

# **GSA Summer 2021 Executive Council Meeting**

July 26, 2021

## **I. Check-In & Attendance**

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Sai Sri Ram KT, Kara Seidel, Joel Tyson, Achala Denagamage, Masud Ahmed, Ivan Perez, Amy Cruz, Ethan Post, Brittany Evans, Shahin Hossain, Jeffery Halverson.
- B. Introductions for Jeffery and Ivan.

## **II. Reports**

### **A. E-Council Members**

- 1. President -
- 2. Vice President -
  - a) Senator interviews were done and senators were selected.
  - b) Met with Isabel
  - c) Met with Ryan from Sustainability and with the GEAR co-chairs
  - d) Working on reuniting alumni for GSA.
- 3. Treasurer-
  - a) Had a total of 5 applications and 1 application in particular who had applied before and wants to know if it can be approved now.
  - b) The motion to approve grant for the student was set and passed with majority but Masud and Akash were neutral from voting since he did not have information on the case.
- 4. Historian -
  - a) Will send an email to Kara, Achala and Britany for site details and the about page.

### **B. GEARS**

- 1. Want to create a separate GEARS account on Instagram. Discussion is in progress.
- 2. Want to approach a particular senator who has expressed interest in GEARS.

### **C. GSSC**

- 1. Formed a committee and had a meeting with promise and had introductions.
- 2. Students have been wanting writing groups to improve their writing and have been wanting to chat with the writing advisor.

### **D. Jeffery Halverson -**

- 1. Isabel and Jeff will be holding a new seminar/workshop for new GAs around September 10th.
- 2. Will be meeting with the whole GAAC team for introductions and chat about the GA topics.

3. Grad school orientation is online this year and accessible through Blackboard.

### **III. Business**

- A. Approval of new senators -
  1. Motion for approval of selected senators was set and passed and senators will be emailed of their approval.
- B. Update on temporary housing for new graduate students -
  1. President of the Iran GSO said they do not need any monetary help and Shahin made it clear that GSA cannot provide it anyways.
  2. Also, Shahin stated that the GSA will provide support but since this is not a time of emergency students of each respective GSO (the GSO committee as well as the students it serves) need to be the first people to work to find a solution and GSA will be the last resort.
  3. An extensive discussion took place about whether GSA can help and if it can then how?
- C. Grad student of the week/social media plans.
- D. Update on possible fundraiser for Khondoker and discussion with Isabel Garrido
  1. Isabel stated that GSA should not perform any emergency fund raiser but can be organised on a personal note.
- E. Registration/renewal of registration of GSO
  1. GSOs will get a letter of recognition stating that GSA has had a working history with the GSO only if the GSO is already a registered body with the GSA.

Following topics have been tabled for the next meeting:

- F. Strategies to build relationships with alumni.
- G. Strategies to Reaching out to all UMBC graduate students and listen to their voices
- H. Networking with nationwide graduate student organizations, development organization, and corporations for future collaboration

### **IV. Open Discussion**

- A. In person retreat at Pennsylvania (funded by Vairt) -
  1. Akash will subsequently share the poll results.
- B. Reflection on Executive Council Meeting