

UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 22 September 2020 | 1:30PM – 3:00PM | WebEx

Members Present:

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble – GSO Advisor/OSAS Director

Victoria Szantyr – GSO Co-Chair

Molly Franco – GSO Co-Chair

Kristine Jon – GSO Secretary

Lauren Perrone – GSO Treasurer

Matthew Stayner – SAMI Co-Chair

Melissa Keilty – Policy Chair

Nina Rodriguez – Just Community Representative

Lexie Soja – IGFP 1st Year Chair/PEERS Co-Chair

Gabrielle Mitchell – OBSWS Chair

David Reyes – LASO Co-Chair

Sarah Baden – Field Education Advisory Committee

Megan Wolfe – International Committee Board

Lynne Alexander – ERC Co-Chair

Natalie O’Connor – Academic Services

Christal Riley – OSAS Assistant (*left at 2:00PM*)

I. Meeting called to order at 1:35PM

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

II. Updates/Announcements

- a. Victoria and Molly shared open GSO positions and vacancies as of 9/22:
 - i. One LASO Co-Chair
 - ii. One PEERS Co-Chair
 1. Megan discussed taking on PEERS Co-Chair
 - iii. One PRIDE Co-Chair
 1. Lynne discussed taking on PRIDE Co-Chair
 - iv. Two IGFP Concentration Chairs (advanced standing, second year)
 - v. One ERC Student Representative
 - vi. Two EPC Student Representatives (IGFP, CORG or POPR)
 1. Melissa discussed taking on EPC Chair position

- b. Vote on COVID-19 addendum to by-laws
 - i. Victoria stated the addendums by-laws:
 - 1. Only one member of each committee needs to be present at a Steering Committee meeting. With committees that have more than one member, the one who attends is responsible for relaying the information.
 - 2. Additionally, if no committee is represented at the meeting, it is mandatory for the committee to reach out to the liaison prior to the next meeting, regarding meeting overview/minutes/details.
 - ii. Victoria made a motion, Molly seconded the motion
13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

III. Treasurer Report

- a. Lauren discussed event funding and reminded everyone that interest groups must submit the Proposed Events Form 6 weeks prior to the event in order to process and approve vendors
 - i. 3-4 weeks before event, a flyer and justification for event must be submitted, and all events must be approved and voted on by Steering Committee
- b. Lauren broke down funding allocation for each committee for the entire year:
 - i. \$19,000 total. 56% to Executive team; 4% to OBSWS, LASO, PRIDE, SAMI, PEERS; 2% to International Student Committee; 3% to CORG, POPR, IGFP; 19% remaining
- c. Trisha reminded the Steering Committee they should work with the executive team and their liaisons for planning events

IV. GSO Executive Updates

- a. Liaison model
 - i. Molly discussed the role of liaisons to simplify process of steering members being able to come to one GSO executive
 - 1. Kristine will send liaison role assignment and contact information in email
- b. GSO goals
 - i. Molly discussed wanting GSO to be fun, connecting with the community, and decolonizing the SSW curriculum
 - 1. Trisha discussed working with EPC and faculty for curriculum goal
- c. Expectations from Steering Committee
 - i. Molly discussed the steering members keeping GSO executives accountable in staying in line with the goals
- d. Discussion on how GSO executives can best support committees

V. Committee Reports

a. Interest Groups

i. Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

1. David discussed Wednesday, September 29th 1:00-2:30PM collaborating with Hispanic Heritage Committee and discussing anti-blackness that persists in Hispanic community, he will send out a flyer

ii. Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS)

1. Gabrielle discussed meeting with Deja and what OBSWS goals and activities will be
2. Meet and greet October 9th from 3:00-4:00PM, introduction to OBSWS goals and recruiting members, they will submit goal sheet and flyer soon
3. BH365 event will be October 21st 6:00-7:30PM BLM fact vs myth, doctor from NYU coming to speak, someone from Hartford BLM group, and New Haven BLM chapter to tie in community to their events

iii. PRIDE – *Absent*

iv. Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI)

1. No updates

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

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

1. Lexie discussed PEERS introductory meeting Thursday, September 24th at 6:00PM
2. Megan Wolfe discussed possibly becoming Co-Chair for PEERS

b. Concentrations

i. IGFP

1. Lexie discussed not having effective way of communicating with students
2. Melissa suggested reaching out to faculty and field advisor

ii. CORG - *Vacant*

iii. POPR

1. Melissa discussed wanting a social event with policy students in form of a meet and greet and will discuss more with Molly
2. Bringing a speaker, professor from Westconn social work
3. Suggestion made to collaborate with other concentrations, perhaps a panel with other concentrations.

c. School Committees

i. Educational Policy Committee (EPC) - *Vacant*

ii. Educational Review Committee (ERC)

1. No updates

iii. Field Education Advisory Committee

1. No updates

iv. Center for International Social Work Studies Advisory Committee

1. Megan discussed first meeting and planning events, discussed podcasts as an alternative to Zoom meetings

v. Just Community Committee

1. Nina discussed anti-oppressive practices as a goal for Just Community
2. Solidarity hours open conversations on Webex, first Fridays of every month 12:00-1:00PM
3. Hosting “Community Hour” educational workshop on a specific theme or topic
4. Nina discussed wanting to be involved in a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event
5. Social Justice Spotlight open to students submitting essays on social justice, \$5 gift card if the piece is published
6. During election week, hosting solidarity hours daily leading up and also the day after
7. Nina discussed working on governance document

d. Co-Chairs

- i. Victoria discussed the GroupMe for GSO for easier communication
- ii. Event overview
 1. Victoria discussed the importance of the interest groups sending the executive team/liasons the Proposed Events Forms as soon as possible
 2. Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - a. Lauren will discuss further with PEERS, Just Community, and any others interested in a collaborative event

VI. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations

- a. Vicky discussed anti-racism course that is being offered for 1 credit
- b. Trisha discussed minimizing the amount of emails by putting things on the SSW Daily Digest, if members need any information sent out email Trisha or the Student Services email that day by at least 12:00PM
 - i. Trisha discussed Mental Health First Aid Certification that is shared in the Daily digest, as well as scholarship opportunities that are due in October
- c. Lexie discussed wanting a Huskython team to benefit children’s medical center for fundraising purposes and bring attention to the SSW
 - i. Trisha will send out this information in the Daily Digest tomorrow, along with the PEERS event information
- d. Molly discussed creation of non-GSO Facebook group with no staff or faculty

VII. Action Steps

- a. Kristine will share: minutes from today’s meeting, GSO meetings schedule, liaison roles and their contact information, budget breakdown, Proposed Events Form, GSO goals sheet. scholarship site, Facebook group
- b. Steering Committee members should complete the GSO goals sheet and Proposed Events Form as soon as possible

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 2:37PM

Kristine Jon, Secretary

Date

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO
Advisor

Date