burtis (COLA), Allison Giannotti (COLA), Ben Remillard (COLA), Jovana Milosavljevic Ardeljan (PAUL), Karen Moran Rivera (International), Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu (GRAD), Michael Fazi (UNH Law), Surya Kranthi Siyadri (Manchester), Kerry Dykens (CEPS),
- b. GSS Senators and Executive Officers absent: Jacob Koile (Community Coordinator) – Sarah serving as proxy, Dominic Payne (CEPS) – Liz serving as proxy, Lauren Breza (COLSA) – Sarah serving as a proxy, Karla Oñate Melecio (Housing) – Sarah serving as proxy, Sanchari Kundu (CHHS).
- c. Official note of quorum

3. Approval of the 11/18/19 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS

- a. Liz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Alex. Minutes were approved with one abstention.

4. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs

- a. No updates

5. New Business

- a. Fee Review – **FAO**
 - i. Fee units consult uSS and GSS each year about fee increases for the following year. Alex and others met with directors at a breakfast last week to discuss the proposed increases.
 - ii. There is a breakdown of the proposed mandatory fees in Google drive and shows what the full fee amount would be for a full-time grad student/year.
 - iii. Many unit directors don't have access to their reserves.
 - iv. Jacob B. made a motion to open a general feelings vote on each proposed fee increase. Motion seconded by Alex.
 - v. Going through each unit individually, most proposed increases are to maintain existing services:
 - 1. Housing: 2.5% increase to maintain services. Will add single bathrooms in Babcock. Would come in as increased rent for

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- Babcock residents, so not everyone would pay this fee. **General feelings: 7 in favor. 6 opposed. 3 abstentions**
2. Transportation: 2.5% increase to maintain services. uSS proposed 0% increase because they don't use this service. Looking to buy smaller buses to help maintain Newmarket route. There was some suggestion that the Newmarket route could be canceled. We need to show that a lot of people live in Newmarket and that GSS is very committed to transportation. **General feelings: 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions**
 3. CAPS: we don't pay CAPS fee. They aren't suggesting an increase, but may want to start a grad fee based on college and which departments have been using these services. They will discuss with GSS before making these changes. **General feelings: we support no increase. 14 in favor, 2 abstentions**
 4. SHARPP: asking for \$1 increase (25%) to support student advocates who help during breaks, etc. as a small stipend. Trying to fill more permanent staff advocate position. They have asked for \$1 increase every year, but have not gotten it. **General feelings: 12 in favor, 4 abstentions**
 5. Dining: we don't pay dining fee but they are asking for a 2.5% increase for retention and to maintain services. We could ask how many grad students have a meal plan. Could be beneficial to set up a payment plan to deduct from payroll, etc. for more grad students to use. This may already be an option. **General feelings: 2 in favor, 10 against, 4 abstentions**
 6. MUB/Student Rec: 2.5% increase to maintain programs. Stacey Hall urged us to encourage the university to pursue other avenues for funds instead of just increasing student fees. The MUB is pushing for a new student union building and wants us to support this. Alex asked whether grad students and GSS would have our own space. They said yes. This proposed change is not fee related. Jovana mentioned that in the past the MUB hasn't been supportive of grad students by giving us space, resources, etc. We don't feel this is appropriate for fee review letter to say we support this. uSS voted for no increase **General feelings: 1 in favor, 10 opposed, 5 abstentions (for rec. fee). 1 in favor, 11 opposed, 4 abstentions (for MUB fee)**

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7. Technology: 2% increase to help with salaries, facilities, software, etc. Supporting technology is important for R1 status. **General feelings: 13 in favor, 3 abstentions**
 8. Athletics: we don't pay this fee and they aren't thinking of increasing. Unit director does want to be more present in grad student discussions (some athletes are grad students, especially men's soccer) so they want us to help support our student athletes. **General feelings: 15 in favor, 1 abstention**
 9. Health and Wellness: 9.8% increase. Facing a significant budget cut a couple years ago. Want to recruit a psychiatrist to keep on site. They have been using their reserves to keep up with budget cuts and not asking for fee increases. Jacob B. is concerned that students are left making up for budget cuts with increased fees repeatedly. Many services have been cut in recent years, on-site lab, cut some staff, etc. **General feelings: 6 in favor, 3 opposed, 7 abstentions for full increase. Many people ok with smaller increase. Voted on 4.5% increase instead: 10 in favor, 3 opposed, 3 abstentions.**
 10. PACS: 4.4% (\$8) increase: to hire an extra counselor to reduce wait time to see a counselor and to create online resources for off-campus students, etc. ("Well Track") that anyone could use. Also want to start a 24/7 hotline. **General feelings: 12 in favor, 4 abstentions.**
 11. Liz made a motion to close voting. Motion seconded by Alex.
 12. Alex will send letter out to everyone in GSS to look over before Friday at 5pm when it will be sent out.
- b. Resolutions: Gender question on teaching evaluations - **D & I Committee**
- i. uSS passed a very general resolution. Faculty senate is waiting until next semester
 - ii. GSS will urge UNH to replace the multiple choice questions with a fill in box and not to disclose gender information to the instructor (which will be noted on form). We noted that there could be some issues with the ways people enter the same information (e.g., M, male, m, etc.), but will give this as our recommendation.
 - iii. Liz made a motion to vote on the resolution. Motion seconded by Lauren. Resolution passed with one abstention.
- c. MLK/Cultural Diversity Trivia Night - **Programming Committee (didn't discuss)**

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- d. Mid-year committee reports – **POGSS (didn't discuss)**
 - e. Semester Review – **POGSS (didn't discuss)**
 - f. Any other new business - none
- 6. Tasks for Next Semester - POGSS**
- a. Resolution supporting a new student union – encourage a grad student space
 - b. Push for temporary housing solution (Housing & Transportation) – want to get an update on what's happening.
 - c. Find out where grad students are living off-campus (Housing & Transportation) – forward this information to David May and transportation
 - d. Re-evaluation of GSS representation (Gov. Comm) – continue to look at enrollment and evaluate senator representation.
 - e. Follow up on timely communication amendment (Gov. Comm) – haven't heard from Dean Moorhead yet with approval.
 - f. Elections – Elections happening in March. Casey will not be running for re-election. Can also nominate people.
- 7. Open Forum – POGSS**
- 8. Adjournment**
- a. Jacob B. made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Alex. Meeting adjourned at 12:47pm
- 9. Potluck**