

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 10/15/2019 | 1:30 – 3 PM | MUB 164

- 1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS**
 - a. Meeting called to session at 1:35pm
- 2. Roll Call – COGSS**
 - a. GSS Senators and Executive Officers in Attendance: Casey O'Heran (President), Liz Weidner (VP), Alex Padilla (Financial Affairs), Jacob Koile (Community Coordinator), Jacob Bennett (External Relations), Sarah Widlansky (Communications), Dominic Payne (CEPS), Sumeyra Gok (COLA), Emily Whalen (CHHS), Martine Grenier-Burtis (COLA), Allison Giannotti (COLA), Ben Remillard (COLA), Lauren Breza (COLSA), Jovana Milosavljevic Ardeljan (PAUL), Karen Moran Rivera (International), Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu (GRAD), Michael Fazi (UNH Law)
 - b. GSS Senators and Executive Officers absent: William Lush (CEPS), Sanchari Kundu (CHHS), Shantel Palacio (CHHS) – Sumeyra serving as a proxy
 - c. Official note of quorum
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - POGSS & COGSS**
 - a. Liz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 09/30/19 meeting, seconded by Alex. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.
- 4. Speaker - Beth Sheckler (UNH Innovation) @ 1:45 PM**
 - a. Gave a powerpoint presentation on UNH Innovation (UNHI), covering what UNHI is and what resources are available to graduate students.
 - b. Beth received a PHD in English Literature from UNH in May
 - c. UNHI's purpose is to protect, manage, and commercialize intellectual assets and to help get ideas and inventions from UNH out into the world for society. It includes a makerspace that is open to all UNH students. Examples of intellectual assets that UNHI handles are patents, copyrights and trademarks, and software that is developed at UNH. They also help UNH personnel by advising on where to put a copyright notice, how to read an agreement, licensing, whether something is patentable or not, risks/benefits of contract signing, and supporting startups, creative commons licensing, fair use, etc. UNH alumni also can use these resources. Students can come with their PI, with others from their lab, or alone.
 - d. "When in doubt, call"
 - e. Located in Madbury Commons.

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- f. UNHI Resources include: NSF I-Corps site training, intellectual asset management team, Ecenter, NH Innovation research center, monthly Wildcatalyst seminars, and industry days.
 - g. Questions and comments from GSS: Jovana strongly recommended taking advantage of UNHI events. Allison asked: if you're employed by UNH, are things you create, such as pieces of writing, owned by UNH or by you? Response: would need to sit down on a case by case basis and look at funding, employment, etc. Liz asked: how can GSS better connect UNHI to the grad student population? Response: promote things like the Makerspace (which is free but requires training or a mentor present) and also the UNHI coworking space with free coffee. Dovev, Jovana, and Beth are working on creating a pool of interested grad students to participate in projects when faculty are looking for participants. Jovana added UNHI might contribute tickets, etc. at some grad student events. Liz asked about using the UNH logo for tshirts and whether they ever waive the royalties for student organizations. Response: the only exemptions for royalties are when people are required to wear the apparel as part of their job. Beth suggested looking for sponsorship at the GRC to help with funding tshirts. Jovana also asked about other centers we could partner with besides the grad school and Beth mentioned that UNHI invites sponsorship.
 - h. Beth brought some tshirts, hats, notebooks, etc. to give out at the meeting.
- 5. New Business**
- a. Vote on senator appointments - **POGSS**
 - i. UNHM - Surya Kranthi Siyadri
 - 1. Jovana made motion, seconded by Liz. Approved unanimously
 - ii. UNH Law - Michael Fazi
 - 1. Dominic made motion, seconded by Jacob K. and Sumeyra. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Appointment of new senators - **POGSS**
 - i. CEPS - Kerry Dykens
 - 1. Interested in joining GSS to learn management and communication and to try something new.
 - 2. Questions from GSS: Casey – how would you reach out to CEPS constituents? Response – through social media, posters in common areas, and email.
 - ii. Housing - Karla Oñate Melecio
 - 1. 2nd year PhD in physics. Karla is interested in improving the quality of grad student life. Interested in the housing position to advocate

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for family style housing on campus and she is also interested in diversity. Karla has experience with leadership as the president of the Physics Club in college.

2. Questions from GSS: Casey – how would you tackle reaching out to campus housing constituents? Response – by reaching out to Babcock about how they plan to accommodate students.

