

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 03/31/2021 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 12:01 pm

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	Absent
Sumeyra Gok	COLA	Present
Kendra Bostick	COLA	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Allison Giannotti	CEPS	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Hamad Zaheer	CEPS	Present
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Present
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent, Inactive
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Present
Cassie Manning	LAW	Absent, Griffin serving as proxy
Griffin Kmon	LAW	Present
Danielle Johnson	MANCHESTER	Absent
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	Present
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Present

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

- a. Natasha suggested an amendment to the 03/17/21 meeting minutes. The minutes incorrectly stated that she suggested a survey go out to the library

Graduate Student Senate



branch managers. Sumeyra also added that she was Allison's proxy for the 03/17/21 meeting and will be for the semester. Kamala was present and marked absent at the meeting. Chika made a motion to approve the amended meeting minutes, seconded by Sumeyra. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **Guest Speaker – *Melissa Beecher, MUB Director***

- a. Melissa Beecher is the new MUB and Student Activities Director
- b. She has been at UNH for four years as an advisor in Paul College. Her background is in student affairs and student government. She has been in the MUB position for four weeks.
- c. Dom asked what she thinks the MUB has done well with programming and where she feels she could bring improvement. She is very interested in how they are supporting programming and activities. In particular, what they are doing to innovate and be engaging. Community is also very important to her and she is excited about the opportunity to promote this. She also mentioned that inclusivity is something that needs attention and should be the responsibility of all organization, just ones who focus on it like the Beauregard Center.
- d. Natasha mentioned that the Grad School hosts many events and asked how programming through the MUB could be different from Grad School programs. Melissa said she doesn't want to recreate what we're already doing and wants to better understand what we already have. Based on her experience, much of what she wanted as a grad student was about building her network and she said grad students tend to be more career focused than undergrads. She thinks programming should be thoughtful about the soft skills employers are looking for.
- e. Caroline said that in her role as a grad assistant, she is happy to meet with Melissa to talk about Grad School programming to avoid overlaps.
- f. Natasha brought up issues related to grad students as parents/caregivers. Many PhD students are in their program for several years and are faced with considerations regarding the cost/availability of childcare. She thinks there could be programming around this theme, like providing a social connection with other parents or providing resources. Caroline added that this could bridge the grad-undergrad divide.
- g. Dom mentioned that GSS has been concerned with engagement with students as a whole and specifically at the MUB where students don't usually seek this out. Melissa said she is very interested in hearing what we need (e.g., Are the spaces not appropriate for what we want? Do we not feel welcome?).

Graduate Student Senate



- h. Melissa wants to be thoughtful about how to be welcoming and accommodate people when we transition back to in-person operations, including what the MUB hours should be. Also wants to understand how to accommodate grad students wanting events/programs because the default thinking is always “undergrad”. Wants grad students to feel considered when the master calendar is created.
 - i. Natasha suggested having a lactation room in the MUB as a potential consideration. Melissa said the MUB already has one and Natasha said this could be advertised more broadly, like in the Grad School’s newsletter.
 - j. Natasha has been associated with UNH off and on since 2007. She noticed that the area in the MUB with the flags does not include the flag of her country and added that the international student perspective doesn’t usually capture immigrant student experiences, and instead focuses on students here on a visa. She understands that it might be hard for the school to get this information on where people were born. She said the flag was added to the MUB a few years ago. Melissa thinks that the flags are based on where your home address is when you apply, which is provided by admissions. Melissa agreed that representation matters, and she thinks that OISS might be able to help with this.
 - k. Caroline asked where Melissa’s office is in the MUB for when we’re back in-person. Melissa is working in-person now. She is located on the 3rd floor in the office suite to the left of the information desk. Student workers in the suite can see her calendar to know if she’s free. She also welcomes emails to schedule a meeting.
 - l. Janie mentioned that she is an online student and doesn’t come to campus very often. She asked how accessible the MUB is to online students. Melissa added that she is accessible over Zoom and has office hours at this link: <https://unh.zoom.us/my/mbeecheer>.
 - m. Melissa concluded by saying that she is very happy to support us in any way she can.
- 6. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs**
- a. Michael summarized the USNH leadership conference that happened on March 20th. Thirteen people from GSS attended. Michael has a recording of his conversation with former Governor John Lynch that he can share with anyone who would like to see it (~40 minutes long). He will also share the conference notes in the GSS Google drive. Shirts for the event arrived last week. They are available in the student government complex in the MUB. Remote students should have gotten theirs in the mail. The costs for 13 participants came to \$300.

Graduate Student Senate



GSS will allocate these funds from the budget. Anyone can contact Michael if they have issues with these costs.

- i. Recording of Michael's conversation with Governor Lynch:
<https://youtu.be/5VDj0tyyiHc>
- ii. Janie added that Michael did an excellent job at the conference and encouraged people to watch his recording.

7. Old Business – *POGSS*

a. Merchandise

- i. Dom has talked to the UNH Innovation Office and Club Colors about the use of the UNH logo and design ideas. He showed the type of mugs and shirts we are considering. He will show specific designs once we get to that point in the process.
- ii. We need to decide on colors for a long sleeve shirt. People can send Dom suggestions. Dom said he was leaning towards blues or greys.
- iii. Dom will make a spreadsheet for people to add the number of shirts and sizes they want.
- iv. Dom showed ideas for white and cobalt blue mugs. Minimum order for mugs is 96.
- v. Caroline added that UNH has several approved colors, including an orange. People shared some of their color preferences. Many prefer darker colors.

b. Elections

- i. The election ended and we are in a post-election period, waiting for people to accept their positions.
- ii. Dom shared current GSS members that have accepted positions for 2021-2022.

8. New Business – *POGSS*

- a. None

9. Open Forum – *POGSS*

- a. Natasha shared that graduation regalia for PhD students is significantly more expensive than master's students (\$33.40 for master's compared to \$443.00 for PhD). Natasha wants to email someone to find out why they are more expensive but is not sure who to contact. She reached out to Jovana in the Grad School to confirm the costs. Jovana has confirmed that it is very expensive, but the cost did go down a couple of years ago. Caroline wonders if the Grad School travel grant funding could go towards graduation regalia.

