

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, 16 February 2021 | 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  
**Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.** – DSO Chair  
**Lexie Soja** – IGFP Concentration Chair/PEERs Co-Chair  
**Nina Rodriguez** – Just Community Representative  
**Megan Wolfe** – International Advisory Committee  
**Melissa Keilty** – POPR Chair/EPC Chair  
**Matthew Stayner** – SAMI Co-Chair  
**Lynne Alexander** – ERC Chair  
**Sarah Smith** – CORG Chair  
**David Reyes** – LASO Chair  
**Gabrielle Mitchell** – OBSWS Co-Chair  
**Nina Heller** – Dean (*joined at 2:30PM*)  
**Joanne Corbin** – Associate Dean (*joined at 2:30PM*)

**I. Meeting called to order** at 1:35PM

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

**II. Updates/Announcements**

- a. Trisha discussed the final plans of study for students who are graduating
- b. Trisha discussed OSAS alumni panels and licensure preparation course for 50 students who are graduating
  - i. Sarah asked if the course would be for micro students
    - 1. Trisha clarified the workshop will be open to any graduating student about the LMSW and how to prepare for the exam, with books being mailed out

**III. Treasurer Report**

- a. Approval of budget for trainings and GSO executive events
  - i. Lauren discussed the Mental Health First Aid certification course, 20 seats each for two dates in March, \$3,000 with 3 facilitators
    - 1. Lauren made a motion to approve, Molly seconded the motion  
14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

- ii. Molly discussed the No White Saviors event, total cost \$900 on March 19
      - 1. Molly motioned to approve, Lauren seconded the motion  
14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
    - iii. Trisha explained it is possible to get field hours for these events, but field instructor needs to approve
  - b. **Vote on DSA SASFAC documents – Final Budget Approval**
    - i. Open discussion – questions
      - 1. **Question by DSO: Alberto – what is under the category gifts**
      - 2. **Gift equals prizes, promo items, etc.**
    - ii. **Motion to move for the documents sent out -**
    - iii. *Student Activity and Service Free Fact Sheet FY21 SSW*
    - iv. *Student Activity Fund FY23 Budget Questions – SSW*
    - v. *Student Activity Fee Budget Projection Form FY 20-23*
      - 1. Lauren made a motion to approve, Molly seconded the motion  
14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
  - c. OBSWS Paint and Sip event – 2/19/2021
    - i. Voted on previously

#### IV. Updates and Votes on particular upcoming events

- a. **Co-Chairs**
  - i. Vicky discussed the NARCAN training, Trisha added there is a course that does both NARCAN and CPR training
    - 1. Sarah discussed there is a NARCAN training being offered on Thursday 2/18, free for UConn students
  - ii. Molly mentioned the No White Saviors event speaking on white saviorism
    - 1. Vicky discussed her meeting with the organization and the topic being how to use the tools from the school of social work at a systematic level
  - iii. Molly asked the group about having an end of the year party for graduation
    - 1. Sarah suggested having a smaller community event
- b. **Interest Groups**
  - i. **Latin American Student Organization (LASO)**
    - 1. David discussed looking for another chair and collaborating with OBSWS in the upcoming months
  - ii. **Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS)**
    - 1. Gabrielle discussed the Paint and Sip event on Friday 2/19 with a few more slots open
      - a. *Total: \$575*
    - 2. Collaborating with BH365 for a panel
    - 3. Live virtual hip hop game show in April and opened the event for collaboration from other groups
  - iii. **PRIDE**
    - 1. No updates
  - iv. **Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI)**

1. Matthew discussed possibly having an event at the end of March with speakers
- v. **Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)**
  1. Alberto discussed having a meetup at the end of the month
- vi. **Providing Education, Empowerment, Resources & Support (PEERS)**
  1. Lexie discussed collaborating with PRIDE for QPR training
  2. She also expressed interest in doing a sound meditation
    - a. Sarah offered getting a contact if Lexie's contact does not work out
- c. **Concentrations**
  - i. **IGFP**
    1. Lexie opened the floor to hear more feedback from IGFP students and other concentration students
      - a. Gabrielle discussed the professors who are having difficulty adjusting to virtual settings and students having to adjust for them instead
      - b. Sarah and Megan agreed and the frustrations of online classes
      - c. Trisha discussed reaching out to her and OSAS who can step in and help
  - ii. **CORG**
    1. Sarah reached out to a potential speaker and connecting with someone for career development
  - iii. **POPR**
    1. Melissa discussed getting speakers for March panel and requested help from other interest groups
- d. **School Committees**
  - i. **Educational Policy Committee (EPC)**
    1. Melissa discussed the concern between macro students taking micro electives and not being enough availability
    2. She brought up a course on loss and grief and the impact of globalization
  - 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 an event March 4, discussion on international social work with a guest speaker
    2. Megan will send out the flyers once everything is finalized
  - v. **Just Community Committee**
    1. Nina discussed the monthly solidarity hours
      - a. March 5 after the field seminar for students only
      - b. April 2 Nina hosting solidarity hour
      - c. May 7 final solidarity hour
    2. Hartford campus admin to develop a book club program for the next year

3. Feb 23 [Sizeism](#) workshop in support of body awareness

**V. Dean and Associate Dean**

- a. Dean Heller and Dr. Corbin introduced themselves and opened the floor to discussion on how students are doing
  - i. Sarah discussed the fatigue of being online, and the disparity of professor's teaching styles virtually making learning difficult
  - ii. Megan mentioned the problems with technical difficulties professors are having impacting the quality of classes
- b. Dean Heller and Dr. Corbin discussed that expressing concerns to them is important, as they do not see the comments on evaluations
- c. Molly asked what the connection between the field office is with the Dean and Associate Dean, and how many classes rely on field for assignments
  - i. Dean Heller and Dr. Corbin discussed the academic affairs team, and the head of field director and the head of the MSW program is working with faculty in adjusting those assignments
    1. Molly discussed these issues were present even before the pandemic with hypothetical cases being made up for many situations, Sarah agreed with the frustration in creating hypotheticals
    2. Dr. Corbin and Dean Heller discussed the importance of recognizing these issues were present before COVID-19 and exacerbated by it
  - ii. Dean Heller asked what students' experiences were with advising
    1. Molly discussed the confusion around having different advisors with several titles and roles, and would prefer to have one advisor that the student works with throughout the program
      - a. Dean Heller agreed in wanting to have that model so the advisor could serve as a mentor as well
    2. Lexie agreed with Molly, and that the information being relayed was different than what their advisors were being told
      - a. Dr. Corbin explained they are trying to streamline information and the Daily Digest is the best place to receive key academic information, but they are open to recommendations for how to best communicate with students
      - b. Dr. Corbin discussed Trisha working to have advisors getting training
    3. Lauren agreed with Lexie and not knowing who to go to because the conflicting information and the gray area students are living in because of this, such as conflicting end dates for field
      - a. Dr. Corbin discussed April 23 is the set date for field to be over, but to be in discussion with their field instructor if there are individual arrangements made
- iii. Dean Heller expressed how helpful it is to get other perspectives and Dr. Corbin discussed the importance of helping direct students to the right advisors

**VI. Meeting adjourned at 3:02PM**

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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