

GSA Fall 2021 Senate Meeting

10 November, 2021 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Check-In & Attendance [5 mins]

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Joel Tyson, Shahin Hossain, Achala Denagamage, Abdul Mohammed, Aishwarya, Alyssa Schick, Amy Cruz, Chetan Desai, Chiquita Jackson, Cristina Gomex, Dawn Galindo, Elle Kreiner, Emily Faber, Ethan Post, Grace De Oro, Gracie Chaney, Kara Seidel, Maurice Roots, Nicole Telfer, Nirandi Jayasinghe, Sahara Ali, Sai Sri ram KT, Scott Hirabayashi, Shreyasi Sengupta, Zane Poffenberger, Nishant Laata
- B. CAHSS
- C. CNMS
- D. COEIT
- E. NA

II. Town Hall Reports: [10 mins]

- A. CNMS Townhall:
 - 1. Had a turnout of 7-8 people. This is similar to past years.
- B. Non-academic Townhall:
 - 1. Had a turnout of 36 people.
 - 2. Discussed and spread awareness about the GSA and the structure of GSA.
 - 3. Gave an overview about the University Steering committee updates and sport and athletic meetup updates.
- C. COEIT Townhall:
 - 1. Central theme revolved around career opportunities, internships and jobs post grad school.
 - 2. Reps from Career Center joined in to spread awareness about the job market and the world outside UMBC.

III. Special Agenda Items [10 mins]

- A. Motion of no confidence.
 - 1. Motion of no-confidence against the GSA Vice President, was proposed and seconded and was set. Discussion began.
 - 2. The motion needs 2/3rd majority to remove the Vice President from office.
 - 3. If the vote and motion passes, then the Senate will have to elect a new VP from the Grad School's general public.
 - 4. Members of the Senate have raised concerns about the email messages and the language of the emails - issues with pressure on certain committees, power dynamics and keeping boundaries with the members and committees.

5. Women of the Senate voiced that they felt discomfort when interacting with the VP, whether due to work pressure or due to deadlines or at feedback follow ups.
6. An issue was brought up that E-Council and Senators must communicate via the gsa email and gsa channels like Discord. Any conversations about work done via personal channels could be counted as work-life balance harassment.
7. It was discussed and agreed upon that abstain votes will not be counted towards the total number of votes.
8. Motion to vote was seconded and was set, and passed.
9. Voting was done by closed ballot.
10. Vote of no-confidence passed with 2/3rd majority - 7 yes, 5 abstains, 1 no (7 is 2/3rd of 8, not counting the abstaining votes) As a consequence, Shahin Hossain was removed from Office of the VP of the GSA.
11. Joel shall create a nomination form for electing a new VP for the GSA.
12. After the vote, Shahin Hossain passed a remark that was aimed at Kara. It was something like 'Congratulations Kara, You have finally won after 2 years.'
13. After the meeting concluded, it was revealed that many people privately told the E-Council members that they were fearful and were very uncomfortable to talk about the issues regarding Shahin in front of Shahin himself.

The meeting was adjourned for today.

The below business will be carried over to the next meeting.

B. Review of OGSL GA Position Descriptions.

1.

IV. Old Business: [30 mins]

- A. Motion to require workshops on equity and inclusion for GSOs [10 mins]
- B. 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.

V. New Business: [30 mins]

A.

VI. Adjourn