

**Student Activity and Service Fee Submission Form  
for  
Trustee Organizations (all campuses)**

Welcome to the 2023-24 SASFAC process. If you need timeline, process, or resources, please visit the TSOS website [here](#).

Organization Contact Information

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Display Name

NetID

Theriault, Jocelyn

jrt16103

Email

jocelyn.theriault@uconn.edu

Your Organization:

SSW Graduate Student Organization

Organization Website

[Click to visit](#)

Organization Social Media Information

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Instagram: @uconn\_gso\_ssw Facebook: UConn School of Social Work Graduate Student Organization

Please provide your Organization's Mission and a brief history

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The mission of The Graduate Student Organization of the University of Connecticut (UConn), School of Social Work is to create and strengthen a beneficial environment for its members, matriculated students. Since 1976, the School of Social Work Student Organization, now known as the Graduate Student Organization (GSO), has served as the umbrella organization for student interest groups, concentrations, and representatives to various school-wide committees. The GSO observes and celebrates diversity in all forms through student-led educational and social programs, community service projects, and advocacy opportunities. In efforts to help build student community, GSO provides and approves funding for educational and/or social events. The GSO serves as the channel through which students voice their concerns. Students are encouraged to bring issues to the meetings where they may: a) be given clarification through discussion with other students or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or MSW Program Director, b) be directed to a pre-existing committee appropriate for handling the concern, and/or c) formulate an alternative action plan to solve the issue. In pursuit of this mission, GSO models its conduct in accordance with the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

Please upload a PDF of your current Organizational Chart.

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[UConn SSW GSO Org Chart Spring 2024.pdf](#)

What are your organization's current goals and how do they align with your mission?

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Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the GSO has focused its efforts on rebuilding the organization with the goals of recruiting members, rebuilding student committees, filling student representative positions, and hosting social events to build community within the school of social work. The GSO has made

significant gains this academic year in achieving these goals, though we still hope to involve more students in programming and events. Having GSO members, student interest groups, representatives to school-wide committees, and a strong community of social work students aligns with the GSO mission, as it creates and strengthens a beneficial environment for GSO members.

## Activity Participation and Alignment

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1) Briefly describe the programs and services you provide for your constituents that serve as the primary focus of your organization.

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Currently, the programs and services the GSO provides for its constituents that serve as the primary focus of our organization include providing student representatives to various school-wide committees such as the 3 Program Concentration Committees [Individuals, Groups, and Families Practice (IGFP), Community Organizing (CORG), and Policy Practice (POPR)], Educational Policy Committee, Field Education Committee, and Educational Review Committee. Additionally, GSO hosts social, community, and advocacy events for social work students, and serves as a channel for students to voice their concerns with the School of Social Work.

Who is eligible to participate in your activities?

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Undergraduate students of a specific campus

Graduate students of a specific program(s)

Faculty/Staff

Community Members/Guests

## Financials

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Please note that items 3-5 should total 100%

2) For what purpose do you spend any portion of your budget on the operations of your organization?

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For the operations of our organization, we primarily spend a portion of our budget on payroll for student wages. This semester, we plan to spend more of our budget on costs such as printing, photocopying, postages, refreshments for meetings, and software for promotional materials. These expenses have yet to be approved, but would be approved in an upcoming general body meeting.

3) What percentage of your budget is to support your organization's operations?

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8.43

Does your Organization pay any elected or appointed student leaders?

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Yes

If so, please list and provide a brief explanation of student payroll.

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GSO pays its Secretary and Treasurer, two positions which are filled by current matriculated MSW students attending the School of Social Work. Their wages are based on Connecticut's minimum wage, which is \$15.69 per hour as of Jan 1, 2024. We estimate that the Secretary and Treasurer will work approximately 3-5 hours per week per semester. Given that they may complete more or

less than these projected hours on any given week, we have used the higher end of this range, 5 hours, to project payroll costs for these roles. We calculated these estimates based on 16-week semesters (including breaks).

Does your Organization pay for any non-student staff?

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No

4) What percentage of your budget is for programs and services for students sponsored by your organization (do not include expenses that are for members only)?

