

GSA Spring 2022 Senate Meeting

13 April, 2022 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Check-In & Attendance [5 mins]

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Joel Tyson, Dawn Galindo, Alyssa Schick, Amy Cruz, Cristina Gomez, Emily Faber, Ethan Post, Elle Kreiner, Gracie Chaney, Grace De Oro, Jeffery halverson, Jennifer Artis, Kara Seidel, Nicole Telfer, Nirandi Jayasinghe, Noah Sienkiewicz, Sahara Ali, Scott Hirabayashi, Sai Sri KT, Maurice Roots, chetan Desai.

II. SAGE Guest Tamara Allard [10 min]

- A. Tamara is the Internal Affairs Director of SAGE.
- B. Coalition of public R1 institutions and main goal is to lobby public policy makers.
- C. 2 main event sin the year - Fall Forum and
- D. White papers being written -
 - 1. International student's issues.
 - 2. Campus safety.
 - 3. Climate change on campus
 - 4. Student debt - prevention of future accumulation of student debt and elimination of current student debt.
- E. One ongoing discussion session within UMCP is regarding student fees and how UMCP is and should be handling them.

III. Town halls past and upcoming [10 min]

- A. CNMS Townhall:
 - 1. A few people attended and covid restrictions and stipend increase across the board was discussed.
- B. Non-academic Townhall:
 - 1. Christina gave updates about dining services and Sandesha and Chetan gave updates on athletics policies.
 - 2. Students expressed concerns about not receiving proper communications about career events.
 - 3. Primary complaints referred to international graduate students not having opportunities at Career Fairs.
 - 4. Had discussions to include Cricket as a UMBC Intramural sport.

IV. Old Business: [30 mins]

- A. Vote on bylaw amendments discussed in the March meeting
 - 1. Motion to set it aside for the May meeting was set and passed with 10 yes, 1 abstain and 1 no.

V. New Business: [80 mins]

- A. Motion to sign a petition (as GSA) to get UMBC to commit to sending our food waste to the South Baltimore Land Trust for composting.
 - 1. Motion was seconded and set and discussion took place.
 - 2. The motion passed with 10 yes.

- B. Motion to join the [SAGE](#) coalition as a member institution to fall under the responsibility of the Legislative Concerns Committee. The Legislative Concerns Committee will be responsible for making sure that at least one UMBC graduate student joins meetings and contributes to goals of the coalition.
 - 1. Motion was seconded and set and discussion began.
 - 2. Voting began and the motion passed with 8 yes and 2 abstains.
- C. Motion to hold election in May Senate Meeting.
 - 1. Motion was set and passed with 10 yes

VI. **Reports and Open Discussion**

- A. President:
 - 1. Graduate Student Week: Events went well, over 125 people attended the graduate student fest.
 - 2. The graduate school is expecting a large increase in international students next Fall. They would like to make more accommodations for these students with the help of the Center for Global Engagement.
 - 3. We haven't made a GSA video yet.
 - 4. Next year's budget will be presented at the May Senate meeting.
 - 5. Erin Durham has been working hard to make sure the library is serving graduate students. Please help spread the word about the survey. Writing Accountability Groups have been a huge success and will continue.
 - 6. Dawn and the graduate school have been working to see if the travel system for grants can be made better.
 - 7. Upcoming events:
 - a) CAHSS Senator Town Hall April 20th, 5:00-6:00 PM - <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/gsa/events/104946>
 - b) COIET Senator Town Hall April 21st, 2:30-3:30 PM- <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/gsa/events/104947>
 - c) GA Townhall April 29th, 2:00-3:30 PM <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/gsa/events/104949>
 - d) Awards Ceremony May 4th, 5-9 PM (in person) <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/gsa/events/103415>
- B. Vice-President:
 - 1. 3MT Winners: 1st Place: Danyuan Tan, Second Chanda Lowrance, Masud Ahmed
 - 2. Steering Committee Mental Health Walk
 - 3. [GSA Awards Ceremony May 4th](#)
- C. Treasurer:
 - 1. GRP 8 - 18 PD grants and 6 Research Grants approved = \$18,651
 - 2. GRP 9 - 13 PD Grants and 2 Research Grants approved = \$8,118
 - 3. Working on changing grant application and scoring

- D. OGSL:
- E. GAAC:
- F. GSSC:

1. **Grad student fest:** Was a success! We are going to hold it in the Fall next year (probably in October). Will hopefully offer food and make it family friendly.
2. **WAGs:** Almost 50 students over 7 groups! Been getting positive feedback. Want to check in to see how facilitators are doing. Should we continue over the summer?
3. **Library:** We have been having regular meetings with the library about how to maximize grad student resources. We are talking about targeting grad students better and providing more specific resources, especially in preparing for thesis/dissertation. Please fill out Erin Durham's [survey](#) if you have not yet done so!
4. Mental health conversations are continuing :)
5. GSA Relay for Life Team?
https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=101531&pg=entry

G. LC:

H. Steering Committees:

1. Equity of Funds Committee:
 - a) Currently working on reworking the budget, thinking of ways to spend GRP rollover to best serve Grad students

VII. **Adjourn**