

UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 18 June 2020 | 10:00 - 11:15AM | WebEx

Members Present:

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble - Graduate Student Organization Advisor

Victoria Szantyr - Graduate Student Organization Co-Chair

Kristine Jon - Graduate Student Organization Secretary

Natalie O'Connor - Program Assistant, Office of Student & Academic Services

- I. Meeting called to order** at 10:03AM
- II. Trisha update**
 - a. Trisha states DSA needs GSO to submit the budget document
- III. Review of current GSO Expectation & By-Laws**
 - a. Victoria and Kristine approved of the previous minutes and understand that they will be responsible for planning future agendas
 - b. Trisha will send Victoria and Kristine signature box to indicate they understand their expectations
- IV. Goals and Visions for GSO**
 - a. Victoria and Kristine discussed wanting to focus on including students in meetings and opening communication between the GSO and the student body
 - i. Victoria noticed students were not included in previous Steering Committee meetings
 1. Victoria is interested in bringing in ideas from students
 2. Trisha and Natalie bring up ideas of how GSO can be more present, with mention of what was done in the past
 3. Trisha suggests putting GSO down for a welcome at convocation to allow students to get familiarized with the organization.
 - b. Victoria mentions letter sent to Dean Heller, which includes student interests and requests
 - i. Requests will be sent to GSO Advisor prior to submission to the Dean
 - ii. Victoria discusses transparency regarding posting on requests/demands on Social Media.
 1. Trisha reminded GSO things posted on GSO's page, needs to be representative of the whole student body and agreed upon by Executive Committee.
 - iii. Concerns were raised regarding censorship of Black and Brown voices
 1. Trisha suggests should there be issues, GSO Executives should bring concerns to her as the GSO Advisor

2. Trisha also reminds Executive Chairs to learn how to have difficult conversations. Also, to ensure that constituents (students) feel supported by GSO – so it is important to be inclusive.
 3. Trisha suggests that requests made should be representative of the study body, if done on behalf of GSO, and not just one focus.
- iv. Trisha wants to make sure all GSO agrees with the demands as well because it's a representation of the whole
1. Trisha speaks on SSW focus on diversity and inclusion – including and collaboration from Staff and Faculty as well as Administration
 2. Victoria inquires about the schools Budget for BH365
 - a. Request of letter with the amount
 - b. Trisha will follow up with Executive Chairs
 - c. Victoria stressed focus on inclusivity and diversity for black and brown POC in SSW
 3. Trisha suggests GSO look at Budget and see how GSO could contribute to BH365 throughout the entire year (*outside of what the Administration is doing*).
 4. For transparency and inclusion, Natalie also suggests it would be a good idea for GSO to put everything on one calendar to be available to public
 5. Trisha and Victoria, stressed the importance of collaboration
- v. Current Events - Antiracism, BLM, Covid-19
1. Trisha suggests working closely with OBSWS, LASO, SAMI, and #IAmNotAVirus and interest group organizations to promote specific groups while keeping the overall GSO committed to inclusive excellence.
- c. Professional development
- i. Kristine and Victoria suggest as one of the main goals for GSO is to receive and offer Professional Development Opportunities around a variety of topics
 - ii. Trisha mentions OSAS will be having a variety of workshops, and training for GSO Executive and Steering Committees will be completed.
 - iii. Trisha requests that Executive Committee members inform her of topics of interest

V. GSO Events (Fall & Spring)

- a. Budgeting for Events should begin – Trisha states Executives should brainstorm.
- b. Trisha states the events that were done in the past are in Q drive
 - i. New Executive Committee should review last year's events for familiarity
- c. Executive Committee will create event proposals that aligns with goals and is representative of the student body.

VI. GSO Budget

- a. Will be discussed more as co-chair and treasurer join the GSO and as the schedule for Fall semester becomes clearer as the President has not announced whether campus will be open or not yet
- b. Executive Chair will distribute funds per by-laws/policies to interest groups etc.

VII. DSA forms – Budget, Org Chart, Org Supplemental Chart

- a. Trisha reminds GSO to submit the form and can be adjusted at any time
- b. Kristine and Victoria will review documents and submit to DSA

VIII. GSO Future Meetings

- a. Trisha asked about preferences for Executive and Steering Committee Meeting dates
 - i. Victoria states it would be better to be flexible because of class schedules
 - ii. Natalie states last year they were held every Tuesday
 - iii. Meetings, in the interim, will be held around Tuesdays for now and will be adjusted as necessary

IX. Interest Groups

- a. Natalie states Executive Committee votes and approves of interest group chairs
 - i. Victoria states she knows some positions are already filled from returning students
 - 1. Trisha will email returning students to see if they are still interested in the same position, they were in last year
 - ii. Trisha suggests promoting the open positions to Advanced Standing students in July at AS Meet and Greet
 - iii. Kristine and Victoria agree to join AS Meet and Greet to promote GSO

X. Interview of Candidates:

- a. GSO Executives to come up with interview questions for vacant roles
- b. GSO Advisor will also be in the process – will email candidates by-laws, with the job description, along with interest group descriptions, should they be interested.

XI. Additional questions, concerns, or recommendations

- a. Victoria moves to adjourn the meeting

XII. Meeting adjourned at 11:19AM

Kristine Jon, Secretary

Date

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO Advisor

Date