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91.57

a) How do you determine if these programs and services meet your organizational goal/priorities?  
b) How do you know if the program, and services you provide meet the needs/expectations of your constituents?

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We determine if programs and services meet the organization's goals and priorities by hosting discussions and votes with member and non-member students at our general meetings. We discuss the connections of the programs and services to the Social Work profession's values, which coincide with our organization. Because our organization is heavily oriented toward addressing community service, student needs, and advocacy, programs, and services are often initiated as a result of what students share with our organization's members and representatives.

Similarly to how we determine if our programs and services meet our goals and priorities, we determine the success of these programs and services by discussing them in our general meetings. In the past, we have also sent our feedback forms and surveys to collect feedback, as well as spoken directly with students who were and were not able to participate in these events and services. This has helped us understand the barriers that may have been present that need to be addressed to improve turnout in the future.

5) For groups that fund Tier II student organizations, what percentage of your budget is allocated to them?

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6) Please explain significant changes in the overall budget (spending plan) for this fiscal year since starting July 1, 2023, when compared to the previous year's budget and this year's original budget.

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The Secretary and Treasurer positions were not filled and compensated in the Fall 2023 semester, so none of our budget was used for those operational costs during the first half of this fiscal year. As of January 27, 2024, both of these positions have been filled and set up to be compensated for their work. Additionally, there were few events planned for the Fall 2023 semester, so the amount spent on events and programs was low as well. The funds requested during the first part of this fiscal year were mainly from the Doctoral Student Organization interest group.

Revenue

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7) What is the current Fee amount per semester/year?

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Storrs Undergraduate [Fees](#)  
Regional Undergraduate [Fees](#)  
GSS Graduate [Fees](#)

8) Does your organization receive income from any source other than student fees?

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No

## Expenses

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9) What are the top organization operational expenditures?

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Payroll - Student Wages

10) How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

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Because last year's organization did not complete the SASFAC packet, it is hard to estimate how organizational expenditures vary from last year to this year. However, in prior years, there have been more organizational expenditures on refreshments and printing. This year, we have not used any of our budget for these categories. We do not have enough information to determine how much of last year's budget was spent on student wages. However, in prior years, the Secretary and Treasurer roles were filled and paid for the entire year. This year, these roles were not filled until the spring semester, and thus less of the budget was spent on compensating these students.

11) What are the top organization expenditures for programs and services that you fund?

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Refreshments - Events and Programs

12) How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

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Because the SASFAC packet was not completed by last year's organization, it is hard to estimate how program and service expenditures vary from last year to this year. However, in prior years, there have been more expenditures on contractual services for programs and services. This year, we do not have significant plans laid out for events and services, so we do not project spending a significant amount of our budget on these contractual services.

So far, most of our funds have gone to our Doctoral Student Organization interest group, which has hosted some networking and celebratory events for which they needed refreshments. We anticipate more spending in this category for this interest group, as well as for other events that GSO hopes to host for the School of Social Work community.

□ Given that there was a large balance in our organization's bank account, we also plan on spending a significant amount on gifts and end-of-the-year events to celebrate and honor students in order to spend down our balance. The organization has yet to vote on a plan on how to spend this money, but there are several ideas for gifts and events that will be considered at upcoming general body meetings.

13) □ What are the top expenditures for Tier II organizations (if applicable) that you fund?

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N/A

14) □ How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

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N/A

### Future Year Spending Plans

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15) □ What are your Organizational priorities, as reflected in your projected budgets, for the next two fiscal years?

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Our Organizational priorities, as reflected in our projected budgets, for the next two fiscal years include funding for our events, programs, and services. As previously stated, our goal is to involve more students with GSO as we continue to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate a large part of recruitment being through events and programming, on which we will be spending the majority of our budget over the next two years.

16) Is your Organization seeking a fee increase?

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No

### Fund Balance

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17) If your Organization should carry over funds from one year to the next, what is the ideal (minimum) level of that fund balance and what is the justification for that amount?

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\$5000. This amount helps to provide a buffer for any unanticipated purchases or expenses that come up or to cover payroll and other essential organizational costs that come up before new student fees are deposited to our account. Some student fees are deposited later in the semester due to students being on payment plans that extend past the typical fee bill due dates. This minimum fund balance should help us to cover expenses in the event that our account is still awaiting the deposit of student fees.

