

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 20 October 2020 | 1:30PM – 3:00PM| 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
Carley Taft – PRIDE Co-Chair
Dominique Courts – Just Community (*left at 2:30*)
Gabrielle Mitchell – OBSWS Co-Chair
Kailey Bousquet – ERC Chair
Lexie Soja – IGFP 1st Year Chair/PEERS Co-Chair
Lynne Alexander – ERC Co-Chair
Megan Wolfe – International Committee Board/PEERS Co-Chair
Melissa Keilty – Policy Chair/EPC Chair
Nina Rodriguez – Just Community Representative
Sarah Smith – CORG Chair
Sophie Fortunato – SAMI Co-Chair
David Reyes – LASO Chair

I. Call meeting to order 1:36PM

- a. Attendance
- b. Approval of minutes
 - i. Molly made a motion to approve, Melissa seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

II. Updates/Announcements

- a. Vicky discussed the official role of the liaison:
 - i. Communicate with liaisons to their UConn email (with a CC to GSO email)
 - 1. This occurs when there is an idea/ plan/ proposal/ need of support
 - 2. Missed meeting – liaison and committee member are to meet (phone/video) to review minutes
 - a. Voting rights are waived for those not in attendance at meetings

3. Promotion of event
4. Questions, clarification, and/or concerns.
- ii. Goal Sheets – should be submitted to liaison
- iii. Proposal Sheet – communicated to liaison
- iv. Vote on liaison role:
 1. Vicky made a motion to approve, Molly seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
- b. Vicky announced the Nancy A. Humphreys Political Social Work Institute is doing voting work that will count as field hours
- c. Vicky discussed the possibility of collaborating with the BSW Social Work Student Association and suggested reaching out to the president Avery Smith
- d. Dominique introduced the Graduate Students of Color Organization, monthly newsletter and involving other UConn campuses
- e. The co-chairs discussed the conversation the executive team had with the dean
 - i. Vicky discussed the discrepancies of synchronous and asynchronous classes and curriculum, and how the school is in the process of hiring anti-racism professors – urged members to get involved with the process
 - ii. Molly discussed expressing students’ concerns and reminded members about the associate dean’s coffee hours with the next one being October 30th

III. Treasurer Report

- a. Lauren discussed the step-by-step guide about how to access funds that the executive team wrote, which will be shared with everyone as a resource
- b. Approval of events
 - i. Molly made a motion to approve the POPR event \$250, Sarah seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
 - ii. Lauren made a motion to approve OBSWS \$350, Gabrielle seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
 - iii. Trisha discussed DSO activities using GSO funds for registration fees and to attend professional development
 1. Trisha requested a motion to approve
 2. Molly made a motion to approve, Lauren seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
 - iv. Sophie discussed doing a movie screening for SAMI in two weeks
 1. Molly discussed copyright issue on showing a movie associated with the school, said there was a copy in the school’s library
 2. Molly announced not being able to reimburse students this year if anything is paid for out of pocket

- v. Lexie discussed doing virtual yoga for PEERS
 - 1. Gabrielle discussed doing yoga for OBSWS specialized for Black Lives Matter and suggested possibly collaborating
 - 2. Lauren made a motion to approve the \$150, Megan seconded the motion
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

IV. Updates

a. Interest Groups

i. Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

- 1. David discussed the event with the Alumni Association for Hispanic Heritage and panel for anti-Blackness in the Latin community, there is a recording available
- 2. Still developing goals sheet and working on opening LASO to more students

ii. Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS)

- 1. Gabrielle discussed Myths vs. Facts with BH365 from 6-7:30PM October 21st
- 2. Meet and greet last Friday, not too many students showed up
- 3. Planning on yoga for Black Lives Matter on December 11th from 6-7:45PM with a 20-person slot availability
- 4. BH365 will do a Kwanzaa celebration December 2nd from 6-7:30PM
- 5. Will participate in Domestic Violence Awareness event wearing purple

iii. PRIDE

- 1. Carley and Lynne working with the Rainbow Center to host sex ed and some virtual happy hours
- 2. Molly asked if they have information for the social media, information will be sent to Carley and Lynne as soon as possible

iv. Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI)

