

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 1/27/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | MUB 162

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

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

2. Roll Call – COGSS

GSS Senators Present	GSS Senators Absent
Casey O'Heran (President)	Ben Remillard (COLA) – Kerry serving as proxy
Liz Weidner (VP)	Martine Grenier-Burtis (COLA)
Alex Padilla (Financial Affairs)	Jovana Milosavljevic Ardeljan (PAUL)
Jacob Bennett (External Relations)	
Jacob Koile (Community Coordinator)	
Sarah Widlansky (Communications)	
Dominic Payne (CEPS)	
Sanchari Kundu (CHHS)	
Emily Whalen (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)	
Kerry Dykens (CEPS)	
Karla Oñate Melecio (Housing)	

- a. Official note of quorum

3. Approval of the 12/10/19 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS

- a. Liz made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Jacob K. The meeting minutes from 12/10/19 approved unanimously with no changes.

4. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs

- a. Committee reports – some committees still need to submit their end of semester report from fall 2019.
- b. Governance Committee (Liz) – Establishing the Inactive Senatorship policy was a main focus of last semester. GSS elections will be coming up soon this semester.
- c. Programming Committee (Jacob K.) – Thirsty Moose is being remodeled next Thursday, so First Thursday date/location are TBD. Programming Committee is

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gauging interest in having trivia nights this semester at a bar. One possibility could be having one in conjunction with the MLK events coming up.

- d. Health and Wellness Committee (Kerry) – childcare is the main focus of the committee right now. Compared to other schools, UNH childcare options look good. Committee will be meeting soon with financial aid to go through this.
- e. Diversity Committee (Sumeyra) – Emily is serving on several outside committees, Sumeyra is helping with the MLK events at the beginning of February. Committee will be meeting with OISS soon.
- f. Housing and Transportation (Jacob B.)– Main Street grad housing did not come up at the most recent Board of Trustees meeting.
- g. External Committees
 - i. Board of Trustees (Jacob B.) – fees have increased for grad students. The next time the university has Board of Trustees elections, grad students will be eligible to run (should be in ~4 years).

5. Speaker - Assistant Dean Dovev Levine-Leung (Graduate School)

- a. Thinking of coming once/month to check in and give Grad School updates.
- b. Mainly focused on student affairs concerns in his role as Assistant Dean. This semester is focused on fundamentals (class registration, finding resources, etc.).
- c. Lily Greenberg helped put together the Thrive Guide for new and current students. This will become a PDF soon. Right now, it is up on the Grad School webpage.
- d. Looking at ways to modify the orientation process (possibly putting some of it online as video modules).
- e. Looking at ways grad school can help build stronger mentor relationships (e.g., resources for mentors, strategies for students to interact with mentors). This will become a webpage on the grad school site.
- f. Working with some departments/programs to make degree requirements more explicit.
- g. Mental health on campus. Multiple cases of students in need of extra support. Many people don't know how to work with/provide support for students in need. QPR training (Question, Persuade, Refer) – first aid for mental health. Promoting this for TAs.
- h. Training for how to communicate your research. Research Academy. 50% grad students.
- i. Engagement opportunities to make research more visible, like the Living Bridge project from last year.

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- j. Upcoming workshops on applying for the Fulbright Program in late March. Info sessions on high-level research support services on campus (e.g. R data training)
- k. Questions: MJ asked if QPR is mandatory in any departments. The answer was no. Lauren asked about the graduate cognate in research communication. Based on the current timeline, this should be in place for spring 2021.

6. Old Business

- a. Main Street housing – **POGSS**
 - i. No positive update. Casey and Liz have had 3 meetings with the President and Provost. President and Provost will be going to Maryland to meet with the current contractor. If that falls through, then they will need to start over. There is no current temporary solution. GSS will be talking with David May about reserving apartments in Woodside or Gables. Wouldn't have Main Street housing for at least another 1.5 years.
 - ii. Jacob B. asked to clarify what the holdup is. It is related to negotiating with the contractor. The same contractor is working on multiple projects and wants to step back to take on fewer projects.
 - iii. Housing will need someone to make up for deficit if they rent apartments out to grad students.
 - iv. MJ asked why the option of having some apartments in Woodside didn't happen 7 years ago when it was first proposed. Jacob B. said it is expensive to keep grad students on campus. MJ suggested that grad students just pair up and have a roommate and Liz mentioned that other grad housing is single occupancy. They are also considering whether it could be family housing.
 - v. Dominic asked whether people pay per room or per person. Liz said people pay per occupant. Alex added that rent is by occupants, but that they were interested in making it more like Forest Park
 - vi. Karla asked whether there are any single occupancy rooms. Jacob B. said that Gables does have single rooms.
- b. Gender question on teaching evaluations – **POGSS**
 - i. Resolution went out at the end of December. Haven't gotten any response. Decision will hinge more on Faculty Senate which has been taking a long time. Faculty Senate will be meeting today to outline agenda for semester. Faculty Senate agrees that it should change, but they have conflicting ideas about how it should be changed.
- c. Re-evaluation of GSS representation – **POGSS**

