

**GSS Meeting Agenda**  
**9/30/2019 | 1:30 – 3 PM**  
**MUB 162**

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

- a. Meeting called to session at 1:41pm

**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), William Lush (CEPS), Dominic Payne (CEPS), Shantel Palacio (CHHS), Sumeyra Gok (COLA), Martine Grenier-Burtis (COLA), Ben Remillard (COLA), Lauren Breza (COLSA), Jovana Milosavljevic Ardeljan (PAUL), Karen Moran Rivera (International),
- b. GSS Senators and Executive Officers absent: Sanchari Kundu (CHHS), Emily Whalen (CHHS) – Lauren serving as proxy, Allison Giannotti (COLA) – Sumeyra serving as proxy, Marie-Josiane (MJ) Ohoueu (GRAD)
- c. Official note of quorum

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

- a. Meeting minutes from 09/16/19 were approved unanimously with no changes.

**4. New Business**

- a. Discussion of Athletic Ticket Prices Letter – **POGSS**
  - i. Casey introduced a letter to decrease the price of UNH football tickets for graduate students. Would like to make it equivalent to staff, military, youth, and seniors discount.
  - ii. Will suggested adding something to include building a sense of student community. Liz noted that staff get discounted tickets and some grad students are technically staff. Jovana pointed out that grad students should not be considered staff, as voiced by Dean Moorhead, and suggested that we should make it clear that we appreciate their discounts for some events in the past and ask that they extend this to all events. Will said he wouldn't want this to turn into another athletic fee that grad students pay. Dominic modified wording regarding role of grad students within the university. Jovana suggested running the letter by Dean Moorhead and Stacey Hall, Marty Scorano, or a grad student on the athletic advisory committee. Allie MacPhee from uSS said someone from their group could bring it up at their meeting on behalf of GSS
  - iii. Casey suggested motion to approve letter and send to the Athletics Department. Jacob B. made a motion to approve the letter and send it to the Athletic Department, seconded by Liz. Vote was approved unanimously.
- b. Update on SVPR search – **VPGSS**
  - i. Liz attended meeting with Candidate Mary McCord last Thursday along with Alex. Same series of questions will be posed to all candidates.

General positive feelings. This was the first candidate. Emphasized that grad students are an important part of research and she is interested to hear what grad student living is like here. She is currently in a similar position in NC but was never invited to meet with the grad student body there.

- ii. GSS encouraged more people to come to future SVPR candidate meetings.
- c. Campus climate survey result discussion - **D&I Committee**
  - i. Sumeyra – summarized the D&I committee meeting. ~80% of students were satisfied with the campus climate, but she noted that ~80% of participants were white. White students felt perceived academic success was higher. Most grad student concerns were departmental. People of color, able-bodied, and male students generally felt more satisfied. Queer students mostly disagreed with feeling satisfied. 37% of people strongly disagreed that UNH values free and open discussion of difficult topics.
  - ii. Major concerns: academic advising, faculty interactions, advisor feedback. Mostly from women, POC, and LGBTQ+
  - iii. Committee discussed ways to incorporate feedback as recommendations: Jacob B. suggested requiring advisors to receive bias training. Alex asked whether responses were broken down by college too (committee was unsure).
  - iv. Jacob B. is going to draft a letter to respond to the Campus Climate Survey.
- d. GSS Town Hall topics - **CCGSS, FAO GSS**
  - i. Keeping track of a separate document of proposed topics
  - ii. Going to announce Town Hall for Thursday Oct. 17 5:30-7 going to provide pizza. Soliciting topics now to form an agenda
    - 1. Will – conclusions of campus climate survey, health insurance, stipends
    - 2. Casey – Graduate housing
    - 3. Alex – fees
  - iii. Anticipated structure for Town Hall: 30-45 minute introduction of GSS, constituencies, committees, etc. Inviting Dean Moorhead, Assistant Dean Levine, and the president and VP of uSS.
  - iv. GSS may do a sign-up sheet online to get an idea of numbers before the event.
  - v. Casey will be reserving a room shortly.
- e. Appointment of new senators - **POGSS**
  - i. Two candidates (Surya Kranthi Siyadri, UNH Manchester, and Michael Fazi UNH Law) introduced themselves and why they want to join. GSS will vote next meeting to approve these appointments.
  - ii. UNHM - Surya Kranthi Siyadri
    - 1. Masters in information technology at UNHM. Works for grad school at UNHM, particularly with international students. Points

out a lot of room to develop community in UNHM (students there do not feel like they belong to a family like UNH Durham). Surya is trying to build community there and would like UNH Durham to promote this. Also wants to work on on-campus opportunities for students in Manchester and to help Manchester students have the same experiences as Durham students.