18) If your organization is carrying a fund balance above the ideal/minimum level - what planned expenditures are budgeted (in which upcoming fiscal year) with the intention to bring down the fund balance to ideal levels?

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As stated in question 12, we do anticipate our organization to carry a fund balance above the ideal minimum level at the end of this fiscal year. In this upcoming year, our current plan is to bring down the fund balance by providing gifts and hosting events to celebrate and honor our students. The plans

for these gifts and events have yet to be voted on, but the organization plans to do so in an upcoming general body meeting. If more funds remain after these gifts have been purchased, the remaining fund balance that exceeds the minimum can fund future gifts, programs, and/or services that benefit the School of Social Work community.

Include what your projected balance will be at the end of this year as well as the next two projected years.

FY 24: \$25,378 FY 25: \$16,738 FY 26: \$13,648

Other

Is there any additional information that the Committee should be aware of when reviewing your Organization's budget documentation?

I wasn't able to add in characters other than numbers and some letters for questions 3, 4, 5, & 7 above. Here are the answers below for your reference.

3) This fiscal year we have only had a Secretary and Treasurer serving and paid in the Spring 2024 semester, making our payroll budget lower than usual. We have also not used any of our budget for the other organizational expenses listed above, but plan to use them for meetings and behind-the-scenes operations in the spring. With these lower than usual expenditures, plus our larger-than-average current account balance, the current projected organizational expenses for the remainder of fiscal year 24 represent 8.43% of our budget.

4) The remaining amount of our budget outside of organizational expenses is reserved for programs and services for students, which represents 91.57% of our budget.

5) N/A

7) \$25 per semester. \$50 per year.

Financials

Please upload the SASFAC Excel Sheet

[SASFAC Budget Projection Form UConn SSW GSO 2023-2026.xlsx - 2023-2026 Budget Projection Form.pdf](#)

Advisor & FO Review and Commentary

1.  Is the financial document (specifically the columns 'FY23 Actuals' and 'FY24 Updated', including the fund balance), as presented, an accurate record of the organization's financial status?

Additional Documentation Upload

No Response

Yes

2.  Do you have comments regarding the FY25 Updated or FY26 Projected Budgets?

No

3. Please provide a narrative on the advising and compliance discussions you have had to date with the Org leadership regarding their finances.

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I have met with the GSO executive board frequently to discuss their finances. They have plans to spend the money through events and activities open to all School of Social Work students.

Advisor/FO signature

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Electronically Signed by Jones, Carlton (carlton.jones@uconn.edu) - January 31, 2024 at 1:09 PM (America/New\_York)

### Organization Review and Vote

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You've got through and made any necessary edits:

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Yes

Date of formal Organization Budget approval

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February 6, 2024

Please upload a copy of your Organization's meeting minutes reflecting an affirmative SASFAC packet vote.

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[2 6 24 GSO General Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

## Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Theriault, Jocelyn - January 31, 2024 at 12:56 PM (America/New\_York)

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Task

Task Completed

Jones, Carlton - January 31, 2024 at 1:09 PM (America/New\_York)

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Task

Task Completed

Theriault, Jocelyn - February 7, 2024 at 8:57 PM (America/New\_York)

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Notification

Notification Sent

Clokey, David - February 7, 2024 at 8:57 PM (America/New\_York)

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Notification

Generating PDF

O'Brien, Krista

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# UConn SSW GSO ORGANIZATIONAL CHART SPRING 2024

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Jocelyn Theriault  
Co-Chair

