

**UConn SSW Graduate Student Organization**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, 20 April 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  
**Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.** – DSO Chair  
**Carley Taft** – PRIDE Co-Chair  
**Lexie Soja** – IGFP Concentration Chair/PEERs Co-Chair  
**Lynne Alexander** – PRIDE Co-Chair/ERC Chair  
**Nina Rodriguez** – Just Community Representative  
**Megan Wolfe** – International Advisory Committee  
**Melissa Keilty** – POPR Chair/EPC Chair  
**David Reyes** – OBSWS Co-Chair  
**Sarah Smith** – CORG Chair

**Absent:**

Lauren Perrone - GSO Treasurer  
Sarah Baden – Field Ed Advisory  
Sophie Fortunato – SAMI Co-Chair  
Matthew Stayner – SAMI Co-Chair  
Gabrielle Mitchell – OBSWS Co-Chair  
Deja Perry – OBSWS Co-Chair

**I. Meeting called to order** at 1:33PM

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

**II. Updates/Announcements**

- a. OBSWS hip hop event did not take place so the approved budget is still there
- b. NARCAN training approved for Friday 4/23
  - i. Sarah discussed with facilitator of NARCAN trainings about kits, vendor wants to give them to Sarah and have her ship them out to students
  - ii. Trisha discussed possibly having the OSAS office shipping kit to students or offering pick up option

- c. DSO gift cards in process to be approve
  - III. Treasurer Report**
    - a. Alberto discussed self-care package for 19 doctoral students for \$735 at Barnes and Noble for mugs and water bottles
      - i. Trisha asked if they considered using another vendor
      - ii. Alberto stated DSO prefers to use Barnes and Noble
        - 1. Molly made a motion to vote, Sarah Smith seconded  
11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions
- IV. Updates**
  - a. **Interest Groups**
    - i. **Latin American Student Organization (LASO)**
      - 1. David had no updates
    - ii. **Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS) – Absent**
      - 1. BH365
    - iii. **PRIDE**
      - 1. Lynne discussed reaching out to departments about career programs but little interest because of low attendance for virtual events
    - iv. **Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI) – Absent**
    - v. **Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)**
      - 1. Alberto discussed wrapping up semester, had small virtual happy hour
      - 2. June 6 picnic from 1-4, all invited, though funds from GSO will not cover it
        - a. Event is still happening
    - vi. **Providing Education, Empowerment, Resources & Support (PEERS)**
      - 1. Lexie discussed cancelling sound therapy because of scheduling conflicts
  - b. **Concentrations**
    - i. **IGFP**
      - 1. Lexie no updates
    - ii. **CORG**
      - 1. Sarah discussed research and career courses
    - iii. **POPR**
      - 1. Melissa discussed field concerns
  - c. **School Committees**
    - i. **Educational Policy Committee (EPC)**
      - 1. Melissa discussed research courses
    - ii. **Educational Review Committee (ERC)**
      - 1. Lynne had no updates
    - iii. **Field Education Advisory Committee – Absent**
      - 1. Molly discussed the field town hall and discussions of student concerns and that they would put a list of field placements online for students to look through
      - 2. Trisha discussed new hire in field office who will be starting in May

3. Vicky discussed understanding the field office’s situation with incoming students and vaccines rolling out, Lynne continued the discussion on turnover and agencies handling during the pandemic
- iv. Center for International Social Work Studies Advisory Committee**
  1. Megan discussed partnering with Just Community for Solidarity Hour
  2. Working on new strategic plan and highlighting international placements and visible within the school of social work
- v. Just Community Committee**
  1. Nina discussed meeting on May 4 final meeting
  2. Shifting of roles of staff and faculty and new members coming onboard
- d. Co-Chairs**
  - i.** Molly discussed RBF training and good option to have on the vendor list for next year
- V. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations**
  - a. Lynne discussed recovery ally training and another training on Monday
  - b. The group took time to congratulate and shout out members for their efforts and achievements this year
  - c. Molly discussed the GSO handbook she created and will share
  - d. Sarah asked if the online platform would be continued to be used for GSO, Trisha discussed change in meeting times and schedules and what works best for students
  - e. Discussion of filling GSO positions
  - f. Trisha discussed virtual graduate recognition May 14 at 6PM and having every graduating student submitting a photo
    - i.** Molly asked for interest in a hangout celebration after the recognition
  - g. Trisha discussed not allowing students to give away tickets because of safety concerns
  - h. Lynne discussed [WGSS conference](#) over the weekend with Alberto speaking
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 2:24PM**

---

Kristine Jon, Secretary

---

Date

---

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne-Noble, GSO Advisor

---

Date