

UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

11 November 2020

I. Check-In & Attendance

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

II. Reports

a. President

- i. The graduate student survey was sent out last week. According to Kimberly, the response rate is just under 15% so far. Alex's goal is to receive at least 400 responses (we have ~350 so far).
- i. The next GPD Meeting is today. This will include the first major discussion about mentor/mentee agreements.

b. Vice President: No updates

c. Treasurer: Not present

d. Historian: No updates

e. GAAC

- i. GAAC is focused on GEARS efforts for the time being. Part of this is hosting a meeting about getting an assistantship at GEARS.

f. GEARS

- i. Tomorrow the GEARS introduction event will take place. So far approximately 50-55 participants are enrolled.

g. Legislative Concerns

- i. Based on discussions from the end of Tuesday's meeting, it sounds like there is interest and need to foster more community for graduate students. Meghan suggests one more event between now and the end of the year and then ramping up more community events in the spring semester.
- ii. Meghan will begin planting seeds within the undergraduate and graduate populations to create a voting center on campus, as UMBC is one of the only USM schools without on-campus voting.

h. OGSL

- i. Ethan

1. Ethan proposed purchasing a Canva Pro subscription for GSA. No concerns were raised and we will go forward with the subscription.
- ii. Deanna
 1. Deanna planned a GSO discussion session for tomorrow to discuss the current state of hosting events, what types of events are allowed and not.
 2. Deanna will also be transitioning into a new position and leaving her post as GSA community liaison :(Reach out to Dawn, Alex with prospective applicants.

III. Business/Updates

- a. Senate Meeting
 - i. The next senate meeting will take place tomorrow. Some of the topics to discuss include: the graduate student survey, international student concerns.
- b. Virtual Thanksgiving
 - a. Alex brought up the idea of hosting a virtual thanksgiving dinner with students who are not able to visit family.
 - b. Most EC agreed not to host the event on actual thanksgiving day, as many people will be unplugging during the break.
 - c. A popular idea brought up is to host a “thanksgiving eve happy hour”.

IV. Open Discussion

- a. International Students
 - i. Akiriti raised concerns about international students who will be travelling to their hometowns over the end of semester break around whether or not students will be able to reenter the US in January, based on the state of Covid and politics.
 1. Alex suggested beginning these conversations with IES and university administration.
 2. Deanna also suggested bringing up the topic at the next steering committee meeting.
 - ii. Aniket: IES has denied a request for a bus to pick up ~70 international students from the airport. No assistance has been given logistically or financially to housing concerns from international concerns who will be moving to the US and need to quarantine. Campus life has not given a definitive response. Dawn and Alex raised concerns that these challenges do not seem to be taken as seriously as they are.