Monique Asselin  
Co-Chair

Elizabeth Ladd  
Secretary

Raven Parker  
Treasurer

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**CONCENTRATION CHAIRS**

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
COMMITTEE**

Angela Rossi, POPR  
Raven Parker, IGFP

**FIELD EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE**

Jocelyn Theriault, IGFP  
Nichole Easley, IGFP

**EDUCATIONAL REVIEW  
COMMITTEES**

Nicole Foster, CORG  
Mira Blumen, CORG

**IGFP**

Elizabeth Ladd  
Olivia LaCasse

**POPR**

Zachary Weingart

**CORG**

Fernando Valenzuela

**ORGANIZATION FOR  
BLACK SOCIAL  
WORKER STUDENTS**

**JUST COMMUNITY**

**LATIN AMERICAN  
STUDENT  
ORGANIZATION**

**CENTER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL  
WORK STUDIES**

**DOCTORAL STUDENT  
ORGANIZATION (DSO)**

Fizza Saghir  
Spencer Evans

Code Description		FY23 Actual Amount	FY24 Original Amount	FY24 Updated Amount	FY25 Original Amount	FY25 Updated Amount	FY26 Projected Amount
Revenues	501.1 General Donations						
	501.2 Foundation Donations						
	501.3 Benefit Fundraiser Donations						
	502 Dues						
	512 Advertising						
	513 Awards and Prizes						
	514 Vendor Commissions						
	515 Contractual Services						
	516 Co-Sponsorship						
	520.1 Admissions Sales						
	520.2 Food Sales						
	520.3 Merchandise Sales						
	520.4 Participation Sales						
	520.5 Services Sales						
	522 Registration/Entry Fees						
	523 Rental						
	524 Travel						
	530 Penalties and Fines						
	531 Miscellaneous Revenue						
	533 Change Fund Returns						
540 Business Taxes							
546 Interest							
547 Student Fees		15,100	16,000	14,900	16,000	15,000	15,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>15,100</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Expenditures	601 Donations						
	602 Dues						
	603 Gifts		1,000	10,000	1,000	5,000	2,500
	604 Photocopying			100		100	100
	605 Postage			100		100	100
	606 Printing		100	200	100	100	100
	607 Promotional Items			200		100	50
	608.1 Refreshments - Organization			1,000	1,500	1,000	1,000
	608.2 Refreshments - Events/Programs			3,750	4,000	3,750	3,750
	609 Subscriptions			120		120	120
	610.1 Supplies - Organization		500	250		500	250
	610.2 Supplies - Events/Programs		1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
	611 Telephone						
	612 Advertising						
	613 Awards and Prizes				100		100
	615.1 Contractual Services - Organization						
	615.2 Contractual Services - Events/Programs		7,831	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	616 Co-Sponsorships						
	617.1 Cost of Food Sold		768				
	617.2 Cost of Merchandise Sold						
	617.3 Cost of Participation						
	617.4 Cost of Services Sold						
	622.1 Registration Fees			3,500		3,500	
	622.2 Entry Fees						
	623 Rental				1,000		1,000
	624 Travel				2,000		2,000
	625 Equipment/Durable Goods						
	626 Equipment - Capital						
	627 Insurance						
	628 Repairs and Maintenance						
629 Utilities							
630 Penalties and Fines							
631 Miscellaneous Expenses				14,783			
633 Change Funds							
640 Business Taxes							
642 Wages - Student		478	3,200	2,510	3,200	5,020	5,020
643 Wages - Non-Student							
645 Wage Taxes - Non-Student							
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>9,077</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>41,863</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>23,640</b>	<b>18,090</b>
<b>Revenues-Expenditures = Change in Fund Balance</b>		<b>6,023</b>	<b>(2,050)</b>	<b>(26,963)</b>	<b>(2,050)</b>	<b>(8,640)</b>	<b>(3,090)</b>
<b>Fund Balance at Start of Year</b>		<b>17,748</b>	<b>23,771</b>	<b>52,341</b>	<b>21,721</b>	<b>25,378</b>	<b>16,738</b>
<b>Fund Balance at End of Year</b>		<b>23,771</b>	<b>21,721</b>	<b>25,378</b>	<b>19,671</b>	<b>16,738</b>	<b>13,648</b>

**UConn School of Social Work GSO General Meeting**

Tuesday February 6, 2024

**7:00-8:30pm**

**Location:** Lower Level Community Room and WebEx

**Please read:** All attachments included with this agenda

**Please bring:** Any information necessary to be approved and disseminated by steering committee

**Attendance:**

*Jocelyn Theriault\** (Co-Chair), *Monique Asselin\** (Co-Chair), *Lizz Ladd\** (Secretary & IGFP chair), *Mira Cohen\** (ERC Rep; left at 8:32), *Fernando Valenzuela\** (CORG chair), *Lucas Amestoy* (MSW Student), *Ikram Hales* (BSW Student), *Angela Rossi\** (EPC Rep), *Elesia Patten* (MSW Student), *Dani Gordon* (BSW Student), *Carlton Jones* (GSO Advisor and Director of OSAS; left at 7:30), *Zach Weingart\** (POPR chair), *Zara Naseer* (MSW Student, joined late)

\*Steering Committee Member

1. Call to Order
  - a. Jocelyn proposes call to order
  - b. Motion to start - Monique
  - c. Second - Fernando
  - d. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
2. Attendance, Introduction of New GSO Leaders, Icebreaker (10 minutes)
3. Purpose/Goals of Today's Meeting (2 minutes)
  - a. Student rep updates
  - b. Vote on SASFAC
  - c. Vote on other proposals to be announced in meeting
    - i. Monique clarified who has voting rights in today's meeting - according to the Constitution, only members on the steering committee have voting rights
    - ii. Question about the possibility of changing these rules so that all members in GSO can vote and the path to achieve this
      1. Jocelyn suggested having members of GSO form a Constitution subcommittee to review it and amend it with changes
    - iii. Monique emphasized the need to spend money in our budget equitably and fair. GSO have lots of funds that have been acquired

by student fees that it should spend on the students who paid them

1. Carlton seconded this importance of spending down our balance so that we can continue to defend the current student activity fee that we collect
4. Approve Past Minutes (1 minute)
    - a. Motion to vote - Mira
    - b. Second - Fernando
    - c. Unanimous vote to approve November General Meeting minutes
  5. Student Rep Updates (30 minutes)
    - a. IGFP Concentration Chairs (Lizz)
      - i. Online MSW program officially piloted
        1. Faculty has expressed some pushback with piloting the program quickly
        2. Faculty are struggling with cutting down the number of electives offered for the online program
      - ii. Curriculum Development
      - iii. Update on OCPC
    - b. CORG Concentration Chair (Fernando)
      - i. Discussing new faculty co-chair for next year
        1. Unsure of the specifics of the role
      - ii. Goals to expand the number of community organizing students
      - iii. Thinking about changing a few course syllabi
        1. Grassroots Organizing, Advanced Macro (never received complete syllabus last year)
        2. CORG and POPR students have brought up issues
        3. Behind the scenes, CORG faculty are figuring out what to change and what to include
      - iv. Raised issue with Field Seminar
        1. Many students felt that the field seminar was biased
        2. Faculty had a meeting about it
        3. Admin staying uninvolved
        4. Meg Feely should follow up with Fernando on the outcome
    - c. POPR Concentration Chair (Zach)
      - i. Zach was asked to leave during certain part of the meeting
        1. Jocelyn believes students are meant to stay for the entire meeting since they are invited as stakeholders
        2. Monique proposed looking into the Constitution to confirm students' roles on concentration and faculty committees
      - ii. Online MSW Program
      - iii. Field seminar

1. POPR faculty want to do it in person, but the majority of policy students feel that it is easier to do it virtually
  2. If they do try to make it in person, they need to give a lot of prior notice
  3. Looking for feedback on what to offer during field seminar
- d. Educational Policy Committee (EPC) (Angela)
- i. No major updates since there haven't been any meetings since October
  - ii. Had emergency meeting in November to approve Online MSW Program
  - iii. Discussed syllabi adjustments, decreasing the number of readings, streamlining readings for students
  - iv. No one currently leading this committee since David Byers left
- e. Educational Review Committee (ERC) (Mira)
- i. One ERC was held in November
    1. Other ERC rep, Nicole, was present
    2. The student left feeling supported
  - ii. Mira and Jocelyn gave an overview of what the ERCs are and what they do
    1. Academic review/review of students if they have had issues in field
    2. Provides external supports for students if needed
  - iii. Proposal was made by ERC members to allow students to submit testimony ahead of time
- f. Field Education Committee (FEC) (Jocelyn)
- i. Jocelyn has continued to emphasize that students are in support of reducing field hours
  - ii. FEC and EPC has moved this initiative along and brought to faculty
  - iii. Goal is to reduced from 1120 to ~960 hours
  - iv. Faculty and admin have not yet vote, but once they do, the result will be shared in the committees
  - v. Trying to expand:
    1. Employed social work programs - expand the ability for students to use paid jobs as their internships
    2. Looking to adjust time of day requirements - allow people to do the majority of field hours in the evenings or weekends
    3. Jocelyn has tried to explain that the context of wanting flexibility in field is because students are unpaid.
    4. Jocelyn emphasized to the attendees that it's important for us to continue to advocate for paid placements

