

UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
HTB room 216

Members Present:

Kayla Perkins—GSO Secretary
Kelly Ha—PEERS Co-chair
Kylie Harrington—Educational Policy Committee Representative (left at 2:11pm)
David Reyes—LASO Co-chair
Jewell Jones—Educational Review Committee (left at 2:11pm)
Sarah Dottor—GSO Treasurer and PRIDE Chair
Xholina Nano—PEERS Co-chair
Amanda Carrington—OBSWS Co-chair
Amani Shirley—SAMI Chair
Jasmine Mendez—OBSWS Co-chair (arrived at 1:42pm)
Vicky Szantyr—LASO CO-chair
Dana Kras—CORG Representative
Krystina Jackson—GSO Co-chair
Megan Krementowski—GSO Co-chair
Nina Rodriguez—Just Community Representative

- I. Meeting was called to order at 1:36pm
- II. Updates/ Announcements:
 - a. Approval of minutes

Megan requested a motion to approve the minutes from 2/4 Steering Meeting
Jewell made a motion, Xholina seconded the motion
14 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed
 - b. Discuss Showcase
 - i. Krystina asked leaders if they had any questions regarding upcoming showcases
 - ii. Upcoming dates:
 1. 3/24--OBSWS and LASO
 2. 3/31--POPR and Just Community
 - c. Co-chairs asked leaders to formally declare Interest for leadership positions next year
 - i. Vicki and Kelly expressed interest in Co-chair positions and will be meeting with Milagros to discuss
 - ii. Krystina reminded leaders they will have the opportunity to express interest at the final Steering meeting
 - d. Co-chairs discussed end of year events
 - i. Megan mentioned a potential faculty and student mixer

1. Xholina suggested an ice cream social with faculty and students
 - a. Amani noted she has a connection to a member of NABSW who has an ice cream truck
 - i. Dana mentioned concern regarding where an ice cream truck would park in relation to campus
 1. Krystina suggested the space by Town Hall
 - ii. End of year leadership event
 1. Megan suggested a leadership dinner and mentioned GSO merchandise as a gift for leaders
 2. Vicky suggested a wine and paint event

III. Treasurer Report

a. Approval of Expenditures

Sarah requested a motion to approve the expenditures

Jewell made a motion, Jasmine seconded the motion

Sarah opened the floor for discussion and questions

Vicki asked about unused vouchers

1. Sarah confirmed that those vouchers must be used before the end of the year or they will be voided. Sarah asked leaders to contact them via email to check in about available vouchers before submitting new requests.

15 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

IV. Updates

a. Interest Groups

i. OBSWS

1. Jasmine shared the group has 3 more meetings planned
 - a. The last meeting of the semester will be a game night
2. OBSWS designed merchandise for members
3. Jasmine and Amanda shared upcoming collaboration with LASO and SAMI to maximize funds for the end of the year

ii. PRIDE

1. Sarah shared they are focusing on collaborations with PEERS for the rest of the semester
2. Sarah shared they are considering designing more merchandise before the end of the year

iii. SAMI

1. Amani reported low attendance at meetings
2. Amani shared she was planning a visit to Osborn Correctional Institute for 3/26. The status of this visit is unclear because of coronavirus concerns. Amani asked interested students to contact her so that they can begin the background check process so that will be taken care of if the visit is allowed to take place
3. Amani shared she is planning another prison visit in mid-April

- iv. LASO
 - 1. Vicky shared LASO will collaborate with OBSWS and SAMI for end of year events
 - 2. Vicky shared LASO is planning a “paint and sip” event for the end of the semester. She is currently working with the venue on becoming a vendor
 - a. Vicky discussed that the cost for the event would be around \$1000 and asked any interested leaders to contact her about collaborating to cover the cost
- v. PEERS
 - 1. Xholina shared updates about three past events
 - a. Most recent stress relief and yoga event had 3 attendees
 - b. March 6 empower hour had 7 attendees
 - c. February showcase featured aromatherapy and essential oils and had 17 attendees
 - 2. Xholina reported on upcoming events
 - a. 3/24—Group sound bowl therapy with Kelvin Young, 1:30pm, HTB 214
 - b. 4/1—Bring your own board games to Game Night! Light refreshments will be provided
 - c. 4/7—Stress relief and yoga event at 1:30pm, room TBA
 - d. 4/29—“Paws” and relax stress reduction event featuring a therapy dog in the SSW lobby
- b. Concentrations
 - i. IGFP
 - 1. Chrystal provided updates via email from the most recent sequence meeting
 - a. Students provided feedback that they would like information about the LMSW exam to be covered earlier in the academic year. The faculty discussed including more information in field seminars
 - 2. Jewell reported concerns regarding the limited number of seats available in the LMSW prep class. She asked if this was discussed at the sequence meeting.
 - a. Kylie discussed that the meeting Chrystal reported on occurred before Jewell and Chrystal discussed the prep course
 - ii. CORG
 - 1. Dana shared that CORG will be using the remainder of their funds to co-sponsor an event with POPR focused on using media in activism
 - iii. POPR
 - 1. No representative present
 - iv. DSO

