

# Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 12/02/2020 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Zoom

## 1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 4:03pm

## 2. Roll Call – COGSS

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	Absent, Dominic serving as proxy
Sumeyra Gok	COLA	Present
Kendra Bostick	COLA	Present
Allison Giannotti	CEPS	Present
Hamad Zaheer	CEPS	Present
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Present
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent, Allison serving as proxy
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Cassie Manning	LAW	Present
Griffin Kmon	LAW	Absent
Danielle Johnson	MANCHESTER	Absent, Karla serving as proxy
Caroline Kanaskie	GRAD	Present
Sreelekha Dandu	Financial Affairs	Absent
Sanchari Kundu	HOUSING	Present
Akhtar Ardakani	PAUL	Absent
Elizabeth Mamros	CEPS	Present
Chika Ugwuodo	ONLINE	Present
Chelsea Cabral	COLA	Present
Janie Bright	CHHS	Present
Chandra Annasamy	INTERNATIONAL	Absent
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy

## 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

- a. Karla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/18/20, seconded by Cassie. Minutes approved unanimously.

# Graduate Student Senate



## 4. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Programming – none
- b. Diversity and Inclusivity – none
- c. Space utilization – none
- d. Health and Wellness – none
- e. Housing and transportation – the next Transportation and Policy meeting is tomorrow and Sanchari will go.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Votes on Fee Review Recommendations. Caroline made a motion to begin voting on proposed fee changes, seconded by Sumeyra.
  - i. PACS
    1. Yes - 15
    2. No - 1
    3. Abstain - 3
  - ii. Health and Wellness
    1. Yes - 10
    2. No - 4
    3. Abstain - 6
  - iii. SHARPP
    1. Yes - 12
    2. No - 1
    3. Abstain - 7
  - iv. Campus Recreation
    1. Yes - 5
    2. No - 9
    3. Abstain - 6
  - v. MUB
    1. Yes - 8
    2. No - 5
    3. Abstain - 7
  - vi. Transportation
    1. Yes - 11
    2. No - 4
    3. Abstain - 5
  - vii. Technology
    1. Yes - 10
    2. No - 4

# Graduate Student Senate



- 3. Abstain - 6
    - viii. Athletic
      - 1. Yes - 5
      - 2. No - 6
      - 3. Abstain - 9
    - ix. CaPS
      - 1. Yes - 6
      - 2. No - 4
      - 3. Abstain - 10
    - x. Student Activity Fee
      - 1. Yes - 6
      - 2. No - 3
      - 3. Abstain - 11
    - xi. Housing – Did not vote
  - b. DEI Events of this Week
    - i. Law Enforcement Relations
      - 1. Happening Friday (12/4) at 2:10 pm.
    - ii. Critical Dialogue Series
      - 1. Happened today (12/2). “Diversity is a Dirty Word”. Caroline helped in GA role. Goal was to get someone from NH to talk to someone in same role outside of NH. Went well. Biggest challenge was not having enough time to answer all questions in the chat.
- 6. New Business - POGSS**
- a. Feedback on GSS Activity
    - i. Discussion on Fall Semester
      - 1. Recap: have had a few guests (Cari Moorhead, Nadine Petty, Peggy Goetz, Amy Culp), Promoting DEI events, mental health, outreach award.
      - 2. Open to everyone’s thoughts: Karla thought it was very different from last year. Hard to get involved in grad community, but not sure best way to improve that. Dom suggested programming like trivia. Caroline and Jovana have been scheduling the GRC and 3MT and discussing ideas for grad student appreciation week. Possibly a meet your senator event.
    - ii. Plans for Spring Semester
      - 1. What can we do to continue momentum on DEI?

# Graduate Student Senate



- a. Better support for international students – communicating fees and housing. Chika agrees with importance of helping international students with housing and support system.
  - b. Advocating for implicit bias training in classroom setting (encouraged, can't mandate). Caroline suggested asking what programs we can sponsor or co-host. GSS can help spread the word for trainings that are happening. Increase attendance by word of mouth instead of making it mandatory. Kendra is working with someone who is doing DEI work with universities. Emily is serving as GSS rep on University Commission on Community, Equity and Diversity with Nadine Petty. Emily will share updates from this group with us.
  - c. Encourage mentor-mentee programming (Started by Dovev).
2. Mental Health
- a. Focus on early career grad students.
  - b. Keep hosting #TogetherWalks.
  - c. QPR trainings – PACS is planning dates for winter and spring. Caroline will update us when these are final. Caroline has done the training and found it helpful. Dom hopes to get this training incorporated into first year grad student seminars. People could reach out to their own departments to encourage them to do something similar. Peggy Goetz is willing to go into classes to talk about PACS and what they do.
  - d. Destigmatizing conversations in general. Caroline brought up the point that different cultures/backgrounds might be less open to talking about mental health. Sumeyra suggested spreading the word on grad student support group at PACS. Caroline brought up questions of whether you need to be in NH to get PACS services. Kendra said there could be a waiver that providers can apply for if you are outside of NH.
3. Programming
- a. Town Hall hosted by GSS. Representatives from major committees. Can present to grad students and get live

# Graduate Student Senate



feedback from constituents. Karla agrees with Town Hall event, said we got good feedback last year.

- b. #TogetherWalks – Kendra suggested having a calendar so people know when they’re happening ahead of time. Caroline suggested moving walks to Thursday and using it to replace First Thursdays.
  - c. Dom asked about game nights – Janie said if there is an in-person event, it’s also important to have a way for online students to feel included. Chelsea said we could reserve a room for events and still have people Zoom in. Caroline mentioned finding ways to include online students even after things go back to being in person. Kendra suggested using social media to put out a poll and ask people what they want to see. This could happen early in the spring.
- b. GSS Recruitment for AY 2021-22
    - i. Start thinking about whether you want to run again or know someone who would be interested. Elections start in March.

## **7. Open Forum – POGSS**

- a. Caroline is on the MUB director search committee. Asked what we would want in the MUB director. Dom mentioned that for many years, grad students have asked for more grad programs in the MUB. Sarah said that in the past GSS has been able to vote on MUB speaker series guests. Caroline said they are doing a programming overhaul at the MUB right now.

## **8. Adjournment**

- a. Chelsea made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karla. Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm