

UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 20 August 2020 | 11:00AM – 12:15PM | WebEx

Members Present:

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble – GSO Advisor
Victoria Szantyr – GSO Co-Chair
Molly Franco – GSO Co-Chair
Kristine Jon – GSO Secretary
Lauren Perrone - GSO Treasurer
Gabrielle Mitchell – OBSWS Chair
Deja Perry – OBSWS Co-Chair
Lexie Soja – IGFP 1st Year Chair/PEERS Co-Chair
Melissa Keilty – POPR Chair
Montrel Morrison – CORG Chair
Carley Taft – PRIDE Chair
Alberto Cifuentes, Jr. – DSO Co-Chair (*Arrived after meeting commenced*)
Lynne Alexander – ERC Co-Chair

- I. Meeting called to order** at 11:02AM
- II. Introductions**
 - a. The committee introduced their names, pronouns, position, year, and concentration
 - b. Kristine discussed the sign-in sheet sent through chat to take attendance
- III. Updates**
 - a. Co-Chairs**
 - i. Announcements**
 1. Trisha reminded everyone of the mandatory leadership training on Monday, August 24th
 - a. Trisha discussed it will be a workshop throughout the year to help the group find their leadership styles
 2. Trisha reminded everyone that convocation is August 28th, GSO members are requested to attend
 3. Molly and Victoria discussed Steering Committee meetings will most likely be held Thursday early afternoons
 - a. Trisha suggested a poll to be sent out to figure out what times work best for everyone
 - b. Trisha reminded the group that attendance to Steering Committee meetings are required according to the by-laws

4. Molly discussed headshots and profiles of members which are to be sent to GSO email for upload on GSO social media
 - a. Molly will send follow-up reminder

ii. GSO Initiatives and Goals

1. By-laws and expectations will be sent out to members

iii. Events

1. Trisha stated all GSO events will be online, no in-person events according to the university policies
2. Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - a. Lauren discussed the increased rate of domestic violence during the pandemic and suggested an event in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, suggests a social media campaign to bring more awareness and asked members who are interested to reach out

b. Interest Groups

- i. Trisha mentions that GSO should share goals, and request that all interest group meet brainstorm (with team, if applicable) to ensure goals tie back to GSO's goals by a certain/selected deadline.

1. Communicate goals with liaison within the Executive committee
2. Teams will go through Orientation sessions and expectations with Trisha and/or GSO Executive Committee

ii. Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

1. Events
 - a. Victoria shared there are plans for Hispanic Heritage Month

iii. Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS)

1. Trisha shared that OBSWS is now a liaison for BH365
2. Goals and Initiatives
 - a. Deja discussed wanting to create a safe space for people of color
3. Events (BH365 discussions)
 - a. Black Lives Matter event
 - b. Gabrielle discussed wanting to bring awareness to mental health and how COVID-19 is affecting Black families
 - c. Experience of Black Farming/ Food insecurity

iv. PRIDE

1. No updates – just appointed to role

- v. **Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI)** – Not Present (members appointed on 8/19/2020)

vi. Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)

1. Events

- a. Alberto discussed the DSO has been hosting virtual happy hours for new PhD students to get acquainted
- b. Alberto stated there is an orientation for the PhD program on Thursday August 27th

vii. Providing Education, Empowerment, Resources & Support (PEERS)

1. Goals and Initiatives

- a. Lexie discussed a focus on active participation to promote social and mental health especially during the pandemic
- b. Victoria will check with Kelly Ha, if she will be continuing as PEERS Chair and communicate update

c. Concentrations

i. IGFP

1. Goals and Initiatives

- a. Lexie discussed managing online resources for IGFP students

ii. CORG

- 1. Montrel discussed reaching out to the community and working on mental health initiatives
- 2. Molly suggested working closely with the Hartford community and organizations

iii. POPR

1. Goals and Initiatives

- a. Melissa discussed a focus on strengthening relationships with policy students, expressed interest in the DSO's virtual events to get familiar with other students
- b. Discussed working closely with GSO goals and using her various positions to create a space for policy students

d. School Committees

i. Educational Policy Committee (EPC) – Vacant position

ii. Educational Review Committee (ERC)

- 1. Lyn discussed lack of attendance to ERC meetings
- 2. Trisha provided context on ERC and Process

iii. Field Education Advisory Committee – Not Present (appointed 8/19/2020)

iv. Center for International Social Work Studies Advisory Committee – Not Present / Vacant

v. Just Community Committee – Not Present

IV. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. GSO main goals

- i. Co-Chairs discussed wanting to meet and work closely with Steering Committee members
 - ii. Victoria discussed wanting to focus on social justice with current events
 - iii. Interest Group Collaborations
 - 1. Molly discussed intersectional events and ideas as many groups have similar goals in order to reach a broader audience
 - iv. Molly discussed wanting everyone to host fun events that many people can participate in and enjoy, not limited to purely educational events
- b. Montrel expressed confusion on required Steering Committee meeting attendance
 - i. Trisha suggested adding an addendum to the by-laws regarding attendance because of COVID-19, which will be discussed with Executive members
- c. Montrel asked if meetings are allowed in-person
 - i. Molly stated absolutely no in-person meetings allowed under GSO's name
- d. GSO Social Media
 - i. Victoria discussed passwords for interest group social medias will be sent out to new Chairs
 - ii. Trisha reminded everyone that GSO social media posts must be in compliance with university policies and get approval from Executive board
 - iii. Alberto suggested doing an online series or live stories on social media to increase engagement
- e. Victoria asked if Steering Committee meeting links are open to be sent to other students who want to attend
 - i. Trisha stated there can be closed meetings if the group chooses, but meetings are generally open to other students

V. Meeting adjourned at 11:58AM

Kristine Jon, Secretary

Date

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO Advisor

Date