

# Graduate Student Senate



**GSS Meeting | 11/4/2019 | 1:30 – 3 PM | MUB 162**

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

- a. Meeting called to session: 1:38pm

**2. Roll Call – COGSS**

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

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS**

- a. Jacob K. passed a motion to approve the minutes from 10/28/19. Dominic seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs**

- a. Internal ad hoc
  - i. No updates
- b. Internal standing
  - i. Financial - Alex meeting with Kerry Scala to talk about grad student fees this week.
  - ii. Programming - First Thursday on 11/7 and Manchester event on 11/14 – planning a carpool
- c. External
  - i. No updates

**5. Speaker - Provost Wayne Jones @ 1:45 PM**

- a. Gave a presentation on Budget and Strategic Priorities. Presentation slides will be available on the Provost office website later this week.
- b. Goals: 1) Financial update for FY19-20, 2) Building financial strength for the future, and 3) Advancing strategic priorities.

# Graduate Student Senate



- c. Also gave an update on grad student housing downtown. Deal is still alive, but not quite ready to close. Should be closed within next couple weeks. Sticking points mostly insurance/liability, not specifics of housing layout, etc.
- d. Net revenue and spending increased since 2011. Overall, financial situation is good. Board of Trustees is open to increasing investment in target areas.
- e. No increase in support from state for 5 years. There has been some this year. Able to freeze undergrad tuition. More in state students this year than expected.
- f. New revenue opportunities this year. Expense control: delay hiring and project spending where possible.
- g. Largest graduate class ever (based on AY2018-2019). 3:1 master's to PhD ratio, most schools are 5:1, with professional masters offsetting some costs. Wants to grow masters/certificates by ~700-800 students to help balance. Working to speed up time to graduation for PhD students.
- h. There has been growth in diversity, but it is not uniform across colleges. HHS, PAUL, and UNHM saw biggest increases.
- i. Huron financial analysis initiative. Partnership with UNH steering committee to look across units at spending. Looked at cost of every individual degree path (undergrad and grad).
- j. Opportunities identified by Huron grouped into 19 key areas based on level of financial impact and change to service.
- k. Solutions and recommendations from the Steering Committee due December 6. Implementation Spring 2020.
- l. Overall goal is to take any resources generated and reinvest it. Will be reinvested into strategic priorities.
- m. Questions from GSS: Ben asked whether there was an explanation for the lack of state funding to UNH. Answer: Politics. Broken relationship that is stronger now. Financial tough time in terms of business taxes. Jacob B. asked about how the branding and enrollments budget helps enrollment. Answer: wrapping busses with ads, more billboards, tv ads etc. Created a committee to look at marketing spending and where to prioritize. Ads that played during Bruins games saw spike in interest in UNH. Jacob K. asked about cutting project spending and delaying hiring and what this means. Answer: Delaying hiring means they would let job vacancies stay vacant for a while. Delaying project spending refers to construction, etc. not research projects. Karla asked how much is being invested in retaining faculty, staff and students of color. Answer: does not have a number, but this is a serious commitment. Able to retain 100% of faculty of color who were recruited by other institutions last year. Mostly based on working conditions.

# Graduate Student Senate



- n. Follow up: if you hear of something or think of suggestions for retention, contact Provost Jones.

## 6. New Business

- a. Vote on amendment to the constitution regarding communication - **EAO (Jacob B.)**
  - i. Made a change from “adequate time” to 2 full senate meetings. This would mean changes shouldn’t happen during the summer when we aren’t meeting.
  - ii. Further discussion: None
  - iii. Jacob K. made a motion to approve the resolution, Alex seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - iv. Governance Committee will write a cover letter and this will go through both the grad school and president’s office.
- b. Resolutions: Gender question on teaching evaluations - **D & I Committee**
  - i. Lauren was not at the meeting to discuss the meeting with Lu Ferrell. The only new updates from last week were to just have a write in box and keeping the responses from professors.
  - ii. Tabling vote until next meeting to hear Lu Ferrell’s feedback.
- c. Resolution concerning the campus climate survey results - **EAO (Jacob B.)**
  - i. Jacob added some language about adding/retaining underrepresented staff and faculty in addition to students. Also provided a footnote about references with pages in survey where results can be found.
  - ii. Further discussion: None
  - iii. Karla made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Sumeyra. Passed unanimously.
  - iv. Diversity Committee will come up with list of people to send the resolution to.
- d. GRC discussion – **Jovana**
  - i. Did not discuss.
- e. Discussion on unbalanced funding - **FAO (Alex)**
  - i. MFA student talked about lack of funding at Town Hall event. Alex met with her last week. She found out only after coming here that TA funding was only available to second year students. Alex looked into how other schools handle funding for MFA students (e.g., only accepting a limited number of students that can be funded). Alex wants to talk to Dean Moorhead about what we can be doing better for these students. Jacob B. noted that nationally, the focus is on STEM fields. NH is also particularly underfunded at the state level.

# Graduate Student Senate



The National/State plan is to have more full-pay students to fund other students. Alex brought up the STEAM initiative and whether there are more ways to give MFA students opportunities to work with other funded fields (i.e., teaching technical writing, etc.). Consensus is that all departments should communicate funding and how to apply for it explicitly.

- ii. Jacob B. asked about ways to bring the writing center into this discussion. Allison mentioned that there are job opportunities there and that incoming students would be able to apply.

## 7. Updates on Old Business

- a. Status of draft GSS representation amendment – **Jovana**
  - i. Jovana was absent – Casey discussed briefly. Amendment would remove college labels for senator positions during elections and the president would assign senators to constituents after the election.
  - ii. Would like to have a draft of amendment by the end of the semester. Any questions or comments should be sent to Jovana.
- b. Resignation of CEPS senator, Will Lush – **POGSS**
  - i. Has been on GSS for a few years. Casey recognized his work, especially on the Health and Wellness Committee.
  - ii. There is still an opening for a CEPS senator position.
- c. Transportation resolution: David May meeting – **POGSS**
  - i. Casey sent formal resolution to several people from the graduate school, transportation department, Dean Kirkpatrick, etc.
  - ii. David May wants to meet with some senators to talk about the resolution. Casey thinks Dominic and others from the Housing and Transportation Committee should go.
- d. Graduate student liaison structure - **COGSS**
  - i. Zane Thistleford came to the last GSS meeting to talk about establishing grad student liaisons in every department. The Governance Committee is meeting with Zane on 11/5 at 1pm to discuss further.
- e. Casey sent Provost Jones our SVPR recommendation letter.

## 8. Open Forum – **POGSS**

- a. International Student Week this week
- b. Stonewall Grads meeting 4-5pm Wednesday.

## 9. Adjournment

- a. Jacob K. Alex second adjourned at 2:57
- b. Jacob K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex, meeting adjourned: 2:57pm.