

# **GSA Fall 2021 Senate Meeting**

13 September, 2021 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## **I. Check-In & Attendance [5 mins]**

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Joel Tyson, Shahin Hossain, Aishwarya, Alex George, Alyssa Schick, Amy Cruz, Cristina Gomez, Chiquita Jackson, Elle Kreiner, Emily Faber, Grace de Oro, Gracie Chaney, Jeffery Halverson, Kara Seidel, Kevin Fulmer, Masud Ahmed, Maurice Roots, Nish Laata, Reetam Majumder, Ryan Lafferty, Sai Sri Ram KT, Scott Hirabayashi, Sandesh Ennakonda, Chetan Desai, Sara L. Hansen, Sabeen Ikram, Nirandi Jayasinghe
- B. CAHSS
- C. CNMS
- D. COEIT
- E. NA

## **II. Guest Speakers: [20 mins]**

- A. Kevin from ABCEI [10 minutes (6:15 - 6:25)]
  - 1. Kevin spoke about the work of Alex Brown Center.
  - 2. He mentioned about the various upcoming events, their prizes and the exposure offered.
  - 3. He gave an overview about the ideas that the center has come up with to foster inclusivity, entrepreneurship and to stir innovation.
- B. Sarah Hansen from the Office of Institutional Advancement [10 minutes (6:45 - 6:55)]
  - 1. Sara gave an overview of what OIA does.
  - 2. She explained about the news pieces they write in the UMBC news and the way they highlight the student research and publications.

## **III. Special Agenda Items [10 mins]**

- A. Graduate Program Fee
  - 1. Amy gave a presentation about the Graduate Program Fee.
  - 2. She explained what the Fee covers and what it is and what it means.
  - 3. She mentioned that the Student Fee Advisory Committee will be meeting on Oct 15 and that 2 senators would be representing the graduate students at the meeting.

## **IV. Old Business: [30 mins]**

- A. Planning for Town Hall (Senators would share their plans in advance and would be asked questions about their plans and progress) [10 mins]
  - 1. CAHSS senators:

- a) Sent out emails to other colleges to hold collaborative town halls but also have plans for inter departmental town halls.
- b) They have a small agenda ready for these meetings and for student interactions
- c) Their targeted audiences are intercultural communications and STEM students collaborating with CAHSS.
- d) They are planning an online town hall in November.

2. COEIT senators:

- a) They have planned a virtual town hall in November and have a set of topics shortlisted for potential discussions.
- b) They have laid down a written framework about what topics they have, the surveys the plan to conduct and other points of discussion.
- c) Their target audience is purely COEIT students.

3. CNMS senators:

- a) They will be holding their Town Hall in October.
- b) They are planning to follow the past year's template.

4. Non-academic senators:

- a) Cristina tried to setup a meeting for town hall design and discussion but unfortunately Sandesh and Chetan were unable to make it and Non-academic senators are yet to plan a town hall. But they will have one outlined and setup soon.

B. Motion to establish a special committee on Graduate Student Housing [10 mins]

- 1. Shahin proposed the establishment of a special committee to explore resources for affordable housing for international as well as needy domestic students.
- 2. The objective of such a committee is to create a pool of resources, places, renting agencies, localities, links etc so that any student can make a very informed decision about their housing. The committee will not actually look for housing for a particular student.
- 3. Over time, if this temporary committee is successful, if not a permanent, a yearly committee is worth looking at.
- 4. The motion to create this GSO was set and unanimously.

C. Motion to require workshops on equity and inclusion for GSOs [10 mins]

V. **New Business: [30 mins]**

A. Motion to establish a Graduate Student Organization for LGBTQ+/Allied STEM.

- 1. Alex explained why the GSO is the nede of the hour and why LGBTQ+ recognition is required in STEM.
- 2. Alex and Sabeen gave a presentation about their GSO, their survey and the goals.

3. The motion to create this GSO was set and unanimously.
- B. Motion to establish a Graduate Student Organization for American Statistical Association.
1. Ryan gave a presentation about the ASA and the UMBC ASA Student Chapter.
  2. Ryan explained what the GSO's purpose is and who the targeted audience is - grads, faculty, and even undergrads.
  3. The presentation spoke about the past events, speaker talks, workshops and seminars.
4. The motion to create this GSO was set and unanimously.
- C. Motion to establish a special committee for reassessing the GSA fund distribution and outlining recommendations for ensuring just, fairer, and equitable distribution of the GSA fund that reflect the needs of our diverse community.

VI. **Adjourn**