

Graduate Student Senate



GSS Meeting | 11/4/2020 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Zoom

1. Bring the Meeting to Session – POGSS

- a. Meeting called to session at 4:01pm

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	Absent, Sumeyra serving as proxy
Allison Giannotti	CEPS	Present
Hamad Zaheer	CEPS	Present
Emily Whalen	COLSA	Present
Alix Flinders	CHHS	Absent, Allison serving as proxy
Natasha Leuchanka Diessner	PAUL	Present
Cassie Manning	LAW	Present
Griffin Kmon	LAW	Absent, Cassie serving as proxy
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	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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – POGSS & COGSS

- a. Janie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/21/20, seconded by Cassie. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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4. Committee Updates – *Committee Chairs*

- a. Caroline talked about the first #TogetherWalk that happened on Friday 10/30. About 8 people came. Right now, the walks can only be for people in the COVID-19 testing program. It's possible that people will be able to get a one-time test a few days in advance to participate in events in the future. Ideally, there will be another walk in the next week or two.
- b. Cassie summarized the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee meeting: people from CFAR spoke about remote services to students. Discussed the gender identity questions and whether faculty felt it was important information. It was important to students that the question was addressed even if it is time consuming. Continuing conversations with admin. to make progress on this.
- c. Michael discussed the Alumni Association Grants Committee meeting on Monday: grants program for student orgs to get funding for events. Application opens in November and closes in January. Looking for ways to advertise to students and think about ways the money can be used in a mostly remote manner. He will share more details as they come in. Main message is that it is still happening this year, despite COVID.

5. Old Business

- a. First #TogetherWalk (see above)

6. New Business - *POGSS*

- a. Fee Review Discussion – GSS usually goes over proposed fee changes and sends a letter back with our thoughts on the proposed fees. Starting a discussion today to go over what the proposed changes are and get initial thoughts for the FA committee to bring into their meeting with unit directors in the next coming weeks.
- b. Durham: Overall 1% increase in grad mandatory fees (\$22) largest increase was SHARPP fee 9% (\$1). Largest dollar increase was student rec fee (\$7).
- c. Manchester fees are separate.
- d. Law School: Just pay a tech fee and a student activity fee that is just for law students and determined by the Student Bar Association.
- e. 9 – 16 credit hours = full mandatory fees. 5 – 8 credit hours = ½ fees. Online students only pay the tech fee.
- f. Grad Student Fees: Campus rec, Health and Wellness, SHARPP, Memorial Union, Technology, Transportation, Whittemore Debt? – part of campus rec fee. Might want to ask more about this one.
- g. Open to comments or concerns:

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- i. Hamad asked whether all students pay the rec fee even if they are not coming to campus. Dom – by default, yes, all Durham students do. But you do have the option to waive these mandatory fees.
- ii. Michael asked whether the technology fee is going to be unified across campuses because of the IT being integrated over the next 5 years. Dom was not sure, but doesn't think it will be this academic year, could be the upcoming fiscal year. Michael is going to look into this more.
- iii. Janie asked whether this document will be shared with GSS to review. Dom will share this with everyone and we can send questions/concerns to the Financial Affairs Committee. They will make their recommendations and share with GSS. Keep within GSS for now.
- iv. Hamad (on the FA committee) brought up that they are decreasing the number of busses, but the transportation fee is going up.
- v. Not sure whether all unit directors will meet at one time (up to 3 hours) or if they will be broken up into shorter meetings for scheduling.

7. Open Forum – POGSS

- a. Michael talked about the Executive Committee meeting with executive officers from other campuses this weekend. Part will include collaborating with other student governments on issues with diversity, equity, and inclusion, and getting insight from other officers on how they manage their position. Looking for input/questions from GSS that we want him to bring up in the event. Particularly on diversifying GSS or student gov. in general.
- b. Implicit bias training happened on Monday, but there is talk of having another one. Natasha, Allison, and Emily went and said it was well done. The session lasted 4 hours, but it was engaging. GSS should try to promote this to grad students and faculty.
- c. Emily asked about the University Commission on Equity and Inclusion. Talk of GSS and uSS planning on doing a student specific climate survey. Wondering whether there has been talk of this in GSS. There was some talk of collaborating with uSS over summer, but not since then. Michael had mentioned doing this to Dr. Nadine Petty and asked for some guidance. More talk may come out of it this weekend after the summit.

8. Adjournment

- a. Chika made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cassie. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.