

**Minutes February 26, 2019**  
**GSO Steering Committee**  
**1:30-2:30**  
**HTB Room 216**

**Members Present:**

**Bree'Ana Johnson-** GSO Co-Chair  
**Laura Salerni-** GSO Co-Chair  
**Ciara Velazquez-** GSO Secretary  
**Sarah Dottor-** PRIDE Co-Chair/Treasurer arrived at 1:40pm  
**Kristina Carvalho-** PRIDE Co-Chair  
**Elizabeth Halla-Mattingly-** Administration Chair arrived at 1:34pm  
**Aliyah Henry-** SAMI, Chair arrived at 2:09 pm  
**Isabella Randazzo-** IGFP Co-Chair  
**Morgan Reiss-** Field Education Student Representative & POPR Chair  
**Erika Mott-** Educational Policy Committee, Student Representative  
**Milagros Marrero-Johnson-** GSO Advisor  
**Megan Krementowski-** MSW Student

**I. Meeting called to order at 1:34pm**

**II. Updates/Announcements**

**A. PRIDE**

- i. Sarah attended the EPC meeting and stated it went well. The faculty will be including the gender inclusive language in the syllabi.
- ii. One of the concerns were that the faculty felt there hasn't been enough training to answer questions regarding this matter
- iii. Sarah expressed that they are willing to collaborate with professors regarding the training piece. They have facilitated several trainings regarding gender inclusive language.
- iv. The gender inclusive language may be included for the summer.

**B. OBSWS Re: Black History Month**

- i. Bree'Ana expressed that UCONN did not give Black History month much recognition till 2/14.
- ii. Bree'Ana stated that she felt it was a disservice to students of color at the university and the university should have put in more efforts.
- iii. 50% of student body are students of color and they too should feel validated
- iv. GSO co-chairs wrote a letter to dean and associate dean expressing their concerns regarding the lack of Black History month programing.
- v. A committee was supposed to plan some events for Black History month, but it seems as if it was not a priority and someone dropped the ball.

- vi. Bree'Ana thought it would be a great idea for OBSWS and the GHABSW chapter to also be included in the committee next year.
- vii. The administration submitted an apology to the black students regarding the disservice to the students of color about the Black History month.
- viii. Laura commended Bree'Ana for advocating on behalf of the student body.

### **III. Voting**

#### **A. Approval of February 5<sup>th</sup> minutes**

- i. Laura requested a motion to vote for the approval of the February 5<sup>th</sup> minutes
- ii. Morgan made the motion, Liz second the motion,  
9 in favor, 0 abstention, 0 opposed

### **IV. Treasurer**

- i. Sarah reviewed the treasurer report for February and March and have sent emails regarding left over funds.
- ii. Sarah requested a motion to approve the treasurer report
- iii. Morgan made a motion, Kristina second the motion, floor was open for discussion
- iv. Milagros recommended removing the DSO expenditure voucher.
- v. Sarah fixed the report and removed DSO and included the amounts of \$276.37 and \$210.00 for UCONN.  
9 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

### **V. Updates**

#### **A. Co-Chairs**

- a. Leadership Interest (current leaders and recruitment)
  - i. Megan is interested in the EPC co-chair's position for the fall term.
  - ii. Laura wanted to know whose interested in returning to GSO next year
  - iii. The following students are interested in pursuing GSO next fall:  
Morgan would be continuing with field education and POPR; Megan is interested in EPC; Sarah will be continuing with the positions of PRIDE and Treasurer.  
Kristina will be continuing as the PRIDE Co-chair.  
Ciara is uncertain at the time.
  - iv. The current co-chairs are thinking of doing recruiting events for their positions
- b. Headshots at Social Workers' Network
  - i. The location for the headshots was planned to be in the library but unfortunately there is no space. It will now be held in the SSW Rm G09.
  - ii. Emails will be sent out with the information. 38 spots are filled thus far. There are 10 spots remaining.
- c. Human Trafficking
  - i. 15-20 people have signed up thus far. Tammy Sneed, the director of DCF will be the training facilitator.
  - ii. There will be one more email sent for participants who may still be interested in the training.

- iii. The training will take place on Thursday 3/7/19 from 1:00pm-1:30pm in the HTB Community Room; Lunch will be provided and begin at 1:00pm. The training will be held from 1:30pm -3:30pm.
- iv. Anyone who is interested to take this training will have to attend the entire training from 1:30-3:30pm.
- v. There is currently a lot of awareness around Human trafficking and this will be a great training to add to your resume.

d. Community Service

- i. The community service event is up in the air due to some logistics.
- ii. One of the members of the executive committee would have to go to an orientation session to be the leader of the project, through urban alliance. The orientation is 3:30-45 min long this Friday at 3:30pm. There will be a second orientation 3/13 @11am.
- iii. Bree'Ana cannot make these dates and asked for someone to be able to attend to be the point of contact person at the event. The person must be trained and be present for the event.
- iv. Ciara may be able to attend but will keep in touch with Bree'Ana.