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- i. Started discussion last semester. Last year Jordan Coulombe proposed an amendment with 2 options for GSS representation.
 - 1. Option 1: based on enrollment numbers from last year
 - 2. Option 2: Even representation.
 - ii. Adding an online senator position has also been proposed
 - iii. Open to discussion: Lauren noted that going by credit hours enrolled could skew the representation because people at candidacy only sign up for one class. Lauren favors keeping it based on enrollment numbers. Karla agrees. Jacob B. favors the senate model (even representation), noting that current advertising favors STEM fields and COLA, etc. are ignored. He thinks that even representation would help keep things stable as enrollment changes, keeping humanities represented even though they have lower enrollment.
 - iv. Michael added that things should be proportional to number of people in school and that it is best to have people representing their own college, adding that GSS should work harder to recruit from underrepresented areas. The Bar Association struggles with these same issues (representing JD vs. LLM students)
 - v. We will table this and continue discussing during the next meeting, potentially with a vote.
 - vi. Jacob B. asked to clarify whether this will go into effect for the upcoming election. It will, as long as the amendment is approved by Dean Moorhead before the election.
 - vii. MJ asked whether people from other colleges could still fill seats from a college they are not in. This would stay the same.
- d. Fee review results - **FAO**
- i. Liz giving report as Alex's proxy.
 - ii. There was an increase in all student fees to cover cost of service inflation. 2.6% increase for UNH Durham students.
 - iii. The results were summarized in a letter to GSS from the University and Alex summarized this and gave a breakdown of what was approved by the GSS and uSS. The changes did not follow our suggestions exactly and approved some things that neither GSS nor uSS approved (e.g. MUB and Campus Rec fee increases)
 - iv. This letter is in the Fee Review Google Drive folder and can go out to constituents and let them know to expect a \$55 increase in fees.

7. New Business

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- a. Appointment of new senator - **POGSS**
 - i. Casey submitted a nomination for Francesco Preti to be a senator for CEPS.
 - ii. CEPS - Francesco Preti
 - 1. PhD student in civil engineering. From Italy.
 - 2. Wants to be helpful and informed on events in grad student community.
 - 3. Questions: Why UNH from Italy? Francesco started his PhD in Italy. University of Parma has a collaboration with UNH. First came as a visiting scholar. Now a full student. MJ asked how he plans to contact his constituents. He said he will help with flyers and advertising in Kingsbury, as well as emails to specific groups.
 - 4. We will vote next meeting to approve this appointment.
- b. GSS MUB space – **POGSS**
 - i. We had MUB 119 in the general student senate space last semester.
 - ii. Stacey Hall is reorganizing space in the MUB and asked if she could reduce our space to storage. She will come to a meeting later in the semester to discuss MUB space with GSS.
 - iii. Jovana shared concerns about taking away this space. In the past it has been a valuable space for ExComm to get GSS work done. Also setting precedent that grad students aren't as important.
 - iv. Stacey thought that since we had THall space it might not matter. Wasn't aware of our concerns when she made the change.
 - v. Some discrepancies between asking us to pay more MUB fees but also taking our space.
- c. Communication of Durham events to UNHM & UNH Law – **Surya**
 - i. Asking for suggestions for ways to advertise in Manchester.
 - ii. Surya said only athletic events get advertised in Manchester and students would like to know about more networking events. Michael confirmed this is an issue for law students too.
 - iii. Sumeyra mentioned that many students don't pay the same fees, so some events will need to say "excluding Manchester, etc."
 - iv. Karen added that different people work for OISS in Manchester and Durham, so the same information isn't always getting to different groups.
 - v. Michael suggested creating a formal connection with the Student Bar Association secretary and sending events to them.
 - vi. Casey will also reach out to Lily to help with Grad School announcements.

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- d. MLK celebrations- **Sumeyra**
 - i. Kickoff event next week. There will also be 4-5 other events that we could send to constituents. There is also a Social Justice Educator Workshop happening. Sumeyra will send a flyer out to everyone in GSS. Sarah will advertise on social media.
 - e. Bookstore vendor open forum – **Michael**
 - i. Michael sits on the ad hoc external committee for finding a bookstore vendor. The finalists will be giving presentations tomorrow morning in HoCo Swampscott Room (Barnes & Nobel and Follett). Michael will be there. There will be Zoom links too for students to view the presentations and ask questions. There will be a response sheet to provide your opinions on vendors.
 - ii. Michael is asking for input; however, no one at the meeting has ever bought a book from the UNH bookstore). The bookstore does offer price matching, but no one here has tried to use it. Michael has bought one book. Liz said Amazon is so easy that she didn't even think to check the bookstore. Price is a major concern. Michael asked whether the Grad School has any independent merchandise. They do, but it can't be purchased through the bookstore.
 - f. No other new business
- 8. Upcoming Events/Important Dates - POGSS**
- a. February First Thirstday (TBA)
 - b. February 4th: State of the University address (Need representatives to go). Tuesday (late afternoon/early evening?).
 - c. February 24th: 2020-2021 GSS election nominations commence. If you're interested, you can put your name forward to be nominated at this time. This is 2 weeks before the elections. Anyone can vote for senators from their own college and everyone can vote for ExComm. You can run for a position in any college. If you have at least 2 votes and the most votes, you would get that position. Michael says the election emails traditionally haven't gone to the Law School. There will be time to nominate yourself during the meeting on Feb. 24th. You can also email Governance Committee after this date to submit a nomination. People interested in ExComm can contact Liz or Casey with questions.
 - d. March 9th: 2020-2021 GSS Elections
- 9. Open Forum – POGSS**

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- a. Dominic announced that the CEPS Dean Search Committee wants input on what to look for in CVs. Casey says that more search committees are coming up that GSS will have representatives on as well.

10. Adjournment

- a. Dominic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lauren. Meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.