

UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

21 October 2020

I. Introduction & Attendance.

Alex, Samantha, Avijoy, Kylie, Meghan, Akriti, Aniket, Maria, Ethan, Dawn in attendance.

II. Reports

a. Vice President

- i. Samantha asked if anyone had opinions on removing D grades for the GPD meeting. Nobody had reservations about this.
- ii. GSA representatives needed for Arbutus Sustainable Community Design focus groups (think we just need someone for Housing now)
- iii. University System of Maryland Student Regent applicants
- iv. Sub-committee for mentor/mentee agreements - anyone interested?
- v. Grad. student survey - additional ideas on what to include? Next meeting on 10/22
- vi. Does anyone have any interest in sitting on the University System of Maryland Steering Committee? Meetings 1x/month on Sundays

III. Business/Updates

a. Old Business

- i. We still are short 3 Senators :-/
 1. If anyone has suggestions for senators to fill these positions, let Alex know.

b. New Business

- i. Is there any person/guest you would like to invite to the November Senate Meeting? We may have Provost Rous and VPR Karl Steiner in December
 1. No suggestions were given by EC members
- ii. Jeff Halverson will join us next meeting
- iii. Grad Student Survey for Spring Planning
 1. The survey is aimed at COVID-specific well being for graduate students.
 2. Maria, Kylie, Avijoy all suggested having an open-ended question to allow students to describe in more detail their experiences, concerns, etc.
 3. Meghan mentioned that students are often tired at the end of a survey and may respond better to having follow up sessions so that more valuable information can be relayed. Alex confirmed that this may be part of the plan already.

4. Asking what students are wishing/able to do in terms of social events was mentioned, so that we can discuss these ideas with administrators and keep in mind for planning in spring 2021.
 5. Meghan suggested adding the question “If UMBC worked towards a rapid-testing system, would you be more comfortable with returning to campus?”
- iv. Sub-committee for mentor/mentee agreements
 1. There is a lot of momentum and interest among departments already to make mentor/mentee agreements common across campus.
 2. We can begin a push to make this required across all departments in the fall 2021, beginning with a senate-led committee.
 3. Avijoy expressed concerns with making the agreement graduate school wide, but instead giving departments discretion to decide if it will be mandatory.
 4. Meghan supported the idea would be very beneficial to students who are dealing with advisors that are unresponsive. Most to all EC members agreed.
 - v. Arbutus Sustainable Community Design focus groups
 1. Almost all positions are filled, but it would be ideal to add two students to each committee. If anyone is interested, contact Alex.
 - vi. University System of Maryland Student Council
 1. This position is still not filled. If anyone is interested, contact Alex.
 - vii. Committee Chairs: please submit the names of all your committee members to Dawn if you have not done so.

IV. Open Discussion