1. No representative present
- c. School Committees
 - i. Educational Policy Committee
 1. Kylie provided updates from the most recent meeting
 - a. The clinical conditions classes have been renamed to avoid confusion about which classes meet the requirements
 - b. Field Education Updates
 - i. Requirements for incoming students will now enforce a July 15th deadline for communication with the office for placement in the first year. If students do not respond to outreach from the office before July 15th, they will not be placed for the academic year
 1. Krystina asked why the committee made this decision
 - a. Kylie reported it is an effort to prevent incoming students from beginning the year unprepared
 2. Krystina asked if July 15th was too early in the summer for some students
 - a. Kylie reported the Field Ed Office will step up their outreach to incoming students to be very clear about this deadline to compensate for an earlier date
 - ii. All students will have to complete their profiles in Complio before starting field. Students cannot be placed or accept internships without completing Complio
 1. Students will no longer have to do drug testing unless their agency requires it
 - iii. Language has been added to the field education manual to specify students cannot have an exclusively evening hour field placement
 - c. ICAL course was reviewed. The decision was made that it cannot be a permanent class because the program is grant funded and so not guaranteed to be a part of the curriculum long-term.
 - d. Information regarding changing concentrations will be clarified to include specific dates. Additionally, the language will indicate this is a process and not guaranteed. Students may be asked to provide additional documentation, including a personal statement

- e. Content on trigger warnings to be added to syllabi of certain classes after student concerns regarding a film with a graphic sexual assault scene was required viewing for a class assignment. The language will be included in IGFP, Human Oppression, and HBSE syllabi about triggering content. Professors will have the option to include language that allows students to leave the room when triggering content is presented if this is helpful. Feedback from faculty at this meeting indicated that professors feel some tension between preparing students for the realities of the profession while being sensitive with presentation of material.
 - i. Kylie asked leaders for feedback on these changes
 - 1. Jewell noted that as long as students have options for assignments, the issue seems resolved
 - 2. Sarah noted this is a step in the right direction and they are grateful the committee took up the issue
 - f. Kylie asked leaders with feedback on any of the above content to contact them
 - ii. Educational Review Committee
 - 1. No updates
 - iii. Field Education Advisory Committee
 - 1. No representative present
 - iv. Just Community
 - 1. Nina shared updates on the reading club event after break,
 - a. Nina shared that she has access affordable audiobooks and e-books, and invited interested students to contact her for details
 - 2. Nina reported she continues to work on increasing student access to audiobooks. She is currently working with Hoopla to get a trial version of the software to pilot. She is also looking into grants to cover the costs for the UConn Library
 - v. International Center
 - 1. No representative present
 - d. Co-chairs
 - i. BH365
 - 1. Krystina asked for feedback on the Black, Queer, & Proud event
 - a. Dana, Amani, and Amanda all provided positive feedback on the event
 - ii. Upcoming Flint event

1. At this time, there is a lot of uncertainty due to coronavirus.
Details of this event will be provided at a later time when we have more information.

V. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. Amanda asked what will happen to events that are currently planned if the university transitions to an online format due to concern around coronavirus and what will happen to unused funds
 - i. Sarah reported they will be in contact with our financial representatives to discuss what will happen to unused funds in the case of event cancellations
 - ii. Co-chairs reported they will keep in touch with everyone via email as they get more information
- b. Krystina thanked leaders for their hard work this year

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm

Kayla Perkins, Secretary

Date

Milagros Marrero-Johnson
Faculty Advisor

Date