

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020  
1:30 to 3 p.m.  
SSW room 229**

**Members present:**

Megan Krementowski—GSO Co-chair  
Krystina Jackson—GSO Co-chair  
Sarah Dottor—GSO Treasurer  
Kayla Perkins—GSO Secretary  
Milagros Marrero-Johnson—GSO Faculty Advisor  
Natalie O'Connor—OSAS Program Assistant

- I. Meeting called to order at 1:45pm
- II. Review of current GSO leadership interest and commitment
  - a. Students for Environmental Justice has ended
    - i. Co-chairs shared that the interest group will dissolve
    - ii. Natalie will remove SFEJ Co-chairs from leadership list
  - b. Co-chairs provided feedback on mid-year check-in meetings
    - i. Just Community will collaborate with Educational Policy Committee (EPC) about the audiobook initiative discussed at previous Steering Committee meetings and has faculty support
    - ii. PEERS presented a plan for the semester including preliminary budget information
    - iii. Milagros asked if leaders requested more structural support from Executive Committee
      1. Co-chairs reported that the most common request was help with advertising events to improve turnout. Co-chairs offered social media support including sharing all fliers on GSO social media pages and reminded leaders to plan to use the listserv
        - a. Co-chairs discussed that Kelly from PEERS offered to talk to the Steering Committee about their interest group's use of social media and other advertising as they have had good attendance at events
          - i. Milagros noted that the success of PEERS events may have to do with the types of events the group hosts and not just their success in advertising
    - iv. Co-chairs reported on tension discussed between concentration representatives
      1. Milagros noted that it is a necessary professional skill to resolve personality conflicts and the representatives should be encouraged to handle this themselves

### III. Operational Updates

- a. Student activity meeting/presentation
  - i. Upcoming February 13. Kayla and Milagros will be in attendance.
    - 1. Milagros requested that Co-chairs create a guideline of talking points for the call including highlights and challenges for this year. Specifically, this guideline should have information to address discrepancies in voucher requests and actual spending, such as that leaders are requesting more than they end up spending on events
- b. Social media updates
  - i. Co-chairs reported that the GSO social medias have been and will continue to push BH365 events
  - ii. Megan discussed plans to revisit Social Media Subcommittee idea in the Steering Committee meeting next week with the goal of implementing social media guidelines
    - 1. Krystina suggested this group should discuss highlighting people who have been killed by police in 2020 to bring attention to this issue
    - 2. Milagros suggested looking at the mission of GSO and then outlining examples of content that would align with the mission, as well as creating guidelines for what is not acceptable social media use

### IV. GSO Events

- a. Discuss upcoming BH365 Opening Ceremony
  - i. One week from today, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Krystina reported that the event is sold out.
- b. Upcoming BH365 events
  - i. Krystina reported on future events, dates and times are still being finalized
    - 1. Gender, sexuality, and race community conversation planned for the end of February
      - a. Krystina reported advertising will begin next week
      - b. Milagros reminded Co-chairs that any speakers will need to be added as vendors
    - 2. March 7<sup>th</sup> → Greater Hartford Alliance of Black Social Workers breakfast event
    - 3. Milagros is planning an event with a speaker from Storrs focused on African American politics and voting
      - a. Co-chairs and Milagros discussed a miscommunication regarding funding for this event and noted that funding from the school was intended for all Black History events, not just those sponsored by BH365

- 4. Women's panel covering micro and macro women practitioners in the field
      - 5. Potential event to honor the late Carrie Saxon Perry
    - ii. Krystina shared a collaboration with multiple organizations to create a calendar with all local Black History Month events
  - c. Upcoming PEERS beginner yoga event
    - i. Wednesday January 29 in HTB 208
  - d. Just Community event
    - i. Starting a book club, February's book will be by a black author and BH365 will advertise this event
  - e. Any other events
    - i. Natalie requested updates for the GSO showcase to finalize the flier
      - 1. Co-chairs suggested a flier for each month with the date and time of the interest groups' presentations
      - 2. Co-chairs will promote each presentation on social media
- V. Approval of expenditure report
  - a. Milagros suggested a working committee for the summer to identify businesses to become vendors to improve the voucher request process and lessen the requests for reimbursements
    - i. Co-chairs will add this to the Steering Committee meeting agenda
  - b. Co-chairs will resend reminder about due dates for this semester's voucher requests with the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting
  - c. Milagros reminded leaders to save documents to the Q-drive that will be needed for next year as access to the drive will be suspended in May
- VI. Community engagement
  - a. Milagros discussed her view that the community engagement part of the GSO mission is not as robust as it could be and would like leaders to be thinking about and discussing how to improve the community engagement piece next year
  - b. Krystina discussed an opportunity for community involvement from Angela Bellas, who is working in for the Nancy Humphries Institute doing work around the Census and voting. Angela would like student organizations to cosponsor training events about Census and upcoming primaries as well as a cohort of students to talk about police violence and develop a call to action
    - i. Milagros supported this initiative and suggested Co-chairs add this to the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting
- VII. Black History 365
  - a. Debrief on allyship event last semester
    - i. Co-chairs shared that the event went well, with about 11 people in attendance to have a conversation about allyship
    - ii. Milagros asked what the biggest theme of the conversation was

- a. Co-chairs reported much of the conversation was about microaggressions within the SSW and how students and faculty can address this

VIII. Additional questions, concerns, or recommendations

- a. Milagros and leaders discussed planning for next year's leadership
  - i. Co-chairs will add an item to the Steering Committee agenda to discuss open positions and assess interest
- b. Milagros suggested GSO host another event, such as an off campus social event, to try to engage other students this semester
- c. Milagros discussed an upcoming event to highlight student social work research and encouraged leaders to consider submitting a poster

IX. Meeting adjourned at 2:36pm

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Kayla Perkins, Secretary

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Date

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Milagros Marrero-Johnson  
GSO Advisor

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Date