

UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
HTB room 216

Members present:

Kelly Ha—PEERS Co-chair
Meg Wolfe—International Center Advisory Board
Amanda Carrington—OBSWS Co-chair
Kayla Perkins—GSO Secretary
Milagros Marrero-Johnson—GSO Faculty Advisor
Megan Krementowski—GSO Co-chair
Krystina Jackson—GSO Co-chair
Sarah Dottor—GSO Treasurer and PRIDE Chair
Victoria Szantyr—LASO Co-chair
Amani Shirley—SAMI Chair
Nina Rodriguez—Just Community Representative
Jewell Jones—Educational Review Committee Representative
Sarah Gedeon—IGFP Student
Xholina Nano—PEERS Co-chair
Chrystal Sparks—IGFP Representative (arrived at 1:43pm)
Jessie Black—POPR Representative (arrived at 1:49pm)
Dana Kras—CO Representative (present via telephone)

- I. Meeting called to order 1:39pm
- II. Updates/ Announcements:
 - a. Approval of minutes
Megan requested a motion to approve the minutes
Kayla made a motion, Amanda seconded the motion
12 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed
 - b. Sarah Gedeon introduced herself to the group as a first semester IGFP student interested in getting involved and learning more about GSO
 - c. Kelly presented a brief guideline for successful marketing of events based on strategies PEERS has used
 - i. PEERS uses Student Admin to look up class times and avoid conflicts where possible
 - ii. Avoid Fridays and late evenings for events as people are less likely to attend
 - iii. Create an exciting flier and send to the OSAS email so that it can be sent to the listserv. Don't forget to send it out more than once!
 - iv. Utilize the successful GSO Instagram! Send your fliers to Megan to share on the story and take photos at your events that can be shared after
 - v. Have food at events and make sure to advertise it

- d. Co-chairs announced that the SFEJ interest group is closing and thanked the Co-chairs, Gabi and Melissa, for their hard work last semester
- e. Discuss Showcase
 - i. Co-chairs presented the dates for each interest group/concentration showcase
 - 1. OBSWS will be the first presentation on March 24th
 - ii. Due to a conflicting event, LASO and POPR will have to change their dates
 - 1. Milagros confirmed with Vicki and Jessie, and Vicki will coordinate with Natalie to set the final date for LASO's showcase
 - a. Co-chairs will resend the information when it's finalized

III. Treasurer Report

- a. Approval of Expenditures

Sarah requested a motion to approve the expenditure report

Kayla made a motion, Xholina seconded the motion

13 approved, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed (one leader was out of the room at the time of the vote)

IV. Updates

- a. Interest Groups
 - i. OBSWS
 - 1. Amanda reported the group is planning a game night this semester and discussing sweatshirts or other merchandise for members, details TBD
 - ii. PRIDE
 - 1. Sarah reported no updates
 - 2. The group will try to do monthly meetings and Sarah is considering changing the time to increase membership
 - iii. SAMI
 - 1. Amani announced a planned prison visit to Osborn Correctional Facility. She has been collaborating with a student who is interning at the facility and has identified inmates who may be willing to meet with students. She also discussed visiting a second facility to offer comparison
 - 2. Amani is planning a movie event to see *Just Mercy* as a group and discuss after
 - a. Amani discussed looking at Bloomfield theaters as a potential location
 - b. Krystina suggested the Spotlight Theatre because they offer student prices and are currently showing the film
 - iv. LASO
 - 1. Vicki reported the group is planning more events to improve membership. This includes recurring events like the upcoming Thursday movie and coffee night on 2/13

- a. Vicki requested suggestions for movies to show
 - 2. Vicki reported that LASO is interested in collaborating with other interest groups for events and requested leaders reach out if interested
- v. PEERS
 - 1. Xholina reported on the January yoga event
 - a. 7 RSVP'd and 4 attended, those who attended gave positive feedback
 - b. PEERS has secured 10 yoga mats for future events, including yoga and meditation
 - 2. Xholina reported on upcoming events and meetings
 - a. February 11: cookie decorating and tea event featuring a grounding in gratitude activity
 - b. February 11: meeting to plan future activities immediately following cookie decorating
 - c. PEERS Showcase will explore the healing properties of different essential oils and offer scented satchels for people to take home
 - d. March 4: Yoga event
 - e. March 6: empowerment hour and luncheon hosted between advising sessions, details to come
 - f. March 24: Meeting
 - g. Zumba class for March, Date TBD
 - h. Finish the semester with a game night on April 1
 - i. Xholina indicated PEERS would like to collaborate with other interest groups for this event
 - 1. Sarah volunteered PRIDE to collaborate
- b. Concentrations
 - i. IGFP
 - 1. Chrystal reported on the sequence meeting on 2/3
 - a. Chrystal proposed a change to the Clinical Conditions in Children and Adolescents curriculum, which currently requires a film that depicts explicit sexual assault and offers no alternative assignment for students
 - i. Chrystal reported the change will be enacted and there will be a number of films students are able to choose from
 - 2. Chrystal reported on a discussion about adding language to course syllabi encouraging students to seek out resources if they are triggered by course material
 - a. She reported there will be further discussion among faculty about how to address these topics in class,

