

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**  
**1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**  
**HTB room 216**

**Members Present:**

Kylie Harrington- Educational Policy Committee  
Amanda Carrington- OBSWS Co-Chair  
Kayla Perkins- GSO Secretary  
Megan Krementowski- GSO Co-Chair  
Kelly Ha- IGFP Co-Chair  
Krystina Jackson- GSO Co-Chair  
Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.- DSO  
Jasmine Mendez- OBSWS Co-Chair  
Jessie Black- Policy Practice Co-Chair  
Dana Kras- Community Organizing Chair  
Gabrielle Conrad-Amlicke- SFEJ Co-Chair  
Melissa Keilty- SFEJ Co-Chair  
Victoria Szantyr – LASO Chair  
Morgan Reiss- Educational Policy Committee and Field Education Advisory Committee  
Lynne Alexander- Educational Review Committee  
Milagros Marrero-Johnson- GSO Advisor  
Xholina Nano- PEERS Chair  
Sarah Dottor- GSO Secretary and PRIDE Co-chair  
Travis Tanuis- International Policy Committee (arrived at 2:10)

- I. Meeting called to order at 1:41
- II. Updates/ Announcements
  - a. Group “bylaws” for code of respect to follow were created. The document can be edited at future meetings
  - b. Krystina introduced equity pauses. This involves providing five minutes at the end of each steering meeting to reflect on the experience of the meeting and directly address any offensive or negative reactions to something that was said or done in a safe and respectful way
  - c. Meeting accessibility
    - i. Co-chairs discussed having the ability to use the conference room phone to have students and leaders call into meetings to increase accessibility
      - Milagros will follow up to find out if the phone in the conference room is accessible or if other tele-connect options should be explored

- ii. Co-chairs proposed a Group me for leaders for easier communication
    - Megan offered to create
- d. Review of priorities
  - i. Focus on inclusivity and representation within GSO
  - ii. Advocacy and action within Hartford
  - iii. Same race socialization and diverse content
  - iv. Increasing visibility and student engagement
  - v. Administration accountability and collaboration
    - Black History 365 (see below for updates)
- e. Leadership interest
  - i. Melissa interested in Co-chairing Students for environmental justice
  - ii. Oct 8<sup>th</sup> → voting on new interest groups

### III. Treasurer Report

- a. Sarah reminded members that interest group budgets for the year are due October 1
- b. Sarah reminded members that voucher requests can be turned in at any time but *must* be turned in by the day before the Executive Committee meeting when the request needs to be approved. They will send reminders and are available for questions
- c. Sarah reviewed the approvals for voucher requests and asked for a motion to approve
  - i. Jasmine made a motion, Krystina seconded the motion  
14 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed
- d. Sarah opened the floor for any questions related to budgets and requests
  - i. Amanda asked about sign in sheets for events. Sarah covered the 4 things needed for each event GSO pays for: voucher request, breakdown of expenses (invoice or receipt), marketing (flier, email, etc.), and sign in sheet
  - ii. Sarah reminded members that GSO does not pay for tax. Any invoice from a vendor should not have tax included. Milagros let members know that there is a tax-exempt form available if a vendor requires it

### IV. Voting

- a. Approval of April 9, 2019 Minutes
  - i. Krystina requested a motion
  - ii. Kylie made a motion, Sarah seconded the motion  
14 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

### V. Updates

- a. Co-chairs
  - i. Co-chairs requested feedback on GSO Mixer (8/30)

- Not a lot of veggie options, no vegan or gluten free food
- Members were generally happy with the space and the location
- Parking was an issue for some members
- Dana raised the issue that the mixer was largely attended by leaders who are already actively involved in GSO
  - a. Morgan suggested distancing GSO from the marketing to entice more people to come, i.e., marketing the event as a student mixer sponsored by GSO as opposed to GSO mixer
- Multiple members provided positive feedback regarding holding events on Friday and in the evening
- Milagros recommended hosting events at a variety of locations, not just bars, so people uncomfortable in that type of environment feel comfortable
- Kylie suggested diversifying the day of the week for events for students with longer commutes, as well as making sure interest groups don't plan events that conflict with each other
  - a. Xholina suggested creating a shared calendar so we can see everyone's events
    - i. Co-chairs will create a calendar through Group Me or Google
    - ii. Milagros reminded GSO to pay attention to the UConn academic calendar also for planning events
    - iii. Jessie suggested a white board calendar for the basement common area in HSSW to make events more accessible to students
      - 1. Milagros asked who would maintain this calendar and mentioned the digital advertising space available in the common area
  - ii. Krystina discussed that GSO priority posters will be in classrooms to help engage students
  - iii. Social Media timeline in progress
    - Co-Chairs asked for volunteers to kick off student leader spotlights on social media to put a personal face on GSO
      - a. Sarah and Gabrielle volunteered
    - Co-Chairs asked for feedback on social media content
      - a. Kelly offered to take pictures for the spotlights
      - b. Kylie suggested professor spotlights
        - i. Dana suggested Ann Pratt and Ariva Walker for the first potential spotlight
      - c. Kelly suggested spotlighting non-GSO MSW students as well to increase involvement