- 1. Sophie discussed documentary screening on Nov 5th from 6-9:00PM with discussion afterwards
- 2. Sophie and Matt making social media pages and will send links out

v. Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) – *Absent*

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

- 1. Lexie discussed low participation in mental health enrichment week
- 2. Planning casual mixer to increase student engagement
- 3. Lexie spoke with Avery Smith, trying to plan an event with BSW students

b. Concentrations

i. IGFP

1. Lexie discussed the IGFP faculty meeting on Oct 5th and the faculty trying to adjust and accommodate for students in spring semester
2. Lexie discussed many students' frustration with field work and how many assignments for first year classes are based on it

ii. CORG

1. Sarah discussed meeting with the CORG faculty and discussing the curriculum and field work issues
2. Discussed teaming up with Melissa to do something for macro students for happy hour
3. Next CORG faculty meeting in 2 weeks from now, and will bring student concerns to the table

iii. POPR

1. Melissa discussed the POPR event will be middle to end of November to engage more with students
2. Molly reminded the group hosting events during the winter intersession could help with students' ability to participate with more free time

c. School Committees

i. Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

1. Melissa discussed attending the EPC meeting with micro and macro faculty

ii. Educational Review Committee (ERC)

1. No updates

iii. Field Education Advisory Committee – *Absent*

iv. Center for International Social Work Studies Advisory Committee

1. Megan discussed having meeting with the International Advisory Committee
2. Event focused on the global impact of COVID-19 on Nov 13th at 10AM, open to colleagues across the globe, trying to find speakers and trying to contact at the UN

v. Just Community Committee

1. Nina discussed the topic for community hour is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and wearing purple on Thursday, 10/22 for awareness
2. Nina discussed getting guest speakers for topic Tuesdays
 - a. Body acceptance week in February, topics about body positivity and fatphobia

3. Nina reminded the group during the week of election they will be holding solidarity hours for discussion and venting

d. Co-Chairs

- i. **Vicky discussed executive team voted that the school would charge students half of student fees for Spring 2021 semester (\$12.50)**
 1. **Vicky made a motion to approve, Lauren seconded the motion 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions**
- ii. Vicky discussed the creation of the GSO points system, getting points every time a student attends an event, steering committee can earn points for attending events other than their own
 1. Trisha asked for feedback on the point system
 - a. Sarah expressed having a coffee gift card would be helpful
 - i. Vicky confirmed looking into Starbucks gift cards and looking at other prizes and incentives
 - b. Lynne expressed concern that many students will be busy with other responsibilities and there should be a way to earn points without attending an event for an hour
 - c. Trisha suggested discussing with professors to see how to best collaborate: advertise to class, extra credit opportunities etc.
- iii. Co-chairs reminded the group that the goals sheet should be turned in within the next week to liaisons
 1. Vicky discussed when emailing liaisons, CC the GSO emails as well to keep official record

V. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. Molly discussed doing a study group, “accountability hours” and how it would be helpful for socializing and for first year students to connect with second year students and each other
 - i. Sarah expressed it would be helpful, but suggested breaking it down to separate topics if there is a big group in the future
 - ii. Molly asked the group to think about what times would be helpful, and if anyone wants to host one, they can
- b. Trisha reminded the group can send information to her to put in the Daily Digest, asked for feedback and whether one weekly email would be more helpful
 - i. Sarah suggested having specific and targeted subject lines
 - ii. Lauren expressed having a weekly email of events would be helpful
- c. Trisha reminded the group to prepare enrollment shopping cart for registration Oct 26th at 9AM
- d. Trisha reminded everyone can reach out to executive team to extend concerns for the dean and associate dean

VI. Meeting adjourned at 2:46PM

Kristine Jon

Kristine Jon, Secretary

10/27/20

Date

Trisha - Ann Hawthorne Noble

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO Advisor

10.26.2020

Date