

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 3/9/2020 | 12-1:45 PM | MUB 162

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:03pm

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

3. Approval of the 2/17/20 & 2/24/20 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS

- a. Dominic made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2/17/20, seconded by Alex. Minutes were approved with two abstentions.
- b. Liz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2/24/20, seconded by Dominic. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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4. Speaker - *Jake Riffle (Graduate Student)*

- a. Jake Riffle is a PhD Grad student in the Physics Dept. Came to speak about Dover Around the World for exposure and promotion.
- b. Dover around the World is a day-long apartment crawl. Hosts donate their apartment and decorate for a specific location around the world. Usually 5-7 stops, spending ~2hrs/stop. Has been going on for 14 years. High participation rate. Between 80-100 participants annually.
- c. Hosts generally spend ~\$100 - \$200. Event charges \$20/attendee and this money goes back to the hosts.
- d. Allison asked whether there was a link that could be shared. Response: there is usually an annual Facebook event. They are still looking for more hosts this year. Casey highlighted that we are very willing to support it as it aligns with our goal of bringing different departments together.
- e. Event includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- f. Karla asked if there are any designated drivers for the end of the night. Response: Often people end up self-designating within friend groups if they don't drink. These people still have fun with all the games, activities, etc.

5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Governance – no inactive member updates. Elections start today. Liz will email all nominees
- b. Financial – no updates
- c. Programming – talked to Empty Pint for trivia. The person they use is \$150/night if we want to do that. Dominic asked whether we would still do First Thursday (we would). Looking for input on Empty Pint vs Thirsty Moose
- d. Diversity – no updates
- e. Health and Wellness – they will have new resolutions for the new MUB space for next meeting. Revisiting dental, vision, etc.
- f. Bookstore – UNH chose to sign a new contract with Barnes and Noble. In negotiations now to incorporate things from Follett's proposal. Contract will be finalized and announced early summer.

6. Old Business

- a. Casey and Liz met with Dean Moorhead to discuss the GSS Timely Notice amendment from the fall. She wanted more clarification.
 - i. We haven't been getting the response we've been hoping for from the administration (e.g., with the Main Street housing).
 - ii. She agrees that this is important and offers support, but Dean Kirkpatrick would need to decide whether we are able to have that language in our

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constitution. She said she will talk about this but there may not be any changes soon.

- iii. Jacob Bennett emphasized that we need to push the idea of “shared governance” and why this amendment is critical for it.

b. Housing

i. “Main street” – **POGSS**

- 1. Saying that ground breaking will be in April (18 month long project) Casey is tentative about this.

ii. Upcoming Babcock Renovation – **POGSS**

- 1. Babcock will shut down in 2021 for full renovations over a full year. GSS was not informed about this from the administration.
- 2. Dominic asking whether we can delay this until the Main Street housing situation is better.

iii. Pilot program in Woodside – **FAO**

- 1. Meeting with Karla, David May and Kathy Irla-Chesney – Housing will have 20 spaces for grad students in Woodside. Some will be shared with undergraduates.
- 2. Grads would pay \$1,033 (includes utilities and furnishing). A little more expensive than Babcock (by ~\$200). They will be losing some income. David May is concerned they won’t fill these spaces.
- 3. They want to know whether to target incoming students, people living in Durham, etc. Alex feels we should focus on incoming students.
- 4. Students can start renting as early as June 1st. There will be a 12-month lease.
- 5. We will get a flier after Spring Break to start promoting.
- 6. No families would be able to live there.
- 7. Sumeyra mentioned also targeting incoming international students.
- 8. There is a new position in housing position that is focused on trying to help people find housing.
- 9. Steve Arias (member at large) – mentioned that the Minis housing could be a potential alternative to Babcock while it is being renovated. Also thinks a grad student should be tasked with providing housing resources for incoming students because they would be more familiar with the housing situation.

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10. Michael added that the law school has had someone in the admissions office help incoming students find housing using an internal “craigslist” that gets shared with students. This has been happening for ~5 years now. Staff member was very useful for checking out properties for you, etc. Having a permanent staff member is helpful because their turnover wouldn’t be as fast as a grad student. Liz agrees It is good to have a paid person in this role.
- c. Gender question on teaching evaluations - **POGSS**
 - i. Casey went to the Faculty Senate meeting last week. They proposed a motion during the last 15 minutes (third time proposing it). Said they support our resolution, but that gender information should be shared with faculty and any future changes to teaching evaluations need to be approved by the Faculty Senate.
 - ii. One person from Faculty Senate proposed throwing out the gender question entirely. We felt it was important for identifying bias.
 - iii. Alex wrote a letter to the Faculty Senate SAC emphasizing that we don’t want to delete the question entirely and that responses shouldn’t be shared with faculty.
 - iv. Emily asked about having a fill in option instead of just “non-binary”.
 - v. Sarah (as MJ’s proxy) asked about having a drop-down box vs. fill in response. Liz thinks we could make the letter just say “open ended fill in box, as stated in our resolution”
 - vi. Main issue is whether or not gender will be shared with instructors. Sumeyra had input from one instructor who said they don’t currently see gender with each evaluation, only an overall gender breakdown of the course. Allison confirms hers only shows large scale gender breakdown. This may have changed recently.
 - vii. Jacob K. made a motion to pass the letter, seconded by Liz. Letter passed with one abstention.
 - d. H&W Committee Immunization letter – **Ben**
 - i. Saving for next meeting
 - e. Discussion on *Every Voice* – **POGSS**
 - i. Every Voice asked us to potentially help with an event or officially support legislation as an organization. Discussing whether it is appropriate for a governing body to support state legislation.

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- ii. Jacob K. said supporting bill may be too political but supporting Every Voice would be appropriate.
- iii. Jacob B. said that we should ask Dean Kirkpatrick. He would know if uSS has done this before. Thinks there may be some restrictions on this, but that we could still support the initiative.
- f. Elections
 - i. Polls open on **3/9 @ 5 PM**
 1. Some vacant positions
 2. Email will go out to all students from UNH Durham and Manchester to vote.
 3. Sarah will also add info about voting to social media.
 4. Jovana added that if anyone has a student who doesn't see the email they can contact her (some people that join late don't get messages yet). Jovana can add them to the MyCourses page.
 - g. Misc reps needed for search committees - **POGSS**
 - i. COLSA Dean
 - ii. Dean of Students
 - iii. Academic Affairs
 - iv. Title IX Advisory Committee (*Wednesday, April 15 @11 AM*)
 - v. Grad Council – fill in for Karen
 - vi. Let Casey know ASAP
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Student Senate Meetings – **POGSS**
 - i. uSS is in the process of restructuring. Parliamentarian and Speaker resigned due to ongoing sexual discrimination. They are back in session and establishing a code of ethics. Not sure where/when meetings are happening now.
 - ii. Jovana is working on writing a letter hoping for uSS to change their name officially to Undergraduate Student Senate to help differentiate the two senates.
 - b. Any other new business
- 8. Upcoming Events/Important Dates - VPGSS**
 - a. March 9th-16th: 2020-2021 GSS Elections
 - b. Liz and Casey gone next meeting
- 9. Open Forum – VPGSS**
 - a. Tomorrow 3mt practice round at the Dover Public Library
- 10. Adjournment**

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- a. Dominic made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Liz. Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.