

# Graduate Student Senate



**GSS Meeting | 03/03/2020 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Zoom**

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

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:02 pm.

**2. Roll Call – COGSS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
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	Present
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Present
Cassie Manning	LAW	Absent, Griffin serving as proxy
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
Akhtar Ardakani	PAUL	Present
Elizabeth Mamros	CEPS	Present
Chika Ugwuodo	ONLINE	Present
Chelsea Cabral	COLA	Absent, Kendra serving as proxy
Janie Bright	CHHS	Present
Chandra Annasamy	INTERNATIONAL	Present
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Present

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

- a. Kendra made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/17/21, seconded by Caroline. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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## 4. Guest Speakers – Donna Marie Sorrentino and Julie Chen (Title IX)

- a. Julie Chen and Donna Marie Sorrentino from the Affirmative Action and Equity Office. They are here to answer any questions about the new reporting form. Form includes all instances of bias (Title IX, race, etc.) and adds a case management component to make responses more streamlined and efficient. There is also an option to report anonymously and still follow-up by creating a report key with your submission.
- b. The Affirmative Action and Equity Office has a section related to sexual harassment, gender discrimination, etc. that falls under Title IX. All higher ed institutions are required to have someone responsible for handling Title IX issues. Their website includes new trainings and updated definitions on what constitutes sexual harassment.
- c. Natasha and Karla asked about anonymous reporting, including whether that is the default and whether someone can remain anonymous if an official report is required. Answer: They will work together with you to maintain confidentiality. Case-by-case basis for determining how things will be handled (e.g., matters concerning safety in the community). The process will still include constant dialogue with the anonymous reporter. They truly don't have a way to identify who submitted an anonymous report through the form. Karla followed up by asking whether submitting a report about a faculty member would mean they would need to send the report to the faculty member. Answer: no. the report form is not the official report. Would not go into a full-blown investigation immediately.
- d. Sarah asked whether TAs are mandatory reporters for anything other than Title IX incidents. Answer: No, but they hope people would report other things too.
- e. Natasha asked about retaliation reporting and whether there is a statute of limitations on these reports. Response: they included it to help people who are being retaliated against because they've done the right thing by reporting. The responding party is always told not to contact/retaliate against reporters, and they want to make sure instances where they do are reported so it can be handled. Statute of limitations depends on the situation. Policy speaks to guidelines in higher ed, but depending on the situation, the statutes can be overridden by the Title IX coordinator, or others.
- f. Michael brought up Every Voice and asked whether it has any implications for things like the confidential resource advisor and other new provisions. Answer: they are very involved with this. The confidential resource advisor has not been put in place yet. SHARPP already provides much of the same roles. A lot of the

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climate survey changes will be put in place by the state and what they want the universities to report out on. Even though RSA188 came out in January, it is a gradual rollout and certain pieces are still being released.

- g. Dom asked for them to expand on their office's relationship with SHARPP. Answer: they work very closely with SHARPP, but the two offices perform two different tasks (confidential resource for support = SHARPP; reporting, additional support, investigation and hearing = Title IX). Many people come to see them through SHARPP and they also refer students to SHARPP for extra support. Sarah Kiely (Community Standards Coordinator) works with student using a "triangle of resources". In every case, privileged confidential support (SHARPP, PACS, employee services, religious services, etc.) are always provided at the first reporting. SHARPP also works with students for things like temporary restraining orders.

## 5. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. None

## 6. Old Business – *POGSS*

- a. Public Engagement & Outreach Award
  - i. New graduate student award proposed by Clarice Perryman and Caroline was recently approved by the Grad Council. The first award you can apply for will be this coming fall.
- b. Spring Leadership Conference
  - i. March 20th 9am - 3:30pm. People can attend any part of the day. Michael shared the link again to register. Michael is working on putting together a "swag bag" (long sleeve shirt, lanyard/nametag, other items). Bags will be sent to the MUB or distributed to remote students. Can send any things we want to include for that day to Michael.
  - ii. GSS will be hosting a workshop on applying to grad school along with the Student Bar Association.

## 7. New Business – *POGSS*

- a. GSS nominations open today and will run through March 17.

## 8. Open Forum – *POGSS*

- a. Caroline commented on the town hall. She heard that 30 minutes of introductions was too long, and people wanted more time to ask questions. Suggested scheduling a longer time slot next time.
- b. Natasha asked about any major themes from the town hall. Caroline said the main themes were vaccines, graduation, and accommodating students struggling in early years of their program.

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- c. Kamala asked about vaccinations and whether students will get vaccinated in the spring before they leave. Dom said he doesn't know of any plan to get vaccines out that early. UNH did apply to be a vaccination site but hasn't been approved yet.
- 9. Adjournment**
  - a. Karla made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janie. Meeting adjourned at 12:53pm.