

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 2/24/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | MUB 162

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – VPGSS

- a. Liz Weidner (VP) running the meeting
- b. Meeting called to session at 12:05 pm

2. Roll Call – COGSS

Name	Role	Attendance
Casey O'Heran	President	Absent, Liz serving as proxy
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	Present
Emily Whalen	CHHS	Present
Sumeryra 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, Alex serving as proxy
Karen Moran Rivera	International	Present
Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu	Grad School	Present
Michael Fazi	Law	Present
Surya Kranthi Siyadri	Manchester	Absent
Karla Oñate Melecio	Housing	Present

3. Approval of the 2/10/20 Meeting Minutes - VPGSS & COGSS

- a. Alex made a motion to approve the 2/10/20 meeting minutes, seconded by Jacob K. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- b. We will vote during the next meeting to approve the minutes for a special meeting on 2/17/2020.

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4. Speakers - *John Gabrieli (Every Voice) & Amy Culp (SHARPP)*

- a. Every Voice is a grassroots initiative surrounding sexual assault on college campuses. John went to school in Massachusetts and graduated in 2016. Got involved as a sophomore. Group of survivors and allies. Organized the first statewide campus climate sexual assault survey. Students wrote legislation and testified at hearings. The legislation passed through committee and senate favorably but got held up in the house. Officially created Every Voice, now on 40-50 campuses.
- b. NH has no laws currently with respect to campus sexual violence.
- c. Key measures – climate survey, amnesty protection (protecting people who come forward), confidential resource advisor, education and training on consent and bystanders, connections with local rape crisis centers.
- d. Has been working in NH for ~6 months across several campuses.
- e. Wants to gather student/survivor voices and get basic protections passed into law. Also wants students to be able to speak at hearings.
- f. Open organization, anyone can be involved. Small steering committee of 7-8 students in NH with periodic phone call updates.
- g. Facebook page that posts updates on legislation (across different states)
- h. Liz asked how GSS can help as an organization. Response – Every Voice is coming in April for sexual assault awareness month and would like to co-host an event if we were interested. We could also endorse the legislation as an organization. We will discuss endorsement at a later meeting.
- i. SHARPP can't act on legislation as staff, but really hopes for student initiatives.
- j. SHARPP office numbers are much higher than what UNH reports for assault on campus.
- k. Wants to have mandated advocate for incidents that are reported. This has already passed by GSS and uSS.
- l. PDF of Every Voice fact sheet can be shared.
- m. Liz asked how likely they thought it was that this legislation would pass. John was hopeful. 15 out of 24 NH senators are co-sponsors. Harder in the house because there are ~400 representatives. It has bipartisan support though and support from many rape crisis centers.

5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Governance – passed bylaw amendment and updated the constitution. Constitutional amendment from last semester (on timely notice of policy changes) has not been approved. Dean Moorhead would like to meet to discuss it. Nominations are open to run for GSS next year.

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- b. Financial – no updates
 - c. Programming – 1st Thursday will be at Empty Pint again. Wants to set up table to promote voting this week. May do this at 1st Thursday or at A Lot in the morning.
 - d. Diversity & Inclusivity – went to OISS circle last Thursday to promote the GSS elections.
 - e. Housing & Transportation – There is still an issue holding up the Main Street housing. Alex made an appointment to meet with Kathy Irla-Chesney, and David May, along with Karla.
- 6. Old Business**
- a. Housing update - **VPGSS**
 - i. Main Street
 - 1. Phone call with the President and Provost – discussed housing and the gender question on teaching evaluations. No new updates. If they create housing downtown, they also need to create commercial space.
 - ii. Looking into reserving campus apartments
 - 1. They were open to building grad housing on campus if Main Street falls through. They were supportive of reserving apartments, but beyond that there were no concrete plans.
 - 2. Alex added that reserving on campus apartments poses a financial problem where they will need to balance the lost income from having only one occupant. Conflicting messages about whether this would be an issue. Some apartments have already been set aside for transfer students who are living elsewhere.
 - 3. MJ thinks we should ask if grad students could just have roommates in these apartments to reduce the financial burden.
 - b. Gender question on teaching evaluations - **VPGSS**
 - i. President and Provost were very supportive and surprised that nothing has been implemented yet. We haven't been able to confirm whether any changes went into effect over Jterm.
 - ii. Lauren added that they would be able to add a long drop-down list of options to help with the issue of having a fill in box.
 - iii. Upcoming motion by Faculty Senate on 3/2/2020
 - c. Misc reps needed for search committees - **VPGSS**
 - i. COLSA Dean
 - ii. Dean of Students
 - iii. Academic Affairs

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- iv. Title IX Advisory Committee (*Wednesday March 4 and Wednesday April 15 @11 AM*)
- v. Helpful to have a representative for each of them. Title IX is the only one we have dates/times for.
- vi. Ben added more detail on Title IX. They will be meeting to figure out who should be a mandatory reporter, especially with respect to undergrads.

7. New Business

- a. Election nominations - **VPGSS**
 - i. Nominations will be open until 4:59 pm on March 9th. Collected nominations from current GSS members during the meeting.
- b. H&W Committee immunization draft letter – **Ben**
 - i. Concern that the university isn't carefully checking immunization records.
 - ii. Ben talked to Kevin Charles. There used to be more oversight from the business office, but they stopped. They are working to get it back and establish some rules (e.g., when moving in, registering for classes, etc.) at the USNH level.
 - iii. If GSS passed a resolution and got uSS and faculty to do the same, it might carry more weight.
 - iv. Liz is not sure if uSS is active right now, so we may not be able to co-sign, but we can still support it.
 - v. Draft letter mentions medical exemptions and a grace period for international students to get vaccinated.
 - vi. MMR is the only vaccine that is required by the university.
 - vii. Sumeyra and MJ noted that requirements are stricter for international students.
 - viii. Seems like there is some inconsistency with what makes someone "uncompliant".
 - ix. Ben will go over the letter with Kevin Charles to find out what he would like to see in the letter and bring it back to the next meeting.
- c. Any other new business
 - i. Alex discussed the Huron Steering Committee town hall. Committee will remain active over next few years to follow up with tasks.
 - ii. Students were chanting "stop the cuts" at the meeting and then left. Identified as grad students by the president, but Jacob K. talked to some and they were undergrads.

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- iii. Health and Wellness will be advocating for grad space in the new MUB and they are looking for ideas. Some ideas were family space, lactation rooms, lockers/storage area. Looking for other input as well.

8. Upcoming Events/Important Dates - VPGSS

- a. March 5th: First Thirstday at the Empty Pint, Dover
- b. March 9th: 2020-2021 GSS Elections. Open at 5pm, close at midnight a week later. People can submit a blurb to be shown along with their name.

9. Open Forum – VPGSS

10. Adjournment

- a. Alex made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dominic. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.