acknowledging much of our work can be triggering while being sensitive to student needs

ii. CORG

1. Dana reported no updates
2. Two upcoming community events
 - a. February 5 at 10am: March for Liberation rally, sponsored by ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut
 - b. February 19: Voices of Justice Symposium focused on inequalities in conviction and sentencing in Connecticut, sponsored by the CT Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors

iii. POPR

1. Jessie shared that she met with Dr. Thomas regarding concerns from POPR students about lack of online/hybrid class options that make it difficult for students who are working while in the program, as well as the lack of field stipends available for the concentration
 - a. Per this discussion, Jessie reported some faculty resistance to the online process. Additionally, some classes require the face-to-face component
 - i. Milagros asked if they had discussed evening classes as an option
 1. Jessie reported they discussed this but that rooms are allotted for classes taking into consideration the size of the program in relation to other programs at UConn
 - a. Milagros suggested pushing for evening classes and using faculty resources to push this at an institutional level
 - ii. Jessie indicated she would like to hear from other students who struggle with class options for the concentration
 1. Krystina suggested a petition
 2. Milagros noted to collaborate with EPC representative, Morgan, to bring this to the committee's attention
2. Jessie reported POPR still has most of the concentration budget and would like to bring in a speaker
 - a. One idea for a speaker is to bring in state legislators who are social workers to speak about their careers and have a discussion with students, potentially during the next POPR advising session

3. Jessie is also planning a screening of *Nor Any Drop to Drink*, a documentary on the Flint water crisis. There will potentially be a Q&A period with the director of the documentary. Details TBD.
- iv. DSO
 1. No representative present
- c. School Committees
 - i. Educational Policy Committee
 1. Morgan reported via email that there are no updates. The committee will meet on February 17.
 - ii. Educational Review Committee
 1. No updates
 - iii. Field Education Advisory Committee
 1. Morgan reported via email that the committee is forming a subcommittee to focus on field education orientation
 - a. The committee plans to create a HuskyCT page for field education where documents will be housed, deadlines can be easily communicated, and forms can be uploaded
 - b. The committee would like to revamp the field education orientation process and will send out a survey this semester to get a sense from students what would be helpful
 - iv. Just Community
 1. Nina reported on updates for Just Community book club
 - a. Fliers will be distributed at BH365 Opening Ceremony and she will be present outside OSAS to advertise in person
 - b. The book is *Say the Wrong Thing* by Dr. Amanda Kemp
 - c. There will be two discussion opportunities after Spring Break
 2. Nina reported updates on her efforts to advocate for access to audiobooks through the UConn Library
 - a. She has reached out to subscription services to get more information about process and cost
 - b. Nina reported she will set up a meeting with Morgan to bring the issue to the EPC
 - v. International Center
 1. Meg reported No meeting since November
 2. Upcoming events
 - a. Social Work Day at the UN: Student day on 3/22, full day on 3/23. Registration opens in early March
 - b. Meg reported they are planning speaker events and/or documentary screenings and information is forthcoming

- V. Co-chair updates
 - a. BH365

- i. Krystina reported that Opening Ceremony is tonight! There are currently 131 people RSVP'd.
- b. Social media
 - i. Megan reported that Co-chairs are still interested in establishing a Social Media Subcommittee
 - 1. There is a working Google Doc with suggestions for social media guidelines to be approved by the Steering Committee before the end of the semester
 - a. Currently, Sarah and Kelly have contributed. Please contact the Co-chairs if you are interested in contributing
- c. Krystina reported on community action opportunities for leaders
 - i. Emphasis on police brutality: 4 people have been murdered by police in Connecticut in 2020. Notification went out via listserv. Please contact Krystina or Jasmine if you are interested in helping to organize around this issue.
 - ii. Call to Action was sent via email from the Humphrey's Institute. Reach out to the Institute if you are interested in getting involved.
- d. Megan notified leaders that a poll will be sent to leaders to gauge interest in topics for educational trainings
- e. Co-chairs encouraged leaders to be thinking about leadership positions for next year, both returning GSO students and others
 - i. Milagros noted that returning leaders should declare their interest in leadership positions ASAP
- f. Co-chairs reminded leaders that vouchers are due March 2nd and the next Steering meeting will be March 3rd

VI. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. Dana requested follow up on when CO showcase will be
 - i. Krystina will update with changes and resend to leaders
- b. Meeting was adjourned early to allow students to attend presentation and Q&A with a candidate for OSAS Program Director

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 2:14pm

Kayla Perkins, Secretary

Date

Milagros Marrero-Johnson
Faculty Advisor

Date