- a. Questions: Alex – Added that we will be having a zoom link for Manchester and Concord students for Town Hall and asked whether he will help promote this event. Surya responded that he would. Liz – commented that we would like to have some events in Manchester.

iii. UNH Law - Michael Fazi

1. Second year law student. Involved last year in GSS. Always joins meetings remotely. Diligent reader of minutes to communicate updates to the Student Bar Association, of which he is the vice president. Michael feels he's in a good position to be a connection between these two groups and wants to find ways to connect Law students with Durham, including students in the new online law program.

- a. Questions: none

f. Portsmouth bus route closure – **VPGSS**

- i. GSS heard from a student who lives in Portsmouth that some routes had been cancelled without notice at the beginning of the school year. This made commute significantly longer and more challenging. Growing problem with the bus situation.
- ii. Dominic – concerned that once transportation cancels a route, they never reassess whether the route is needed. Climate consideration should prioritize public transportation. Need better communications between UNH transportation and landlords, housing, etc. Will – says this may cause landlords to increase rent and that students could self-report where they live off-campus. Lauren – suggested needing to get faculty involved in using public transportation too. Karen – expressed need for transportation to announce closures well in advance (one year) before closing to give people time to adjust or find other housing. Jacob B. – advocated for making the requirements to announce policy changes to grad students even broader in GSS by-laws as opposed to only a resolution.
- iii. General consensus that GSS should put forth a resolution on transportation.

g. Nest Anniversary (10/5) – **CCGSS**

- i. Jacob K. – an event to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the grad student space in T Hall will be held from 10am to noon on Homecoming (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>). There will be food and drinks and raffling 20 UNH football tickets for game against UMaine. GSS may get speakers and/or a

slideshow of pictures of people using this space. Jovana – suggested inviting President Huddleston because he was so helpful in establishing the space.

- h. Speakers for the Semester – GSS didn't discuss this.
- i. Any additional new business – none

#### **5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs***

- a. Standing Committees – no updates.
- b. Ad-Hoc Committees
  - i. Diversity & Inclusivity – gave update earlier as part of the Campus Climate Survey
  - ii. Health & Wellness (Will) – put together charges at the last meeting. Will is going to be stepping down as the committee chair and this position is open to others stepping in. Will wants to talk to Alex about summer gym fees for grad students.
  - iii. Housing and Transportation (Jacob B.) – no other committee updates. Proposal for grad housing in Downtown Durham will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October and ground breaking is expected on Nov 1.
  - iv. Grad space utilization (Jovana) – some money left over from the alumni grant (\$700) and purchased a bookshelf and other furniture for the grad student space.
- c. External Committees
  - i. University System Student Board/Board of Trustees (Jacob B.) – new chair of BOT. They are currently revamping the Educational Excellence Committee, which is their only committee that students can sit on. This overhaul might make it more impactful. Jacob B. is meeting tomorrow with the chair of that committee to go over goals and ways to integrate students better.
  - ii. Student Affairs Committee (Lauren) – wants to focus on grad student needs and in particular mental health, teaching evaluations, diversity and inclusion, and university services to help with struggling new students. Wants to get more input from GSS for ideas.
- d. Tabling remaining committee updates for the next meeting.

#### **6. Senator Updates - *Senators***

- a. Constituency updates/concerns – no updates
- b. Liz asked how constituency contact has been going. Dominic has been successful getting messages out. Sumeyra and Martine were not successful. Liz suggested going in person to talk to department admins.

#### **7. Internal Committee Time – *Chairs & Reps* – Did not do.**

#### **8. Open Forum – *POGSS***

- a. Any comments or concerns from the public - none

#### **9. Adjournment – *POGSS***

- a. Dominic made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Liz/Sumeyra. Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.