

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 04/14/2021 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

a. Meeting called to session at 12:01pm

2. Roll Call – COGSS

3. Name	Role	Attendance
Dominic Payne	President	Present
Karla Oñate Melecio	Vice President	Present
Michael Fazi	External Affairs	Present
Sarah Widlansky	Communications	Present
Nishitha Kamini	Community Coordinator	Present
Sumeyra Gok	COLA	Present
Kendra Bostick	COLA	Present
Allison Giannotti	CEPS	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Hamad Zaheer	CEPS	Absent
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent, Inactive
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Present
Cassie Manning	LAW	Present
Griffin Kmon	LAW	Present
Danielle Johnson	MANCHESTER	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Caroline Kanaskie	GRAD	Present
Sreelekha Dandu	Financial Affairs	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Sanchari Kundu	HOUSING	Absent, Inactive
Akhtar Ardakani	PAUL	Absent, Karla serving as proxy
Elizabeth Mamros	CEPS	Present
Chika Ugwuodo	ONLINE	Present
Chelsea Cabral	COLA	Present
Janie Bright	CHHS	Present
Chandra Annasamy	INTERNATIONAL	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Present

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

a. Kendra made a motion to approve the minutes from 03/31/21, seconded by Karla. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. None

6. Old Business – *POGSS*

a. Merchandise Updates

- i. There will be white and blue mugs.
- ii. Everyone can get up to two mugs because the minimum order is 96. GSS will also cover the cost of 1 shirt per person.
- iii. Sarah shared the order form link in the chat, and it is in the Google Drive.
- iv. Michael added that the T-shirts from the Spring Leadership Conference have been moved to T-Hall. Can coordinate with Caroline to pick these up.

b. GSS Term Transition

- i. New terms begin on June 1st.
- ii. Everyone should reach out to the new members in their role to go over responsibilities before the transition.
- iii. We will get a list together of people to reach out to.

c. Transportation (Guest Ben Remillard)

- i. Ben previously served on GSS. Wanted to join the meeting to hear where we are with the bus route closure issue.
- ii. Ben's advisor, who lives in Newmarket, is trying to generate support from other faculty and staff to push back against the route closure. Ben can share information about this with the GSS Transportation Committee.
- iii. The UNH Transportation Committee has discussed charging faculty and staff with raising funds to keep the route.
- iv. Caroline mentioned that we could encourage people to use the Newmarket line more, especially after COVID decreases, to show that it's needed.
- v. Ben said there was some frustration at the town hall because the university said ridership has decreased, but they didn't acknowledge that they have been cutting stops on this route.
- vi. Ben said they are still open to public comments.

7. New Business – *POGSS*

a. Teaching Evals Committee – Requesting Grads

- i. Kate Ziemer reached out. Dom shared a document with the charges and committee makeup before this meeting. Would really like a grad student representative on this committee that will be focused on re-designing the teaching evaluation process. Likely to go into effect in the fall.

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- ii. Let Dom know if you or someone you know are interested in being on the committee.
 - b. Grad Appreciation Week
 - i. Starts the 19th. We can suggest an event.
 - ii. Last year, Jacob hosted virtual trivia.
 - iii. Sumeyra is a 3MT finalist this year.
 - iv. We can help promote the events by reaching out to constituents, etc.
 - v. ExComm will talk about potential trivia or other events.
 - c. GSS Exit Surveys
 - i. Survey will be going out soon.
 - ii. Dom asked about people's most pressing issues during the meeting.
 - 1. Dom: transportation/bus routes, housing (family/grad student housing. Main Street project has been held up.)
 - 2. Michael: teaching evaluations, proposed system merger (GSS voice in planning for it).
 - 3. Natasha: grad students who are parents/caregivers
 - 4. Karla: grad student health insurance (could we improve the benefits?), student fees and how they're applied (e.g., choosing services), finding grad student organizations that could speak at the meetings (e.g., Stonewall Grads).
 - a. Caroline added that optical and dental missing from the health insurance. A six-year program is a long time to put off those services.
 - 5. Chika: more elaborate structure to support international students moving to the US. Having someone to communicate with international students before they move. Dom suggested maybe making international senator role and responsibilities more explicit.
 - 6. Ben (guest): talked about how childcare was brought up in the past and he can share the work that they'd done before COVID with the new leadership for next year. He talked about potentially having some rooms turned into daycare, which could help if the UNH childcare center is full. Dom mentioned this could be tied into the work we're doing with the MUB.
- 8. **Open Forum – POGSS**
 - a. Chandra – Marian McCord is looking for senior grad students or post docs to work on a COVID impact project. They will get paid for this. Chandra will forward

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flier to GSS. This starts in May and continues into Fall. Would need to be available over summer.

- b. Kendra – going to do another #TogetherWalk next Saturday at 10am, maybe one more on the following Thursday. This walk will be at West Foss and Thompson Farm. She will get final plan out and Sarah will share the flier. Caroline will add to grad school page and newsletter.
- 9. Adjournment**
- a. Kendra, Chelsea. Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm