

UMBC GSA Spring 2021

Executive Council Meeting

15 February 2021

I. Check-In & Attendance

Samantha, Meghan, Avijoy, Kylie, Aniket, Akriti, Jeff present

II. Reports

- a. President
 - i. Student Ambassador program
 1. Meeting 2/12 went well, thanks for those who sent/gave feedback on expanding program
 - ii. Wellbeing Check-In Survey for Graduate students
 1. GSA to send outreach email; still awaiting Writing Advisor outreach email
- b. Vice-President & Leg. Concerns
 - i. [OER](#) invitation for March Senate
 1. Erin Durham (library) would like to join a senate meeting and discuss using OER technology
 - ii. [Dinner with Friends](#)
 1. Dinner with Friends continues, and would like to see a large graduate student turnout. Interesting topics coming up.
 - iii. Community building for GSA (co-led with Tori)
 1. Idea to host an informal/social GSA virtual movie night event
 2. More broadly, a jeopardy game between different colleges
 - iv. Mental Health Committee interest meeting TODAY @12:00pm
 1. Following discussions from the senate meeting, interest meeting for resources meeting today
 2. Jeff mentioned that afternoon times might not work best for many graduate students, try to gauge best times to communicate with UHS
 - v. Listening Sessions
- c. Treasurer
 - i. Mandatory Student Fee Updates
 1. Clarifications will be made for any fee changes

- ii. Updates in International Student Fee: categories for spending are available, without specific number breakdowns
 - Immigration case management system (more commonly referred to as the IES Portal).
 - Advising staff (this has made it possible to offer greater access to advisors, issue newsletters, etc.).
 - Shipping immigration documents
 - Orientation
 - Ongoing training for advisors (this includes workshops, webinars and conferences, but also legal resources/manuals) to keep them current on immigration
 - Government fees UMBC must pay in order to sponsor international students
 - Student workers
- iii. FY Budget 2021-22 feedback
 - 1. February 22 a student fee forum - unsure if this is open to all students. Avijoy will clarify if it is open to students and will share with students if so.
 - 2. Clarification of \$4 fee increases discussed. It is unsure if fees will resume to regular rates or reduced covid/off-campus rates in fall 2021, particularly for GSA's budget. Avijoy will clarify these rates.
 - a. Jeff mentioned discussion is to begin as many on campus classes as possible in the fall 2021 - leading to questions about how fees will change in the fall.
- d. Historian
 - i. A. R. Committee updates
 - 1. Strong emphasis from AR committee members to create a recurring award rather than a one time award which was discussed at the last EC meeting. EC agreed to making the award reoccurring
 - ii. Website resources continuing updates
- e. GEARS
 - i. Aniket offered unused GEARS funds for Alex's award. This is a possible way to fund the award, although Dawn suggested using GSA funds to keep more money in the GEARS account for next year.
 - ii. Game night ideas: counter strike or other games. Still deciding the logistics
 - iii. 3MT Southern Competition later this month, February
 - iv. 3MT April competition at UMBC will send winner to the national competition
- f. GAAC

- i. Town hall session last Thursday discussing the collective bargaining bill SB0521 with great turnout.
- ii. So far, about 45 responses have been received from GAs (~500 total GAs). GSA/GAAC does not have enough information to make an official stance yet. GAAC will continue to collect information and establish a stance next year.
- iii. The house has closed, so the bill will not proceed this year.
- iv. Akriti emphasized incentives for responses next year and to begin the process earlier next year.
- v. Jeff asked if passing the bill would make all GAs university employees and the implications of that. The attorney general has not given an answer to the question and previously UMBC has not provided support to the bill based on hypothetical answers.
- g. OGSL
 - i. No one present to report

III. Business/Updates

- a. Senators
 - i. Town Halls
 - ii. [Committee membership](#) - Need someone from e-council for FOLIO
 - 1. Most committees are filled now
 - iii. Senate meeting absences
 - 1. Absences have been addressed and should be resolved for the remainder of the semester
- b. Communications Platform (Ethan, Meghan, Chris)
 - i. Ethan will be setting up the discord ASAP
- c. Resolution to amend Bylaws ([Proposed Changes](#))
 - i. EC will take a chance to review changes and add comments through this week.

IV. Open Discussion

- a. Black Excellence Summit
 - i. SGA and other campus organizations are planning a black excellence summit
 - ii. BGSO has requested \$3,500 but after confirmation from other sponsors they will reduce their request.
 - iii. BGSO is not listed as a sponsor, Avijoy will communicate with Nicole about this for clarification. Dawn should also have information about this.
- b. GSO Leadership

- i. Avijoy mentioned daily challenges that graduate students are facing related to printing, connection, etc which are not reaching GSO leadership.
- ii. Samantha mentioned the discord might help to have these challenges heard.
- iii. Avijoy suggested making this outreach a requirement for GSO funding.