

UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

09 December 2020

I. Check-In & Attendance

Alex, Samantha, Avijoy, Kylie, Aniket, Meghan, Ethan, Tori, and Dawn were present.

II. Reports

- a. President
 - i. Introduction of Tori Simmons, the new community liaison.
- b. OGSL
 - i. Ethan asked Alex for help switching to mailchimp and will reach out for an individual meeting

III. Business/Updates

- a. Reallocation of \$35,000 from grants to international students quarantining
 - i. Cost
 1. IES has coordinated with two hotels outside BWI at a rate of \$50/day/student. The total of \$35,000 is derived from this rate at 70 students for 10 days.
 2. Alex expects this total to be closer to \$20,000. Additionally, we pressed for 50% of GSA fees to remain in order to provide assistance to students and this is an important way to help students in a challenging time.
 3. Avijoy confirmed that we have the budget to afford this reallocation and we are not expected to get an influx of grant requests in the spring semester.
 4. Avijoy asked if IES would be willing to chip into the \$35,000 total. Alex says IES has not mentioned any contributions although maybe we could encourage them to pay for the transportation/shuttles for students, which GSA typically pays for.
 - a. Avijoy reminded EC of the international student fees collected. Alex would be willing to ask for an explanation why IES has not offered to contribute yet.
 5. Avijoy will prepare a short budget revision to share with the senate tomorrow explaining these finances and demonstrating that we have the funds for this reallocation.

- ii. Samantha mentioned how pressing this is to pass quickly, as our final senate meeting is tomorrow and if not completed these students will be in a difficult position.
 - iii. Avijoy fears this will open the door for similar requests in the future. Alex suggests adding a stipulation that this is a one time transfer and in the future we would expect IES to step up and contribute to solving this issue.
 - iv. Additional Concerns
 - 1. Aniket has heard IES will have hotels ready January 17, although many students plan to move before then. He suggested changing this date to earlier.
 - 2. Aniket mentioned the health insurance gap between when students arrive and start courses. Aniket asks if any modifications to the Aetna plan can be made to extend coverage to earlier in January.
 - 3. Westland gardens has agreed to give keys to single students even if all their roommates have not arrived yet, but the first person arriving will be responsible for the deposit and rent check on day 1. This means that the hotel charges will be much less than budgeted.
 - 4. Aniket wonders if other international student groups from other countries will be facing these challenges and need to be informed.
 - v. This reallocation has support from Ethan, Meghan and Kylie.
 - vi. Alex will complete a memo to file and have the legal details checked out.
- b. Senate Meeting
- i. It is rare that the Deans, Jeff/Janet, Lynn Schaffer (VPF), Charles (VPR) will all be in attendance at a senate meeting. This is a unique and important opportunity to bring up questions. It would provide more weight if a diverse group of students (beyond Alex, Samantha) asked questions.
 - ii. There will be no shuttle service in the spring semester
 - 1. Alex suggested that Aniket ask at the meeting tomorrow: how this will be addressed to help students that need means to get to the grocery store, Walmart to buy a router, etc.
 - 2. Kylie mentioned that UMB already has a lyft service worked out for their students, maybe we can piggyback
 - iii. 100% of students, and many domestic students too, had issues with engagement. Meghan will bring this up.
 - iv. Samantha will talk about mentor/mentee relationships we are working on.
 - v. How is covid compliance being enforced? Tori will discuss with Samantha and ask.
 - vi. How to better connect with students with resources? Kylie will ask this question.

IV. Open Discussion