

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

Members present:

Kayla Perkins—GSO Secretary
Megan Krementowski—GSO Co-chair
Krystina Jackson—GSO Co-chair
Amanda Carrington—OBSWS Co-chair
Sarah Dottor—GSO Treasurer and PRIDE Chair
Milagros Marrero-Johnson—GSO Faculty Advisor
Nina Rodriguez—Just Community Representative
David Reyes—LASO Co-chair
Chrystal Sparks—IGFP Representative
Jewell Jones—ERC Student Representative
Xholina Nano—PEERS Co-chair
Alberto Cifuentes Jr—DSO Representative
Kylie Harrington—Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
Amani Shirley—SAMI Chair (arrived at 2:11pm)
Morgan Reiss—Field Advisory Committee and EPC (arrived at 2:18pm)

- I. Meeting called to order at 1:37pm
- II. Updates/ Announcements:
 - a. GSO Leadership dinner debrief
 - i. Krystina thanked all who attended
 - ii. Amanda shared that the event was fun and she had a good time
 - b. Updated job talks
 - i. Krystina updated everyone that today's talk was cancelled due to weather
 1. Milagros shared that OSAS will send out information regarding the new time this afternoon
 - ii. Milagros shared with the group that an offer has been accepted for the open extension position and the information will be announced soon
 - iii. Krystina reminded leaders there is another talk this Thursday
 - c. BH365 x Just Community Solidarity Hour Thursday
 - i. Krystina shared the event will take place this Thursday, December 5, from 2:30-3:30 and will focus on how to become better allies. Light refreshments will be provided
 - d. Discuss Showcase
 - i. Krystina reminded LASO to choose one time
 1. David indicated he will follow up via email

- ii. Co-chairs suggest leaders prepare flyers or something to take from the table so people can leave with information about the interest groups
- iii. Alberto asked for clarification on the showcase
 - 1. Krystina explained the event is intended to increase visibility for interest groups to show off what they have been doing
 - 2. Milagros added it does not have to be a formal presentation and leaders can have information on the table

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Sarah made a motion to approve, Jewell seconded the motion
12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

IV. Treasurer Report

- a. Approval of Expenditures
 - i. Kylie made a motion, Krystina seconded the motion
12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
- b. Approval of Student Activity Fee Budget
 - i. Milagros shared with leaders that this budget is for a report to the Student Activities Committee at Storrs which oversees student activity funding for all students groups within the University. This is a projected budget compiled from the interest group projected budgets submitted earlier in the semester. We have to send this to the committee today with Steering Committee approval
 - ii. Jewell made a motion, Amanda seconded the motion
12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

V. Updates

- a. Interest Groups
 - i. OBSWS
 - 1. Amanda shared the Kwanzaa event has been moved and may be a Black History month event instead,
 - a. The event will most likely take place in early February, OBSWS Co-chairs will send updates when details are solidified
 - 2. Amanda asked Sarah about voucher requests
 - a. Sarah clarified that OBSWS can use the voucher from the Kwanzaa event for a future event taking place before the next Steering Committee meeting
 - ii. PRIDE
 - 1. Sarah announced the final meeting of the semester will be tomorrow, December 4 at 6:30 in SSW Room 101
 - a. They have PRIDE long sleeved shirts to distribute
 - 2. Sarah announced they will plan for next semester over winter break

3. Sarah announced they are now the only Chair of PRIDE and they are interested in collaborating with other groups next semester
 4. Sarah provided a reminder about True Colors conference in March for interested volunteers
- iii. SAMI
1. Amani shared the final meeting will be Thursday, December 5 after BH365 solidarity hour
- iv. LASO
1. David shared about the recent Community conversation
 - a. 6 or 7 people attended
 - i. Milagros confirmed that BSW students do have access to clubs and she has encouraged them to get involved through USG
 - b. The group also discussed what LASO will do next year
 - i. David shared the community group suggested a throwback movie event and conversation related Latinx issues
- v. PEERS
1. Xholina shared that 14 people attended the potluck and karaoke event and people reported having a good time
 2. PEERS next event will be in early January with an introduction to yoga
 3. First meeting will be in February and will feature cookie decorating and planning for the semester
 4. Xholina shared some potential events for next semester including a Zumba and/or salsa lesson
 - a. Xholina is looking for an instructor for salsa dancing and requested suggestions from leaders
 - i. Milagros reminded leaders to be mindful of reimbursing individuals for travel because they will need to be vendors
 - b. Xholina also shared a trip to Bushnell Park to be formalized next semester
 5. Milagros asked if Xholina has thought about cultivating leadership for next year given that it is a new group
 - a. Xholina and Milagros will continue this conversation
- vi. SFEJ
1. No updates
- b. Concentrations
- i. IGFP
 1. Chrystal shared the sequence meeting was cancelled due to snow and IGFP will be handing out finals care packages this week
 - ii. CORG