- d. Kylie suggested “spirit days”-type campaigns where members wear GSO or UConn SSW attire and take pictures to share on social media to promote
- e. Xholina suggested using the poll and question features in stories to engage people

iv. BH365

- Krystina sent a working list of potential speakers to the Dean for approval and offered to send the list to committee members for other suggestions
- BH365 leaders are in the process of having a Black-owned business approved to print t-shirts for GSO
- Lynne suggested inviting Black PhD students from across UConn to talk about their research
- Amanda mentioned getting in touch with other SSW GSOs at nearby universities for potential collaborations

v. Community service

- Mobile Action Network (MAN) is in the works to send texts to let people know about things in the community

vi. Constitution update

- Krystina shared that the GSO Constitution has not received enough votes from the student body to pass. The dates for voting this year are TBA, but co-Chairs will be asking members to announce to their classes so that enough votes can be secured
  - a. Alberto suggested consolidating the document and providing a blurb with the most important information for students to easily read
    - i. Co-chairs will follow up to see if this is allowed in the rules

b. Interest Groups

i. OBSWS

- First meeting will be Monday, September 23 at 6:30PM
- Some priorities for this year
  - a. Voter registration and similar community service actions, especially because 2020 is an election year
  - b. Kwanza event
  - c. T-shirts
  - d. Krystina mentioned Black student group from UConn Law school is interested in collaborating. She will loop OBSWS chairs in via email

ii. PRIDE

- First meeting will be Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 (flier was sent via email)
    - a. The priority for this meeting is planning events for the year and creating a set schedule for meetings
- iii. SAMI
- iv. LASO
  - Four students interested
  - Meeting this Thursday, September 5 to set agenda and regular meeting schedule
  - Milagros mentioned Hispanic heritage month
    - a. September 19 kickoff event: Latinx Experience Spoken Word. Light refreshments will be provided
- v. PEERS
  - Pending approval at October 8 meeting
  - Getting fliers out to build up membership and have meetings to set priorities
- vi. SFEJ
  - Pending approval at October 8 meeting
  - Hope to start in October
  - September 20: Climate change sit-in protest at the Capitol 12-3PM
- c. Concentrations
  - i. IGFP
    - No updates
  - ii. CORG
    - Dana discussed going to classes to try to get more students involved and get events going. Specifically, she hopes to involve first year CO students by meeting once a month to do something action oriented
  - iii. POPR
    - Jessie intends to reach out to policy professors about talking to students in their classes and get interest going
  - iv. DSO
    - Alberto discussed the desire for interface and transparency between GSO and DSO, especially because DSO has similar goals to GSO and GSO votes on DSO budget
    - PhD Students will be giving presentations on their research before an upcoming conference: September 25, 12-2:30PM in HTB 216
      - a. Email RSVP to Alberto if interested in attending
- d. School Committees
  - i. Educational Policy Committee

- First meeting will be September 16, 1:30-3
- Kylie proposed office hours as peer mentors
- Milagros reminded committee heads that major agenda items for interest group meetings need to be approved by the steering committee
- ii. Educational Review Committee
  - First meeting is September 16
- iii. Field Education Advisory Committee
  - Faculty and staff with 2 student representatives
  - No meetings on the calendar at this time,
  - Morgan let the group know the co-chair position is open
- iv. Just Community
- v. International Center

VI. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. Krystina and Megan have been meeting with faculty about having an MSW student on the hiring committee to encourage the administration to hire more professors of color
  - i. DSO has a similar ongoing initiative. Alberto discussed a DSO survey looking at barriers to having a PhD student representative on the hiring committee and will share the results with GSO
  - ii. GSO and DSO leadership will continue the conversation about having students represented on the hiring committee

VII. Meeting adjourned at 3:15

Signatures

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Kayla Perkins, Secretary

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Milagros Marrero-Johnson  
GSO Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date