

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 02/17/2020 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:00 pm.

2. Roll Call – COGSS

Name	Role	Attendance
Dominic Payne	President	Present
Karla Oñate Melecio	Vice President	Absent
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	Present
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Present
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Present
Cassie Manning	LAW	Present
Griffin Kmon	LAW	Present
Danielle Johnson	MANCHESTER	Present
Caroline Kanaskie	GRAD	Present
Sreelekha Dandu	Financial Affairs	Present
Sanchari Kundu	HOUSING	Absent
Akhtar Ardakani	PAUL	Present
Elizabeth Mamros	CEPS	Present
Chika Ugwuodo	ONLINE	Present
Chelsea Cabral	COLA	Present
Janie Bright	CHHS	Present
Chandra Annasamy	INTERNATIONAL	Present
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Present

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

- a. Cassie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2/03/21, seconded by Caroline. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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4. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Cassie gave an update from the Student Affairs Committee that she also added to Google Drive. It goes over their 11 charges. Notable highlights: Gender question was successfully removed from student course evaluations. Now they are looking into making universal changes across different systems, including WISE for student employees. Scott Lapinski asked the committee about starting a program to support students with ADHD and LD (cohort model).
 - i. Caroline asked to clarify about the gender question, and whether it was just on course evaluations or on other things too. Yes, it was just course evaluations, for now. They will now be moving on to other platforms.

5. Old Business – *POGSS*

- a. Campus Operations & Testing
 - i. Griffin attends the uSS meetings. Provost Jones talked at their meeting about moving into Orange Mode and campus operations. Griffin asked if we have any concerns about lab or classroom access. No input/concerns from the GSS.
 - ii. Testing will continue for two weeks. Next Saturday, after two rounds of student testing, they will decide whether to stay in Orange Mode, move to Yellow, or move to Red. Right now, they are cautiously optimistic.
 - iii. Planning to do a 2020 and 2021 combined commencement. College-focused ceremonies to limit the crowds.
 - iv. Dom asked if they are taking vaccination rates into account for deciding on operation mode. Provost Jones did not say.
 - v. Natasha asked about audience allowances for graduation. If it's in Orange Mode, only people in the testing program could participate in the live program and there would be a livestream for others. In Yellow mode, students would be able to have a few guests. Natasha mentioned that many students who are remote may not be in the testing program and asked what they would need to do to be able to participate in the commencement. Would likely need a negative test within 8 days, but Griffin will look into it.
 - vi. Caroline reiterated the importance of being able to have a one-time test for something like commencement.
- b. Spring Leadership Conference
 - i. Michael announced that March 20th (Saturday) from 9:00 am to ~3:00 pm will be the system-wide conference with all student government leaders.

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- ii. There will be a keynote speaker, followed by workshops (one workshop led by GSS).
 - iii. Our main idea for the GSS workshop would be choosing and applying to graduate school. We would then break it up by discipline. Also want to incorporate an opportunity for peer mentoring.
 - iv. Michael asked for sessions that we would like to attend or see: using social media effectively, changes related to Community College and USNH merger, making communications to students effective.
 - v. They are trying to get someone high up in NH higher ed system to give the keynote talk.
 - vi. Michael will send out a calendar invite once the date/time is finalized.
 - c. Slack Channel
 - i. Dominic set this up and sent out a link to everyone. Going to use this for quick, informal discussion.
 - ii. He has already made a Diversity & Inclusivity and Health & Wellness channel, but we can make more (e.g., for Spring Leadership Conference discussions).
 - d. Town Hall
 - i. Tentatively planned for March 2nd, but not confirmed yet.
- 6. New Business – POGSS**
- a. GSS Merchandise & Design
 - i. May do a social media contest for design ideas. Some people suggested mugs, hoodies, and long-sleeved shirts.
 - ii. Dom said that anyone with design skills can submit ideas to the group.
 - iii. We will discuss potential designs at the next meeting.
 - b. USNH CCSNH Merger
 - i. Merging USNH with community college system of NH.
 - ii. Michael described the two systems a little more. The merger would create a smaller, more effective working group to represent both systems. One concern for students is that we may have less representation on the student board. Michael is going to talk about advocating for more student representatives on the board. He does think the merger is beneficial overall, but is worried about being able to balance concerns.
 - iii. Michael may ask for more input later about a resolution urging more representation, if needed.

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- iv. Natasha asked about how this will affect tuition. Michael says the board is trying to freeze undergrad tuition rates currently due to COVID-19. Graduate tuition might increase to offset this. They also might get rid of in-state graduate tuition and just have a flat rate.
 - v. Natasha also asked whether students at 4-year colleges will be able to take classes at community colleges as part of their degree. Keene State and Granite State already have reciprocity agreements with community colleges. Michael thinks this will be more prevalent after the merger.
 - vi. Dom asked about where specifically we would lose representation. Michael can't say for sure until he gets a proposed plan, but it looks like each group will get only one student rep.
 - vii. Caroline asked about addressing the difficulty of grad students accessing in-state tuition. Michael doesn't know of any progress on this. Caroline said it's easier if you list a NH address when you apply, but if you started in another state you can't get in-state tuition because you technically moved to go to UNH.
- c. Upcoming Events
- i. "More than Pronouns" Dialogue (2/18; 12 – 1:30 pm)
 - ii. Exploring Implicit Bias (2/22; 4 – 8 pm)
 - iii. "Beyond the Border" Series #3 (2/24; 12 – 1:15 pm)
 - iv. QPR Crisis/Suicide Intervention Training (2/24; 3:30 – 5 pm)
- 7. Open Forum – POGSS**
- a. Caroline got an updated chart with department contacts. She will put it in Google drive.
 - b. Akhtar received email from Kate Ziemer through the Spring Planning Committee. Asked about how they can make transition from Orange Mode to Yellow Mode smooth. Akhtar shared a few specific questions she wanted us to consider in the GSS Slack channel.
 - c. Janie will update on SHARPP and Title IX during the next meeting.
- 8. Adjournment**
- a. Sumeyra made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kendra. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.