

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, 17 November 2020 | 1:30PM – 3:00PM | WebEx**

**Members Present:**

**Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble** – GSO Advisor (*left at 2:00PM*)

**Victoria Szantyr** – GSO Co-Chair

**Molly Franco** – GSO Co-Chair

**Kristine Jon** – GSO Secretary

**Lauren Perrone** – GSO Treasurer

**Natalie O'Connor** – OSAS Program Assistant

**Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.** – DSO Co-Chair

**Carley Taft** – PRIDE Co-Chair

**Deja Perry** – OBSWS Co-Chair

**Gabrielle Mitchell** – OBSWS Co-Chair

**Lexie Soja** – IGFP 1<sup>st</sup> Year Chair/ PEERS Co-Chair

**Melissa Keilty** – POPR Chair

**Nina Rodriguez** – Just Community Representative

**Sarah Baden** – Field Ed Advisory

**Sarah Smith** – CORG Chair

**Sophie Fortunato** – SAMI Co-Chair

**Megan Wolfe** – International Committee Board/PEERS Co-Chair

**David Reyes** – LASO Chair

**I. Meeting called to order at 1:32PM**

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

**II. Updates/Announcements**

- a. Trisha discussed the email from Natalie on changes to the academic calendar
  - i. Last day of class is Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, last day of field Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ii. Molly asked about the commencement date and when it would be finalized
    1. Trisha said May 9<sup>th</sup> (same as conferral date)
    2. Trisha reminded everyone applying for graduation to look at transcripts for incomplete grades
  - iii. Alberto asked whether classes can still be held the week of Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, Trisha said she will be discussing in a meeting with faculty and information will be sent out in an email to instructors.

1. Trisha discussed grades will now be due Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>
- b. Trisha discussed how this affects field work and those doing remote trainings, dates are being worked out on when the field advisor should submit hours

### **III. Treasurer Report**

- a. Lauren discussed the step-by-step guide for accessing GSO funds and the three requirements that should be sent to her at the GSO treasurer email:
  - i. The quote which needs to come directly from the vendor
  - ii. The three questions that must be answered
  - iii. Flyer for proposed event
- b. Molly discussed the importance of getting these three items sent to Lauren as required by the university, Kristine will send out the guide again in the email with minutes
- c. Lauren asked if there are any events that need to be voted on for December
  - i. Alberto discussed the Society for Social Work and Research conference, but is unsure of how many students are attending, \$75 for members and \$125 if not a member. He will be prepared to present this for vote by the Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting
- d. Molly asked if something is being paid for online for GSO events, how the process is done because there are no reimbursements being given
  - i. Trisha discussed a card that is tied to the GSO trustees, they will use the card after being sent the information and then send the receipt
  - ii. Trisha and Lauren will send the information from the meeting Nov 18 to the executive team who will then relay to everyone else

### **IV. Updates**

#### **a. Interest Groups**

- i. **Latin American Student Organization (LASO)**
  1. David discussed developing the mission statement and recruiting members
- ii. **Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS)**
  1. BH365
    - a. Gabrielle announced Deja has been working with BH365 for Kwanzaa
    - b. Deja discussed a flyer is being made for this event and will be sent out soon
  2. Gabrielle discussed the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> yoga event
  3. Gabrielle discussed plans for a Spring event, a virtual hip hop gameshow and hoping to collaborate with other groups because it is costly
- iii. **PRIDE**
  1. Carley discussed solidarity hour during election week but no turn out and brainstorming for next semester's events
- iv. **Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI)**
  1. Sophie discussed the film screening during election week and trying to recruit more members
  2. Molly asked about Facebook group for SAMI and if there are any ideas or need help promoting it

- a. Sophie will ask Matt about the Facebook and discussed the Instagram page
  - v. **Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)**
    - 1. Alberto discussed the Society for Social Work and Research conference and some doctoral students presenting
      - a. Vicky requested information to be sent out so some masters students can attend
  - vi. **Providing Education, Empowerment, Resources & Support (PEERS)**
    - 1. Lexie discussed planning for events for Spring semester
- b. **Concentrations**
  - i. **IGFP**
    - 1. Lexie discussed IGFP faculty are trying to figure out what to do for field education
  - ii. **CORG**
    - 1. Sarah discussed looking for her advisor to speak to CORG students
  - iii. **POPR**
    - 1. Melissa planned for a speaker but will shift focus on career planning
    - 2. Melissa discussed wanting to collaborate with CORG for macro events
- c. **School Committees**
  - i. **Educational Policy Committee (EPC)**
    - 1. Melissa discussed the meeting 11/16 and the lack of communication between students and school, leave of absence means entire semester is invalidated and there is not enough communication between field advisors
    - 2. Asynchronous vs synchronous classes and needs to discuss with Lexie for IGFP
  - ii. **Educational Review Committee (ERC) – Absent**
    - 1. No Updates
  - iii. **Field Education Advisory Committee**
    - 1. Sarah Baden discussed the field education meeting and discussing the impact of pandemic on field placement and hoping for more remote placement options, a lot of schools are looking to be hybrid in the next semester
    - 2. Sarah discussed in the meeting how students with no field placements are having difficulty with assignments that hinge on field work, faculty will discuss with professors again and that all professors are required to give different assignments, Sarah said to email Brenda Kurz if professor will not give alternate assignment
      - a. Vicky asked if this information was sent out to the student body and suggested working with OSAS to send it out so students are informed of this option
      - b. Sarah will follow up and suggest sending information out
    - 3. Sarah discussed they are looking for a BSW field advisory member

- 4. Sarah will be setting up survey to send out to students for questions and comments to bring back to the committee
  - a. Molly discussed not having enough variety of meaningful opportunities for field placements for policy students, lot of positions being recycled
  - b. Sarah Smith echoed this sentiment, feeling limited and what community organizing is meant to entail especially since the school is located in Hartford
- iv. **Center for International Social Work Studies Advisory Committee**
  - 1. Megan discussed the Global Impact of Covid-19 event last week and will be sending out a recording for students who could not attend
- v. **Just Community Committee**
  - 1. Nina discussed election solidarity hours went well and had some BSW students attending as well
  - 2. Nina discussed there will be a body positivity awareness month in February and Nina will be leading women's month in March
- d. **Co-Chairs**
  - i. Molly announced that in person events will likely not be possible with cases spiking up again
  - ii. Molly discussed a possible larger event the executive team can host with No White Saviors teaching in Spring
- V. **Additional questions, concerns, recommendations**
  - a. Molly discussed the AARP film screening with registration beforehand
- VI. **Meeting adjourned** at 2:28PM

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Kristine Jon, Secretary

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Date

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Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO Advisor

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Date