

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 11/18/2019 | 1:30 – 3 PM | MUB 162

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 1:37pm.

2. Roll Call – COGSS

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

3. Approval of the 11/04/19 Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS

- a. Alex made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for 11/04/19, Dominic seconded. The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

4. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs

- a. **H&W** – Jovana is leading a childcare group and will be sending out a survey to students to get a sense of good scheduling. H&W committee is looking into childcare options on campus. Stacey Hall mentioned doing a grad only yoga class during Jterm. She will also be coming to a future meeting.
- b. **D&I** – no new updates since passing resolution.
- c. **H&T** – no updates.
- d. **Governance** – needs to write cover letter that goes to Dean Moorhead and the President this week. Liz has meeting with President and Provost next week. Committee met with Zane regarding grad student liaisons.
- e. **Financial** – no updates.
- f. **Academic affairs subcommittee** – Discussed overwhelming grade inflation (most grades are A's and B's now).
- g. Alex met with SARC last week – reviewed adaptation project proposals and she will be sharing these results later.

Graduate Student Senate



- h. Jovana mentioned that a student asked about grad student housing at the meet and greet with the president event. President said the Main St. option has been put on hold and may not work out. If they can't get to an agreement, may need to find an on-campus option. Jovana suggested reaching out to Provost Jones to ask about it.
 - i. Casey met with the honorary degree/commencement committee – discussed commencement, award recipients, and speakers.
- 5. New Business**
- a. Resolutions: Gender question on teaching evaluations - ***D & I Committee***
 - i. Waiting to have this discussion to get input from Lauren
 - b. Motion on GSS representation – ***Jovana***
 - i. *Jovana* discussed this briefly at beginning of semester. Proposed changes to GSS representation to help fill positions that are typically difficult to fill. Students would run for a senator position along with a short bio and everyone can vote for each position. People with highest votes would get preference. Constituencies would be assigned later by the GSS president based on preference and number of votes. Wants to make sure people with interest in GSS get a position on GSS. Often students are interested and self-nominate, but they only get their own vote. This way they can get more votes and join in regular election.
 - ii. *Casey* asked what the best way to implement this would be. We would need to change the bylaws.
 - iii. Michael suggested this may create less incentive from underrepresented colleges. Jacob B. suggested having some kind of priority for people from underrepresented colleges. One potential option: At least one seat has to be filled by someone from the college, even if they weren't in the top 17. Jacob does feel you know your own college better.
 - iv. Jacob B. wants to preserve some sense of college identity/representation. Should focus more on getting people from underrepresented colleges to run, rather than changing positions.
 - v. General consensus is that people will be less likely to run if they think they won't be representing their own college.
 - vi. Surya suggested we should put more effort into getting representation from underrepresented colleges. Does think people look more favorably on senators from their own college.
 - vii. Jovana retracted the motion to change the GSS representation based on general lack of support, so we will not vote on it.

Graduate Student Senate



- viii. The next town hall could be right before the election to help spread the word and get people to run for a position. Allison suggested fliers leading up to elections. Sumeyra suggested having info sessions leading up to election to help answer questions about how elections work, etc.
- ix. Casey thinks we should still re-evaluate representation numbers to reflect changing enrollment, but this can be separate from changing the position titles. Governance committee will look over enrollment numbers to help with this.
- c. GRC discussion – **Jovana**
 - i. Format of the GRC oral presentations: all 3MT format or half 3MT/half traditional 12 minute presentations? Hoping to have more attendance
 - ii. Liz strongly recommends doing half and half because the 12 minute format is typical for conferences.
 - iii. Alex also brought up that some conferences are doing lightning talks (5-6 min) now too.
 - iv. Anyone can email Jovana with comments and opinions.
- d. Mandatory fee review process – **FAO**
 - i. Alex met with Kerry Scala on Nov 8. The document with fees for next academic year isn't ready yet, but she shared a timeline that Alex has posted in the GSS Google Drive. Alex is meeting with unit directors this week. Fees will be increasing. Next meeting, we will also discuss where we think our fees should go and Alex will put this into a letter. Anyone can let Alex know any concerns or questions we want her to bring up.
- e. UNHM event (11/14) discussion – **POGSS**
 - i. Last Thursday. Good event with good discussion. Candace asked if we can do a GSS presentation at their orientation. Casey would like to do this (either the GSS leadership or UNHM senator). This could start with the January orientation.
 - ii. Surya thinks more than just the Manchester senator should be at orientation. Would like all GSS fliers from Durham to be sent to him to display in Manchester as well.
 - iii. Discussed having a first Thursday in Manchester or Concord next year too.
- f. Mid-year committee reports – **POGSS**
 - i. A mid-year report from each committee with an updated list of charges and progress that's been made on charges, and what the committee is hoping to work on next semester should be sent by internal committee

Graduate Student Senate



chairs by the end of the semester. Zane (member at large) suggested making these lists public to help with electing senators. Sarah will put on the GSS website.

g. Any other new business - none

6. Updates on Old Business

a. Transportation resolution: David May meeting (11/14) – **Dominic**

- i. They are restrained on making any large changes in transportation right now.
- ii. Dominic suggested reaching out to grad students to ask about their use of Wildcat Transit and also suggested using smaller busses for night and weekend runs.
- iii. Dean Moorhead thought we had already done a survey on where people were living, but we only have the interest survey, showing who lives off campus, but not where they live. Transportation would need a more robust survey on where specifically people are living.
- iv. H&T committee will look into doing this.
- v. Alex suggested having another commuter breakfast in the MUB and asking people there.
- vi. Karla brought up grad student carpool again. Allison thinks she's seen a carpool page somewhere (out of date facebook group?). Alex mentioned Ways app. Karen suggested having a quick survey people could grab along the bus route with snacks, etc.

b. Graduate student liaison structure email – **COGSS**

- i. Sarah will be reaching out to a small number of departments (~8) to do a test run of the department liaison positions. Requesting at least one grad student from each department to act as a liaison next spring and meet with other students then check in with GSS.
- ii. Karla has already reached out to her department chair (Physics) to do this there. She thinks reaching out to the department chairs is good so departments don't feel like we're going over their heads.
- iii. Zane thinks it should be grassroots. Some chairs don't like change. This should be more of an internal student organization.

c. Campus Climate Survey Results resolution – **POGSS**

- i. Did not discuss

7. Looking Forward - **POGSS**

- a. Last meeting of the semester (12/2) & potluck (12/16?) – could also do potluck on reading day (12/10 – Tuesday).

Graduate Student Senate



- i. Officially moved to reading day (12/10). We will do it in the grad space.
 - ii. Email string going out soon for dish sign up.
 - b. Meeting day/time and room for next semester
 - i. Will hold off on availability poll until later.
 - c. Spring elections – governance committee discussions.
- 8. Open Forum – POGSS**
- 9. Adjournment**
 - a. Dominic made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Alex seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.