- c. Discussion of draft transportation resolution – **Dominic**
 - i. The resolution came about after consistent complaints from students, particularly in Newmarket, about transportation. Asks for long-term commitment to transportation from the university. Transportation policy committee recently did a 15 year review and plan for the future in which they explicitly stated that they do not want to expand parking on campus. Emphasized that grad students tend to be the people who need early, late, or weekend routes. Resolution suggests that the university should evaluate all routes, even ones that don't currently exist.
 - ii. Input from the GSS – MJ noted that mentioning our R1 status was good and grad students are particularly important for maintaining that status. Jovana suggested we add something about UNH's Platinum sustainability status. Dominic will add this in. Liz pointed out that in UNH's "Pathway to Platinum" statement they want to promote public transportation. Karla asked about the financial aspect and suggested showing that grad students are relatively cheap for the university. Liz focused on stressing that the university needs to communicate with grad students about adding and/or removing routes. Communication needs to happen before housing decisions are being made by students. Jacob B. mentioned that there would be a document going through the Executive Committee next week about changing communication expectations with grad students in GSS Constitution and this will be discussed with full senate later. Allison suggested 2 minor wording edits to the resolution.
 - iii. GSS will be waiting to vote on this resolution until the next full senate meeting.
- d. Gender question on Teaching Evaluations - **Madeline (Member @ Large)**
 - i. A student in the math department reached out to express concern that teaching evaluations currently require students to respond either "male" or "female" to a question asking their gender. This questions can potentially identify students in a small class and excludes non-binary students.

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- ii. Last year the Faculty Senate Student Affairs committee and the Student Senate worked on passing similar resolutions, but they've been abandoned.
 - iii. Casey wants the GSS Diversity Committee to pass a resolution on this soon.
 - iv. Lauren pointed out that the Student Affairs Committee has been working on this and will have a meeting with Lu Ferrell on Oct. 28 to finalize the wording and thinks that GSS should have a similar matching resolution or statement of support for their resolution. Jovana pointed out that 2 years ago the Faculty Senate discussed evaluations use of verbs and changed the wording. It may be difficult for them to pass another wording change resolution. Liz suggested GSS could just pass a resolution about gender options specifically. Jovana also pointed out that leaving a comment as an international student can make you stand out and identify you. Allison asked how the proposed "prefer not to answer" option would help because you could count responses and potentially still identify a student. Lauren said that they may just take the gender question out entirely, which the Faculty Senate had also discussed, though it may be needed for helping to identify bias. Michael noted that the Law School evaluations don't ask about gender. Liz was frustrated that this isn't even consistent across the university, as demonstrated by the law school. Lauren says consistency is one of the main things the faculty senate is working on. Jacob K. asked whether they could include a gender question and just hide the responses from the professor.
 - v. Casey asked for short term thoughts. Lauren thinks having a statement from GSS would be helpful as the faculty senate decides on their changes. They are meeting next week on Monday. Casey entertained a motion for the Diversity Committee to write a resolution on GSS's stance. Liz made the motion and it was seconded by Sumeyra. This was approved unanimously.
- e. GRC Discussion – **Jovana**
- i. Jovana needs to schedule space for the GRC. This happens each year over 2 days in the spring with a poster session and oral session. Grad student awards are usually given out during the poster session. The Whittemore Center is being renovated this year and Jovana is looking for feedback on a new location and format.

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1. One possibility is that the poster session would be in the HoCo rooms and halls. There would be a map to show where posters are and a poster competition with winning posters staying up longer. The grad student awards ceremony would be at a separate time and would be more formal and intimate.
 2. They are thinking of changing the oral format to be 3MT style instead of 12 minutes, but not everyone doing it would have to compete in the 3MT competition. Instead, it is intended to be a time to practice this skill. Hopeful that more people would be in each session and this would diversify and increase the numbers in the audience. Recognized that the 12 minute format is standard for professional meetings and also offers good practice.
 - ii. Questions from GSS: Jacob K. asked how long the poster session would be. Jovana – still 5pm-7pm, but without the awards ceremony. Sumeyra asked if more people be in each oral session. Jovana – yes.
 - iii. GSS is going to discuss this more and will send Jovana our feedback later.
 - iv. Jovana will send out blurb to share with constituents and hopes that senators will share this.
 - v. We will continue this discussion at a later meeting.
 - f. Athletic ticket letter update
 - i. The athletic ticket letter from GSS was approved very quickly and Dean Moorhead will be crafting a formal statement soon to explain what is happening with that.
 - g. Update on SVPR search – **POGSS**
 - i. Casey will be crafting a letter on GSS's recommendation for SVPR and wants to vote during the next meeting.
- 6. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs**
- a. Did not get to this.
- 7. Open Forum – POGSS**
- a. Town Hall event on Thursday. 5:30 – 7pm. Senators should send flier to constituents. Senators should be there or let Casey and Liz know via email if they cannot make it. Very important event for us.
 - b. UNH Manchester event on oct. 30th. Looking for people to go.
- 8. Adjournment**
- a. Alex made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jacob K. Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.