1. No updates
- iii. POPR
 1. Megan and Krystina shared that the debate watch party was fun, with a few people attending
- iv. DSO
 1. Alberto shared the DSO holiday party was rescheduled to this Thursday in the SSW basement from 6:30-8:30
 - a. GSO leaders are invited to attend
- c. School Committees
 - i. Educational Policy Committee
 1. Kylie shared they presented results of survey to the committee and the committee was receptive
 - a. Milagros asked Kylie to remind leaders about the survey
 - i. Kylie shared the survey went to students to get feedback on general thoughts and feelings about the school and the program
 - ii. EPC's goal was to gauge feelings on electives and focused area of study, as well as the broader quality of life for students
 - b. Kylie shared that the EPC will do a more formalized faculty survey that may eventually be shared with students
 - i. The committee is primarily looking at how to retool the IGFP electives
 - ii. Educational Review Committee
 1. No updates
 - iii. Field Education Advisory Committee
 1. No updates
 - iv. Just Community
 1. BH365 collaboration for solidarity hour on Thursday
 2. Nina shared the committee is working on a survey to assess the emotional climate of the program (i.e., how people are feeling in their classrooms, if they feel respected and heard)
 - a. Nina shared that she suggested GSO leaders could serve as test participants for the survey before it is sent to the student body, and she will update the Steering Committee when the survey is developed
 3. Nina is still hoping to organize a book club and is still pushing for audiobooks. Just Community has offered to use their budget to buy physical copies of the book for anyone interested
 - a. The book will be *Say the Wrong Thing* by Dr. Amanda Kemp
 - b. Nina is hoping to organize the book club to read the book over spring break and host a discussion following break

- i. Jewell supported Nina's pursuit of audiobooks
 - ii. Sarah noted that the books become property of the university when they are purchased by an organization/committee, so that may be a barrier to audiobooks because it's unclear how to keep that university property
 - iii. Alberto suggested continuing to advocate for audiobooks by tying their accessibility to the mission of Just Community
 - iv. Milagros noted that there may be a social work faculty member who is on a library committee and told Nina to try to get in touch with that person
 - v. International Center
 - 1. No updates
- d. Co-chairs
 - i. Social Media: update on Social Media Subcommittee
 - 1. Megan shared updates for the Instagram account which was created over the summer. The account has 118 followers
 - 2. Megan shared the Facebook page has 399 "Likes," but these are partially from previous years as the Facebook page is not new
 - ii. Community action brainstorm for Spring
 - 1. Co-chairs requested feedback on ideas from leaders about service projects for the spring semester
 - a. Amanda suggested she would like to do stuff involving students in Hartford, such as educating high school students about the social work profession
 - i. Milagros suggested contacting the counselling office of local high schools to coordinate an event for students
 - b. Xholina shared that Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Program is always looking for volunteers
 - c. Jewell suggested an event to offer meals to students on campus who are dealing with food insecurity and hunger
 - i. Sarah suggested this could be an ongoing event,
 - ii. Milagros noted that to use GSO funds, the event would have to be a majority SSW students
 - iii. David suggested offering education about healthy eating habits as well as offering food for various dietary restrictions
 - iv. Xholina suggested using facilities at the Hartford Public Library to host a pop-up event to teach people in the community about how to prepare healthy food in addition to providing a meal

- iii. Leadership retraining in January
 - 1. Co-chairs shared their intention to hold an optional retraining on the logistics of GSO leadership, including voucher request process and information on marketing events and meetings
 - a. Food will be provided
 - 2. The event will be based on leader interest, and hopefully during the first or second week of the semester
 - a. Sarah suggested that although it's optional, this would be a very beneficial check-in to make sure next semester starts off smoothly
- iv. Mid-year check ins
 - 1. Co-chairs announced they will send a spreadsheet with available dates for leaders to sign up for their mid-year check-ins. The Co-chairs shared that the meetings can be with one or both Co-chairs, or a combination of other leaders from the Executive Committee
 - a. Krystina reminded leaders the purpose of these check-ins is to assess how leaders are doing in their roles and how the Executive Committee can support their work
- v. Co-chairs distributed meeting dates for next semester. The next Steering Committee meeting is February 4

VI. Meeting adjourned at 2:24pm

Kayla Perkins, Secretary

Date

Milagros Marrero-Johnson
Faculty Advisor

Date