5. Some faculty members on the committee and stakeholders from field agencies are pushing back against paid placements or bringing up students having “reduced work capacity” since COVID
  - a. Jocelyn left the meetings feeling like there were negative undertones about students having “poor work ethics”
- g. Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)
  - i. No DSO student reps present
  - ii. Update skipped
  - iii. Jocelyn shared that there are 3 DSO representatives who are going to work with GSO and try to have a consistent presence in GSO general meetings
6. Voting on Budget Approvals and Requests (15 minutes)
  - a. **SASFAC Budget Projection**
    - i. Jocelyn and Monique gave a review of what SASFAC is
      1. SASFAC stands for Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee
      2. Student organizations have to prepare these documents about what the organization is doing for the year, goals for the year, mission, updated organizational chart and student positions, what our spending was like this year, and how we anticipate it changing in the future
      3. GSO’s revenue comes entirely from student activity fees
        - a. For SASFAC, we give projections on what we think we are going to spend funds on things such as printing, subscriptions, events, food, payroll, etc. for the next couple of years
        - b. We also update the projections that were given in previous years to reflect what we are actually spending currently
      4. This process revolves around our student activity fees
        - a. Engaging in this process gives us a chance to increase or decrease the student activity fees that students are charged, and the defend why we want to change it (or keep it the same)
        - b. GSO’s goal for now is to keep the fee the same and explore more ways that we can spend our funds, such as through an end of the year event or project
      5. Will need to present to SASFAC committee on Thursday

- a. They want to see that the steering committee has approved the packet we put together
- b. Jocelyn acknowledged that she shared the packet on very short notice and that folks may not feel comfortable voting on it today
- c. Jocelyn also shared that we learned about the SASFAC requirements the day before the original due date and have needed several extensions to get it completed before the hearings this week

#### 6. VOTE

- a. Jocelyn, Monique, and Lizz recused themselves from the vote as they were the main preparers on the packet and had a conflict of interest
- b. Motion for Vote to Approve SASFAC Packet - Mira
- c. Second - Fernando
- d. 4 Yes (Fernando, Angela, Mira, Zach), 0 No, 3 Abstained due to conflict of interest (Jocelyn, Monique, Lizz)

#### b. Food for Meetings

- i. Monique proposed a request for \$1500 on snacks and food for the Spring 2024 semester GSO meetings
- ii. Monique recused due to conflict of interest since she proposed the request
- iii. Motion to Vote - Jocelyn
- iv. Second - Mira
- v. 6 Yes (Jocelyn, Lizz, Angela, Zach, Fernando, Mira), 0 No, 1 Abstained due to conflict of interest (Monique)

#### c. Printing

- i. Vote postponed until next general meeting due to limited time and lack of details on the desired request to next meeting

#### 7. Ongoing Business (10 minutes)

- a. Jocelyn proposed scratching ongoing business from the current agenda due to lack of time and lack of updates on ongoing business
- b. Motion - Monique
- c. Second - Fernando

#### 8. New Issues and Concerns (30 minutes)

- a. Student Conference Travel Request (Fernando and Elesia)
  - i. Participated in Puerto Rico Travel Study last year and were asked to present at conference on their experience
    - 1. Conference is in Panama and it's very expensive to attend

