

# Graduate Student Senate



**GSS Meeting | 2/10/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | MUB 164**

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

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:10pm

**2. Roll Call – COGSS**

<b>GSS Senators Present</b>	<b>GSS Senators Absent</b>
Casey O'Heran (President)	Alex Padilla (Financial Affairs) – Liz serving as proxy
Liz Weidner (VP)	Martine Grenier-Burtis (COLA) – Sumeyra serving as proxy
Jacob Koile (Community Coordinator)	Kerry Dykens (CEPS) – Ben serving as proxy
Sarah Widlansky (Communications)	Jacob Bennett (External Relations) – Liz serving as proxy
Dominic Payne (CEPS)	Jovana Milosavljevic Ardeljan (PAUL) – Liz serving as proxy
Emily Whalen (CHHS)	Sanchari Kundu (CHHS)
Sumeyra Gok (COLA)	
Allison Giannotti (COLA)	
Lauren Breza (COLSA)	
Karen Moran Rivera (International)	
Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu (GRAD)	
Michael Fazi (UNH Law)	
Surya Kranthi Siyadri (Manchester)	
Ben Remillard (COLA)	
Karla Oñate Melecio (Housing)	
Francesco Preti (CEPS)	

- a. Official note of quorum.

**3. Approval of the 1/27/20 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS**

- a. Liz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Dominic. The meeting minutes from 1/27/2020 approved unanimously with no changes.

**4. Speakers - Stacey Hall and David Charette (MUB/Campus Recreation)**

- a. Main goals: Sharing resources for grad students, discussing student fees, answering questions.
- b. Dave Charette (Campus Rec): Interested in mindfulness and success, mental health, and success in school. Trying to make things easier for students to come into the rec center (e.g., expanded hours, faculty/staff/community membership options). Quieter times in the rec center are early morning until ~lunch time and the weekends. Busiest from 2-3pm until 9pm.

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- c. Group exercise classes at a variety of times. Flexibility with intramural timing. Outdoor adventure trips. Stick and puck time on the ice. Partnership with health and wellness for study time at campus rec.
- d. Karla asked about grad student only classes to help with people showing up and having the class be full already. Dave was open to adjusting scheduling. Stacey added that students tend to spread out as the semester goes on.
- e. Liz asked if there is a way to figure out who the instructor is. Stacey said it's not currently on the schedule with the new software, but could look into adding it in. They will be doing a training for new cycling instructors if people are interested.
- f. Stacey Hall (MUB): Discussed the MUB talk schedule, with higher profile speakers than other years. Soon there will be a dinner and a movie promo happening. A lot of behind the scenes work happening at the MUB right now after their self-assessment.
- g. MUB question from GSS: Not many grad students use the MUB, curious whether there are numbers that show grad student involvement with the MUB (especially in light of student fees). Stacey will look into this more and wants to look into grad programs that would build off of what we've already gotten as undergrads.
- h. Most student org. space is currently being used for storage. Some groups are pushing to have more space for prayer/meditation while the building is open. The MUB also wants to look into expanding the computer labs into gaming space.
- i. Jovana (Liz as proxy): has been in GSS since 2014 and used to use the GSS office as her office for ExComm work, office hours, etc. Sad to see this space taken away. MUB has no specific rules for how offices need to be used. Thinks the MUB should consider giving more space to GSS so we could use the office more efficiently.
- j. Stacey: Thinks of this change as temporary and is open to looking into long term options. Wants to see how we end up settling into the THall space. Liz mentioned that we have ExComm meetings in THall, but it is not completely private and not guaranteed to be open.
- k. Member at large asked about having reserved lockers for graduate students at student rec. Rec actually rents lockers for the semester and annually (fee, \$60/year, \$25/semester). They will send this information to GSS.
- l. Karla asked how organization offices are allocated in the MUB. Can only certain orgs get a space? Response: Not all organizations get space. Orgs need to request space in spring semester with an application process and specify whether they need storage or an office.

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- m. Casey asked about the need for a new MUB (based on the fee review process). Wondering if there could be grad space in the new building (e.g., a lounge area). Stacey: no eminent changes happening at the MUB. HVAC systems failing that need to be renovated. A few years of planning and discussions will be happening before changes are made. Stacey is open to hearing suggestions, especially based on what we've seen at other universities that we like.