e. Leadership Dinner

- i. The leadership dinner is currently in the works and everyone will be updated, and an email will be sent out regarding the details.

f. Soiree

- i. The event for the graduating student will possibly be at a venue. The venue is TBD.
- ii. Bree'Ana asked if anyone is interested in planning for the soiree? Isabella stated she would be interested in the planning for the event.

g. Constitution

- i. Milagros expressed that she thought the voting went well, but unfortunately 20% of student body had to vote and we only had 16% of the student body who voted.
- ii. There are various ideas in mind to get the votes for the approval of the constitution. Unfortunately, that means we will have to reopen the vote again and all previous votes will be erased.
- iii. One of the ideas were to have laptops at any GSO event taking place to help students to vote.
- iv. Another idea was to reach out to faculty and have students vote in class. Any other suggestions are welcomed.
- v. The constitution will reopen on 3/1/19-3/31/19.
- vi. Liz suggested talking to advisors during field advising and have students vote during their field seminars.
- vii. Morgan suggested talking about the vote in class and bringing awareness to other students on their role in the vote. We can possibly give out sticker that says "I Voted" as an incentive.

B. Interest Groups

- a. OBSWS- no updates
- b. PRIDE

- i. PRIDE is trying to come up with a date for a fun event, they are waiting for the voucher to get approved,
  - ii. The fun event will be stuffing a husky and will take place around the end of the school year. PRIDE will partner with OBSWS for this event. There will only be 24 huskies available, so it will be a first come first serve basis. Date/Time TBD
  - iii. Bree'Ana and Laura suggested maybe GSO can chip in to get more huskies if people want people to sign up
  - iv. Sarah stated that PRIDE meetings are seeing better turnouts; there were 8 people during last event
  - v. Kristina stated that there is a TRUE COLORS conference coming up and they are looking for volunteers. It is a 2-day conference in Storrs, if anyone is interested and the deadline is on 3/1. To apply go to the PRIDE Instagram page and there is a link available.
- c. SAMI
- i. Aliyah stated that the meetings are going well for SAMI. The first meeting was last week.
  - ii. There will be an upcoming panel presentation on Tuesday 3/12 from 11:00am-1:30pm in the lower part of SSW
  - iii. Be on the bars conference is coming up next Thursday at 6:30pm email will be sent out with more information.
- C. Concentrations
- a. IGFP
    - i. There will be a mixer on 3/8 during break, in the LL SSW from 11:00am till 1pm
  - b. ADMN
    - i. Liz stated that a networking event with Policy is coming up next Friday from 11:30am till 1 pm at the FRONT STREET BISTRO
    - ii. ADMN is also thinking about doing another panel event to talk to other macro work professionals in the field work about balance and personal/ work experiences.
    - iii. Morgan stated IGFP students emailed them expressing their interest in joining this event.
    - iv. If anyone knows of current macro social workers, feel free to let them know. There have been 5 confirmations but so far only from white women. Morgan stated she would like to incorporate some professionals of color.
  - c. PORP- No updates
- D. School Committees
- a. Educational Policy Committee
    - i. The last EPC meeting was held on 2/18 around the gender inclusive language, the committee was more receptive. They also talked about CO block field option as well.

- ii. The next meeting will be held on 3/25. They are planning to talk about more in depth about teaching electives and the process. If anyone is interested in
- iii. something to bring up in the next meeting feel free to share. Erika stated that Megan will take over the EPC Student Representative position next year.
- b. Educational Review Committee- No updates
- c. Field Education Advisory Committee
  - i. There will be a meeting coming up on 3/26. Morgan spoke with the director what they hope to get out of the semester goals to attempt to get field education orientation with new student body coming in. There will be discussion around this in the faculty meeting.
  - ii. Milagros is not sure if it will be too much to add that to orientation or field orientation. Students complained previously, and it did not work out before.
- d. Just Community- No updates

**VI.** Additional questions, comments, recommendations

- i. Bree'Ana and Laura stated that there seems to be a lack of communication with the school and the student body around communication that 4 faculty of color are leaving at the end of the semester. Miriam Valdovinos, Antonia Cordero, Barris Malcolm and Edna Comer. The student body would like to know how are we making up for that faculty of color? The two hires coming in are not people of color. There must be better communication. The Co-Chairs will be emailing the dean around their concerns in this matter.
- ii. Milagros stated there is a level of transparency with student body and faculty. What are the plans for these positions?
- iii. Sarah stated UCONN in Storrs updates when faculty are retiring in the UCONN digest

**VII.** Adjournment at 2:34pm.

**Signatures:**

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Ciara Velazquez, Secretary

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Date

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Milagros Marrero-Johnson, GSO Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

