



**Graduate Student Senate  
Meeting of the Whole– April 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2019**

22 People in Attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Joey Campbell, Jessica Bocanegra, Aayudh Das, and Mahafuza Aktar

Senator Attendees: Brandon Ackley, Jeffrey Adams, Rosie Chapina, Erin Cullen, Kevin Fischer, Humon Heidarian, Mara Hintz, Molly Hurd, Rigo Melgar-Melgar, Jaspreet Singh Nagi, Rosy Neale, Bharat Poudel, Anoob Prakash, Avery Rasmussen, Berke Tinaz, Ashley Waldron, Alissa White, Lindsay Worley

GSS Recognized Club Attendees: ISA, NSA, MRS, SPG, IRSA, Women in STEM

Minutes were recorded by Mahafuza Aktar.

Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet.

*Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jessica Bocanegra at 11:00 am.*

**Discussion with Dr. Sherwood Smith**

- Dr. Sherwood Smith talked about his role at UVM
- He is the director of Center for Cultural Pluralism
- The Center for Cultural Pluralism supports diversity, engagement, and professional development
- His primary role is to make students from diverse background feel welcome at UVM and create a safe space for the development of this community
- He also discussed the different roles of the identity centers at UVM
- Dr. Smith mentioned that there are many dimensions of diversity and that individuals claim numerous identities
- Dr. Smith talked about implicit bias

- One senator asked why there is no campus wide diversity training and he suggested that GSS can organize diversity training for graduate students
- Another senator asked him how to talk about racism without making other people uncomfortable
- Graduate students who are in STEM are not required to complete any coursework or training concerning race, gender or power
- History graduate students take courses that talk about power dynamics
- English graduate program students take courses about feminism and racism

Meeting minutes were approved by the senate: Minutes were sent via email for 2/27/ 2019

## **Executive Board Updates**

### **Vice-President Updates: Jessica Bocanegra**

- Events coming up for the rest of the semester:
  - April 5, Grads Movie night at Roxy Cinema
  - April 12, 9 am to 10:30 am- Coffee break – GSS office
  - April 24, 11 am to 1 pm – Senate Meeting – Waterman 338
  - Events with dates TBD: Professional Headshot Photos, Grads Give Back at the Intervale
- If any graduate students are interested in volunteering at an SRC workshop, they can email Jessica Bocanegra
- GSS Awards are closing Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Jessica discussed the roles of GSS Executive Board Members, as stipulated in the constitution, ahead of the upcoming elections.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts Committee: Jessica Bocanegra**

- Discussed UC system split from Elsevier
- Discussed Distinguished Professor nominations

### **Student Research Conference Planning Committee: Brandon Ackley**

- Largest SRC yet
- Looking for volunteers to moderate sessions
- They want help from GSS to advertise “How to pitch your research” workshop
- Special two hour social science session at the end of the day

### **Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee: Camille Marcotte**

- Passed significant revisions to the CDE certificate in gerontology
- Passed new designation of service-learning courses to be a dual designation of either service- learning or civic-learning course
- New enrollment demand analysis service is available to academic units that are considering developing a new program and need to illustrate that there is need/demand for the program.

### **GSS Parking Committee: Bharat Poudel**

- Reviewed the staff council letter to the administration regarding parking constraints on

- campus, nothing has been finalized yet
- Final draft will be created next meeting

**GSS Maternity and Family Leave Action Committee: Molly Hurd**

- The committee met with Dean Forehand on 3/29/19
- The committee has officially begun drafting a parental leave policy and they will present the policy to the executives of the Graduate College in early May
- They are hoping to have the official policy in place by the fall

**GSS Stipend Committee: Jaspreet Singh Nagi**

- They are planning to analyze all the survey data
- They discussed and distributed tasks to complete the data analysis and report

*Meeting Adjourned*