

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 05/12/2021 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

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

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	Present
Allison Giannotti	CEPS	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Hamad Zaheer	CEPS	Absent
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, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Caroline Kanaskie	GRAD	Absent, Elizabeth serving as proxy
Sreelekha Dandu	Financial Affairs	Absent
Sanchari Kundu	HOUSING	Absent, Inactive
Akhtar Ardakani	PAUL	Present
Elizabeth Mamros	CEPS	Present
Chika Ugwuodo	ONLINE	Present
Chelsea Cabral	COLA	Present
Janie Bright	CHHS	Absent, Sarah serving as proxy
Chandra Annasamy	INTERNATIONAL	Present
Kamala Nasirova	CHHS	Present

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

a. Chandra made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 04/28/21, seconded by Natasha. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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5. Guest Speaker – *Dovev Levine, Asst Dean for Student Affairs*

- a. Dovev wanted to share some of the Grad School initiatives for this year and next year and talk about ways the Grad School and GSS can partner together.
- b. Dovev acts as a liaison between the Grad School and students. He has a background in counseling/student affairs and PhD in Natural Resources from UNH. He has been at UNH for 19 years, 6 years as a dean. Primary focus is mediating student concerns. Also very focused on programming, professional development, DEI, and mental health.
- c. Trying to get useful information out to students. Recently started a mentoring program. Also working on enhancing the Grad School's website presence.
- d. The Graduate School GAs help a lot with website presence and programming.
- e. Noted that the GSS and Grad School are separate entities, but they work closely together. Karla, Dom, and Dovev meet about every other week.
- f. Focus for next year: continue professional development events as series with main themes (e.g., hiring, communication, critical dialogue, etc.) as a way to build on skills over time.
- g. Dovev hopes to join GSS meetings about once per month next year to hear what's going on and answer any questions.
- h. Questions from GSS:
 - i. Karla said next year will have many Law School students on GSS and asked how the Law and Grad Schools work together. Dovev says they are pretty separate, but the Law School is represented on the Grad Council. The Grad School does not oversee policies for the Law School. Recognized that there may be some overlap with programming.
 - ii. Dom asked about mental health resources. Dovev has spent a lot of time incorporating mental health into the Deans dispatches. He feels that everyone can benefit from a counselor and wants to normalize reaching out for health. Recognized that it's hard to reach out to take the first step. Wants to work more closely with faculty and individual departments to spread awareness. Council of graduate schools asking deans across the country to sign onto checklist with best practices for mental health. We have signed on.

6. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. none

7. Old Business – *POGSS*

- a. Merchandise Updates

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- i. Still working with Club Colors. Merchandise will be mailed out over summer. Update address on spreadsheet if needed.
 - ii. Process was held up because of logo approval.
 - b. MUB Board of Governors
 - i. Discussing with Nick Fitzgerald.
 - ii. MUB Board of Governors will decide how to allocate space and programming in the MUB. It will have a graduate student representative on it next year. They will likely meet about once per month. Hopefully there will be a permanent grad student member next year (not rotating).

8. New Business – *POGSS*

- a. Farewell to current members
 - i. Dom thanked the current members for their work during a tough year.
 - ii. People who were graduating shared some of their plans:
 - 1. Kendra finished classes and she will be doing comps and dissertation.
 - 2. Natasha is graduating this summer. Starting a position with the federal gov as a Presidential Management Fellow. She encourages people who are interested in jobs outside of academia to look into this program (open to any discipline). Can apply during last year of masters or PhD or up to one or two years after graduating. Can reach out to Natasha for more information. Permanent residency is required, but probably not citizenship. Natasha is happy to come back to GSS at the end of next year to talk about how the experience has been.
 - 3. Dom is finishing his dissertation this summer.
 - 4. Akhtar is planning to graduate in the fall, but it has been delayed because of COVID.
 - 5. Michael has been in GSS for three years. He is graduating from The Law School and Merrimack College with Masters in Higher Ed. Looking into different types of jobs and taking the bar exam this summer.
- b. Welcome to new members.

9. Open Forum – *POGSS*

- a. None

10. Adjournment

- a. Kendra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Karla. Meeting adjourned at 12:53pm.