## 5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Governance Committee – working on elections. Nominations start on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> elections on March 9<sup>th</sup>. GSS meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> will have a few minutes to take nominations. You are able to run, get elected, and decline.
- b. Programming – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at empty pint. Venue was a big hit. Thinking about having it at Empty Pint permanently. Asked for any objections or other things to consider. Karla asked if there was food, need to advertise better that there is still pizza. Decided that we will keep doing it at Empty Pint.
- c. Housing and Transportation – no updates from committee. Casey met with President and Provost a few weeks ago. They are back from Maryland but we haven't heard anything. Casey and Liz will meet with them this week, but not optimistic. Going to push forward with temporary housing.
- d. Financial Affairs – no updates
- e. Health and Wellness – yoga event during winter break went well. Student Rec was very open to continuing those events in the future. Brainstorming childcare initiatives.
- f. Diversity and Inclusivity – contacted OISS to ask about joining their next meeting to talk about elections/GSS.
- g. External
  - i. Looking for person to fill Grad Council meetings (once/month 2-3:30pm on Friday to substitute for Karen who has class). People interested can email Casey.
  - ii. Academic Affairs committee is going to be trying to ensure Spring Break overlaps with St. Patrick's Day to avoid town disruptions.
  - iii. Bookstore Vendor Committee – University System met last Thursday to review each college's thoughts on finalists' presentations. No definitive conclusion. Many like Follett but the numbers weren't as favorable to the university. Negotiations will continue. If Barnes and Noble kept their contract, not sure what would happen immediately but eventually the school wants to update the bookstore.

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## 6. Old Business

- a. Vote on re-evaluation of GSS representation – **POGSS**
  - i. Casey opened discussion. Added a note that the Senate model would increase the total number of positions (adding 3 more). Michael asked what the numbers were based on and whether Law and Manchester would be representing disproportionately more or less people.
  - ii. Alison asked about the rationale for representation based on credit hours. Casey doesn't remember (came from Jordan Coulombe). Thinks it was just trying to update with current enrollment. Alison thinks it should be updated, but still based on enrollment numbers. MJ added that enrollment hours would reflect people who are enrolled but not taking classes/on campus much. Several people added that many enrolled for few credits are on campus a lot. Michael agrees with enrollment-based representation, but that it should reconsider Manchester and Law School size. Surya thinks one representative for Manchester is good because most people aren't around and those that are are international (so would have another senator already anyway).
  - iii. We will need to vote today if we want something to go into effect for this election.
  - iv. Lauren made a motion to amend the existing language to say it is based on student enrollment and add in language from proposal #1 about re-evaluating the numbers periodically. Liz seconded the motion. Passed with 3 abstentions.
  - v. Enrollment numbers based on <https://public.tableau.com/profile/unhira#!/vizhome/GraduateSchoolEnrollment/EnrollmentTrends> unless otherwise noted:
    1. ~200 for UNH Manchester (from Surya)
    2. 350 Paul
    3. 233 No college designated
    4. 168 Grad school
    5. 169 COLSA
    6. 443 COLA
    7. 683 CHHS
    8. 514 CEPS
    9. ~300 Law (from Michael)
  - vi. Michael suggested voting to change it to enrollment based, but without the new numbers. Liz is hesitant to pass it without new numbers but does

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think the language should change since current numbers don't reflect the actual enrollment. Michael proposed 1 senator/100 or 200 students. But this could mean numbers would get too big if enrollment increases. Emily proposed capping it at 4/college. Liz says that we cannot amend it during nomination process.

- vii. Decided on 2 options: amend it with an online vote or hold a special meeting next week. Every voting member needs one week to look over the changes.
- viii. Amending the document now: Changing credit hours to enrollment numbers. Adding one senator for every 150 students up to four with a minimum of one/college
- ix. Casey is going to amend and send out tonight and have a meeting next week (online or in person). No objections to this.
- b. Gender question on teaching evaluations – **POGSS**
  - i. Student affairs committee of Faculty Senate gave a presentation on sex and gender but did not reach a decision. A few faculty members were the main sticking points, arguing that it implies professors are biased and by taking this away, we may be taking other things away too. Casey wants GSS to have a firm stance on this. Karla noted that we should add that many people don't accurately identify on the evaluations anyway, so they won't be identified.

## 7. New Business

- a. Vote on appointment of new senator - **POGSS**
  - i. CEPS - Francesco Preti
  - ii. No discussion
  - iii. Lauren made a motion to appoint Francesco, MJ seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- b. UNH Global Newsletter – **Karen**
  - i. Looking for grad students doing work abroad to contact her to be included in the newsletter.
- c. Any other new business
  - i. Contact Casey if interested in being on any search committees.

## 8. Upcoming Events/Important Dates - **POGSS**

- a. February 24th: 2020-2021 GSS election nominations commence
- b. March 9th: 2020-2021 GSS Elections open

## 9. Open Forum – **POGSS**

## 10. Adjournment

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- a. Lauren made a motion to adjourn, Liz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:49pm.