- ii. Looked for funding everywhere - MSW students do not have access to much funding for conferences
- iii. Conference is a big deal for the school - platformed on international stage to share experience - good representation of Uconn
- iv. High financial burden as a major barrier to being able to represent Uconn - won't be able to go if they do not secure funding
- v. Presentation will challenge status quo in social work - critical way to represent school
- vi. \$575 for conference fee - already paid as individuals since they could get a discount for booking early
  - 1. But they also did so in hopes that they would get additional funding
- vii. Tried asking if they could volunteer at the conference - were told no due to being from the USA (sliding scale for financial assistance is used based on country of origin GDP)
- viii. Hotel and flights - ~\$2,300 per person (without taxes and food)
- ix. Jocelyn and Fernando discussed the 2 paths GSO could take to fund student travel
  - 1. Option 1: give money directly to students to pay for things (we would be sponsoring their travel and would be liable for them)
  - 2. Option 2: reimbursement (not liable for their safety, etc.)
- x. Fernando and Elesia would like to take the reimbursement route
- xi. Jocelyn shared that Iris will want documentation/quotes with detailed information and receipts that we can provide with the 1 page request for money for reimbursement
- xii. VOTE: Requesting a budget of \$2,500 per person and to be reimbursed up to \$5,000 for flight, conference, and hotel.
  - 1. Fernando recused due to conflict of interest since they helped propose the request
  - 2. Motion to vote - Monique
  - 3. Second - Mira
  - 4. 6 Yes (Lizz, Jocelyn, Monique, Mira, Zach, Angela), 0 No, 1 Abstained due to conflict of interest (Fernando)
- b. Black History Month Event/Project
  - i. Jocelyn shared that GSO was approached by Carlton and other folks at the school to host an event for Black History Month
  - ii. Jocelyn shared that Raven (GSO treasurer) had some ideas for a brunch as a social/educational event



1. But there will be issues with getting this off the ground since we would have needed to vote on the funding at tonight's meeting, but did not have the information needed to vote
- iii. Fernando and Jocelyn expressed concerns about hosting an event that is rush and it becoming a performative gesture
- iv. Group has agreed to circle back at the November 2024 General Meeting in order to plan ahead for next year
- c. End-of-the-year Event/Project
  - i. Monique proposes exploring a potential end of the year event for all social work students and incoming students (for all students who fall under the GSO)
    1. Fancy, catered, dress up, large portion of the budget (formal, gala, cocktail type event)
    2. Potential of inviting alumni, presenting an award to notable alumni (Monique also suggested saving this idea for the future as the event grows)
    3. Faculty, doctoral students, any BSWs who work with us may attend and participate in the planning
  - ii. Vote to approve the exploration of vendors and planning for this event
    1. Monique recused due to conflict of interest since they proposed the vote
    2. Motion to vote - Fernando
    3. Second - Jocelyn
    4. 5 Yes (Lizz, Angela, Jocelyn, Zach, Fernando), 0 No, 1 Abstain due to conflict of interest (Monique)
      - a. Mira left before this vote took place so she was not included in the count
- d. Open Forum
  - i. Students feel that Field seminar is not what it should be/not what students want
    1. Student wish there was more information about career preparation
  - ii. Angela: wants to order graduation stoles for all graduating MSW students - time sensitive because she wants to do different stoles for each concentration - will need to meet with Carlton to go through approved vendors
    1. VOTE to approve the exploration of vendors for graduation stoles
      - a. Angela recused due to conflict of interest since she proposed the vote
      - b. Monique motioned
      - c. Lizz seconded
      - d. 5 Yes (Lizz, Monique, Zach, Jocelyn, Fernando), 0 No, 1 Abstain due to conflict of interest (Angela)

- i. Mira left before this vote took place so she was not included in the count
    - iii. Food Pantry issue
      1. Students have been having issues with food pantry as they have to go to student service office to unlock it for them during very specific hours during the day that are not convenient
      2. Students are often asked to return in 30 minutes or so
      3. Is there a way to talk to the school about this or maybe have social work students volunteer for more field hours or for their macro project to have the food pantry open and accessible to students?
      4. Monique motioned to put food pantry issue on agenda for March
        - a. Fernando seconded
    - iv. Zara: For IGFP students, can we embed guest speakers into curriculum about private practice after graduation or provide a speaker for GSO or in Field Seminar
      1. GSO will see where we can work that in as an event or program - will bring it up at the next meeting
      2. Monique motioned to put discussing field seminar - career development in March agenda
        - a. Jocelyn seconded
9. Adjournment
  - a. Fernando proposes to adjourn
  - b. Motion - Jocelyn
  - c. Second - Monique
  - d. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm