Minutes October 23, 2018
GSO Steering Committee
1:30-2:30
HTB Room 216

Members Present:
Milagros Marrero-Johnson- GSO Advisor
Bree’Ana Johnson- GSO Co Chair (Arrived at 1:41pm)
Laura Salerni- GSO Co Chair
Nary Rath- Treasurer (Left at 2:00pm)
Ciara Velazquez- Secretary
Sarah Dottor- PRIDE Co Chair
Elizabeth Halla-Mattingly- Administration Chair
Kristina Jackson- OBSWS Co Chair
Aliyah Henry- SAMI Chair
Maria Cosgrove-Advanced Standing IGFP Co Chair
Morgan Reiss- Field Education Student Representative/ Policy Practice Chair (Arrived at 1:45pm)

I. Meeting called to order at 1:34pm by Laura Salerni
II. Quick Discussion of Pronouns
   a. Laura raised the importance of using pronouns and asked Sarah to present on this topic
   b. Sarah explained the importance of pronouns and correlated it to the social work profession, stating it creates an inclusive climate.
   c. Within the language of pronouns there is a definitive way to ask someone what are your pronouns? Instead of what are your preferred pronouns.
   d. Pronouns are not gender related. Most common pronouns are he, his, him and she, hers, her. But some gender-neutral pronouns are they, them, theirs
   e. Sarah explained if you misuse a pronoun the easiest thing to do without offending someone is apologizing, correct the pronoun and move forward that way it does not feel awkward.
   f. Sarah states that on the UConn Rainbow Center Website has a lot of resources on pronouns.
   g. Milagros states we should use these platforms to educate and inform others.
III. Leadership Introductions
   a. Laura informed the committee that Marcus Spinner has written a letter stating he is choosing to disband and no longer be part of the committee as chair of the Students for Social Justice because he wanted to be in a different name outside the confines of a prominently white institution’s control.
   b. Nary informed the committee that she will be stepping down as the treasurer effective Dec. 4, 2018.

IV. Approval of September Minutes
   a. September minutes were sent by Laura to GSO members via email for review
   b. Laura requested a motion
   c. Krystina motioned to approve the minutes
   d. Morgan second the motion
      10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

V. Treasurer Report

   A. Approval of Voucher Request Report
      a. Nary has edited the corrections for the request for vouchers
      b. Nary requested a motion
      c. Elizabeth motioned to approve the October Voucher Check Report
      d. Morgan second the motion
         10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

   B. Approval of Budgets
      a. Nary reviewed the submitted budgets for the following groups and requested a motion to approve:
         DSO $800.00, SAMI $777.00, Policy Practice $582.50, OBSWS $777.00, PRIDE $777.00, GSO $19,415.00, IGFP $525.00, ADMIN $582.50
      b. Aliyah motioned to approve
      c. Maria second the motion
      d. Aliyah had a question regarding funding and an event for SAMI
      e. Nary explained the reimbursement request process that groups are only charged for the actual amount of the expense even if they requested an amount for more money
      f. Krystina asked if the event occurred and a voucher was not submitted could it be a personal reimbursement?
      g. Nary explained the process, Milagros stated all vouchers have to be pre-approved
      h. Nary gave an extension until Monday for any voucher check request for the next report
         10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
VI. Updates
   a. Bree’Ana would like to do a leadership dinner at the end of December and asked for feedback
   b. Bree’Ana will send out a doodle to everyone to determine the best time for everyone. City Steam is a possible location.

A. Debriefing Bowling Event
   a. Although it was a low turnout, it was a good social experience for students
   b. Ciara shared it was a nice way to engage outside of school groups and enjoy everyone’s company

B. Football Game
   a. There are 9 additional UCONN football tickets
   b. Tickets are available for those who have rsvp’d
   c. Bree ‘Ana suggested to share the information with classmates about the free football tickets.

VII. Interest Groups
   A. LASO no report due to vacancy
   B. OBSWS
      a. Krystina states their next meeting is on 10/25/2018. It will be a casual meeting.
      b. She has also informed the committee that the Greater Hartford Alliance Student Chapter for Black Social Workers are looking for 6 students from UConn to be part of their chapter.
      c. Krystina states she and Shamika are interested in joining but will inquire more information on 11/7/2018 regarding the requirements before deciding on joining.
      d. Bree ‘Ana shared that NAACP is looking for volunteers for the get out and vote function on 11/4, 11/5 and 11/6
   C. PRIDE
      a. Sarah states PRIDE has had great turnout with their meetings with 5 to10 people showing up.
      b. PRIDE will be collaborating with OBSWS on an future event
   D. SAMI
      a. Aliyah stated her main event panel is in mid-November in the social work building, the room is TBD
      b. The panel will consist of students and faculty and to give people space to ask questions

VIII. Concentrations
   E. IGFP
      a. 1st mixer will be held on Friday 10/26/2018 from 11am-1pm in the student lounge.
b. Hot chocolate, donuts, and coffee will be served

c. IGFP will be planning a mixer support group in November to process how the semester is going and how to face some of their challenges.

F. ADMN
   a. Elizabeth wants to do a panel event to talk about different admin work that social workers due
   b. Milagros suggested collaborating with other groups

G. CORG no report due to vacancy

H. POPR
   a. Morgan is working with Nary to coordinate a political luncheon date and time TBD
   b. The luncheon will have students talking about having more placements who deal with political issues; a social work professor may be speaking at this event

IX. School Committees
   I. Educational Policy Committee- Not Present
   J. Educational Review Committee- Not Present
   K. Field Education Advisory Committee
      i. Morgan met with Megan and Regina who wants the students to choose two topics of importance and present it to the committee. 11/6/2018, they are open to any ideas.
      ii. There was discussion around the American Databank and student frustrations
      iii. Aliyah stated students being comfort in the field is important because there are internships where there is tension around racial inequalities
      iv. Morgan stated there could more of a focus to determine better field options
      v. Krystina shared hearing stories from students about the field environments not being conducive for their learning
      vi. Maria adds supervisors take advantage of interns giving them their workload and not providing the correct number of supervision hours
      vii. Bree ‘Ana stated it would be helpful for incoming students to get handout fact sheets
      viii. Bree’ Ana stated the CSWE competencies helped her to understand the expectations of the students rules in field
      ix. Morgan states she will bring to the committee the educational contract barriers students are encountering and the other ideas shared

L. Just Community- Not Present
X. Additional questions, concerns, recommendations
   a. Milagros stated she is proud of everyone for all the work they have put in and appreciates everyone’s time and efforts and the support they have provided to each other
   b. OBSWS has pictures of the voting event on social media they will send to Milagros to include on the website
   c. Sarah provided an update of their requested to EPC student chairs to present inclusive language which include the use of pronouns in the syllabus
   d. Laura asked for a motion to approve for the EPC co-chairs to present it to their committee
   e. Elizabeth motioned for EPC co-chairs to bring PRIDES request to their committee.
   f. Krystina second the motion
   g. Morgan asked is there enough people who understands for example what dysphoria means?
   h. Sarah stated it would be too much to expand on this meeting and it should be up to the instructor
       9 favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
   i. Milagros states it has been approved
   j. Sarah’s next step is to email the EPC chairs that it was approved by GSO and that they should request it to be on the EPC agenda
   k. EPC will discuss it and bring it to the larger faculty to discuss it
   l. Process will take possibly 2-3 month

XI. Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm

Signatures:

____________________________________  ______________________________
Ciara Velazquez, Secretary               Date

____________________________________  ______________________________
Milagros Marrero-Johnson                  Date

GSO Advisor