

## UMBC GSA Spring 2021

### Executive Council Meeting

8 February 2021

#### I. Check-In & Attendance

#### II. Reports

- a. Vice-President
  - i. Empowered University [last week]
  - ii. Lyft partnership [meeting 2/9]
  - iii. Student Ambassador program [meeting 2/12]
  - iv. Wellbeing Check-In Survey for Graduate students [meeting 2/10]
- b. Treasurer
  - i. Participated in the Empowered University Retreat
- c. Historian
  - i. Participated in the Empowered University Retreat
  - ii. A. R. Committee updates
    1. Virtual memory board idea in progress. If anyone has suggestion of a free platform to use, let Kylie know
    2. The Retriever is resuming an article in memory of Alex, which was previously put on hold in December
    3. GES is working to name a stream in Alex's name
    4. The suggestion of renaming the social hour in GEARS had no opposition. The idea to amend, rather than completely change GEARS with Alex's name was suggested
- d. GEARS
  - i. One of the GEARS events (3MT) has taken place, and the winner will be working with Scott Morgan. Logistics need to be put into order
  - ii. The gaming event planning is taking place
  - iii. Suggested keeping the GEARS name and adding Alex as an amendment
  - iv. Avijoy asked about the current GEARS budget.
    1. So far, ~\$3000 of GEARS has been spent
    2. Avijoy suggested increasing the award amounts for 3MT, gritty talks to encourage more participation
- e. GAAC

- i. G. A. Week
  1. Last week GAAC and the graduate school hosted GA week
  2. Good turnout
- ii. SB0521 - Collective Bargaining
  1. Every year the bill resurfaces and GAAC opposed the bill every year because UMBC has a really good relationship with administration.
  2. UMBC is the only institution that regularly opposes the bill. Digging deeper, they found that other GAs at other institutions do not have a good relationship with the confer & bargaining and that the idea was that it will be easier to fight for rights of graduate students.
  3. GAAC is further exploring this bill
  4. Meghan added that there needs to be caution of wording when communicating that UMBC is exploring the bill farther. And that GAAC/GSA has not made an official statement yet.
- f. Legislative Concerns
  - i. OER group has support from SGA. Meghan will reach out with more information and potentially discuss with the senate
  - ii. Restorative Practices
- g. OGSL

### **III. Business/Updates**

- a. Senators
  - i. Town Hall details will be explored in more detail tomorrow (how to meet, by college? How many times?)
  - ii. [Committee membership](#) - A document will probably be created to list who is sitting on which committee
  - iii. Senate meeting absences
- b. VP position
  - i. Meghan will be proposed to the senate to fill the VP position when Samantha steps up to the President's role
- c. [February Senate Agenda](#)
  - i. Resolution to amend Bylaws ([Proposed Changes](#))
    1. Proposed amendments to clause of incapacitance of president's role will be added first, followed by other changes including
- d. Fee Increase

- i. Every fee will be increasing by \$1, but there has been no raised voices from senators. Compared to UG fee increases, this is very small.
- ii. Tomorrow at the senate meeting we will need to have a vote about this.

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

- a. Avijoy
  - i. Enrollment dropping overall
  - ii. Significant drop in research productivity
    - 1. Not using GSO funds
    - 2. Not using Research/PD grants
    - 3. We need to hear from constituencies about what they need COVID policies
  - iii. UMBC COVID policies
    - 1. Eg. pizza parties, board games, social events that GSA can support
    - 2. Need to enforce Senators hosting Town Halls, and encourage GSO leadership to attend (make mandatory?)
  - iv. Increasing budget for Standing Committees and Senator stipends
  - v. How to improve communication b/t Senators and constituencies
    - 1. GroupMe? WebEx Teams? WhatsApp?
    - 2. Keep pulse of what's happening on campus
  - vi. Advisor position? How to use Dawn & Jeff?