

## **GSA Spring 2021**

### **Executive Council Meeting**

**25 January 2021**

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

#### **II. Reports**

- a. Vice-President (Acting President)
  - i. Lyft partnership
    1. UMB arranged a partnership with Lyft for students and UMBC is meeting tomorrow to work on setting up this partnership for UMBC.
  - ii. Student ambassador program (FOLIO)
    1. Meeting this week to discuss how it went in the fall semester and if it will continue moving forward.
    2. Was almost entirely used by graduate students
    3. Those serving in the student ambassador role will be receiving a reward for participating
  - iii. Community building (USC)
    1. A community building event (~1/month) structured around different hobbies. In search of students with different hobbies to host groups
  - iv. Grad. School Orientation (welcome video)
    1. This year the orientation will be all online and take place over several days. GSA is typically very involved and Samantha would like to make an introductory video.
    2. Ideas of “tik tok” style short videos to replicate GSA-style.
  - v. Wellbeing Check-In Survey for Graduate students
    1. Another survey for all students and well-being (with a part on graduate students) will be sent out. Samantha will be meeting with the survey makers to discuss topics to add.
    2. Will not be as comprehensive as the last survey, but will be a good tool to assess changes since the fall.
  - vi. Empowered University - this Friday
    1. This Friday the university retreat will be taking place.
    2. There is good representation from GSA!
- b. Treasurer

- i. Graduate Student Fees
  - 1. Had a meeting with the mandatory student fee committee members and on behalf of the GSA Avijoy will be submitting 5-6 questions on behalf of graduate students relevant to the fee increases.
  - 2. In all categories the student fees increased by \$1 (5-6 categories).
  - 3. Forward any questions to Avijoy that you would like to have brought up at the next committee meeting.
- ii. Lyft partnership
  - 1. Pros/cons of public buses vs Lyft discussed
- c. Historian
  - i. Kylie has been working with the University Retreat planning committee
  - ii. AR Committee to meet soon
- d. GEARS
  - i. This thursday 3MT will take place
  - ii. Gaming (welcome) event with one online competition for new students and information session about GEARS. 1st or 2nd week of February
  - iii. The hotels for international students quarantining were a success!
  - iv. Appreciates Lyft ride partnership in order to reduce contact with others on public transport
- e. GAAC
  - i. In the first week of February GAAC will be hosting a ½ hour session for new graduate assistants. The discussion topic is yet to be determined, but thought about discussing tips for online work challenges (TA office hours online challenges). The committee will discuss these ideas and is open to suggestions.
  - ii. Collective bargaining will be coming up this semester and will need to be discussed and revisited. Samantha suggests a meeting with Jeff and Isabel. Will discuss with Meghan as well.
  - iii. Meeting with the provost will need to happen this semester.
  - iv. Samantha suggests collecting a sheet with information for GAs, for example GAs have parental leave with full pay and full-time student status in the event of caretaking a new child.
- f. Legislative Concerns
  - i. A (weak) voting bill for student voting and military is being introduced. USM is collectively supporting the bill.
  - ii. Thought: students would benefit more from on-campus voting locations

- iii. The annual alumni event in Annapolis will happen this year, in a new and virtual format
  - iv. The Center for Democracy and Civic Life is working to build community and connections outside of work/school
  - v. The collective bargaining bill which is revisited every year is back up for debate in the university of Maryland system. The bill is exactly the same as last year, so UMBC's stance is unlikely to change
- g. OGSL
- i. Ethan
    - 1. Ethan was wondering if anyone has experience sending out MailChimp emails for help sending out the newsletter in the new format. Meghan offered to help Ethan and see if they can determine the best way to do so, and/or send a help ticket to IT.
  - ii. Tori
    - 1. GSO Deadline Extension?
      - a. There have been inquiries about adding new GSOs. Samantha and Tori have been discussing whether or not to continue registrations or modify deadlines.
      - b. Avijoy and Tori mentioned spending is low so far this academic year, as most events are occurring online.
      - c. Avijoy warned that extending the deadline again will set a precedent to allow for more registrations after deadlines in the future.
      - d. Samantha suggested handling new GSOs on a case-by-case basis, but not to publicize that GSA is accepting applications. EC expressed support for allowing case-by-case review.

### **III. Business/Updates**

- a. USM Stance of Support/Opposition - Jordan McNair Bill [Meghan]
  - i. The bill will provide more rights to protect the health and safety of student athletes.
  - ii. Meghan will send out an email today and EC can respond with their support by 5pm.
- b. Review the GSA email with the E-Council members [Ethan]
  - i. All EC members should have access to the gsa email now
  - ii. Ethan briefly showed his tagging/sorting system for emails
  - iii. If anyone sees an email chain they would like to be added to, please let Ethan know
- c. Spring Senate meetings [Samantha]
  - i. 12:30 - 2:30

- ii. Two senators have not responded to emails (one has not responded, one only has 1 hour in a week free to attend).
- iii. Is there a suggested recourse for these two senators? Avijoy suggested reaching out to senators who applied last year to join the senate.

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

- a. Roles of EC leadership
  - i. A President and Vice President will need to be filled for the rest of the year. If anyone is willing to step up, reach out to Samantha to discuss responsibilities.