

UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

2 September 2020

I. Check-In & Attendance

Introduction of OGSL staff: new communications manager Ethan Post

II. Reports

a. President

i. COVID Campus Response

1. Alex received a call from Nancy Young that COVID testing for students and faculty will take place on campus. UMBC's positive rate is less than 1 percent (much lower than national average).
2. Meghan: Provost Rous sent statistics to students regarding COVID cases.
3. Alex: The plan for positive students and COVID response sounds robust

ii. Field Guide to Grad School

1. Email from Sarah Hansen (STEM communications manager) mentioning the article "[Field Guide to Grad School](#)" discussing how to navigate grad school and post grad-life.
2. Suggested a university or GSA book club for discussion of this book.
3. Dawn confirmed GSA would be able to purchase some copies for students to read if we decided to move forward

b. Vice President

i. Student Ambassador Program launched this week

1. Opportunities still open to join. Reach out to Samantha to join.

ii. Full COVID website redesign has launched

1. Live statistics will be added
2. If anyone knows someone (2-3 grads) for an interview for the COVID website with DoIT, reach out to Samantha.

c. Treasurer

i. GRP received two research grant applications in the last month

ii. Budget is still \$15k over for the grant approvals

iii. Still awaiting approval for budget for this year (changing enrollment and reduced graduate student fees)

1. Alex: Budget is approved from last year's senate so the funds should be okay to use.

2. Avijoy clarifies he is referring to the finalized enrollment budget because there is no rollover budget for paying committee members.
 3. All current GRP members are currently volunteers because the budget is not officially finalized.
- d. Historian
- i. E Council and OGSL bios are updated on the website. Kylie will forward links to everyone to confirm there are no typos
 - ii. Some photos are missing from the website: Avijoy, Aniket, Meghan. They will forward pictures to Kylie to upload.
- e. GAAC
- i. Akriti has been and will continue to attend trainings
 - ii. Akriti will begin discussing the formation of the GAAC committee offline with Alex
- f. GEARS
- i. Design member
 1. Aniket is looking for someone to join the GEARS committee to work on poster design for event promotion
 2. Aniket will type up position description and Dawn will send out a brief email to increase interest in relevant departments
 3. Aniket will work with Kylie to update GEARS website in the short term and Alex will check on permissions to pass editing privileges to Aniket and one other GEARS member moving forward
 4. Alex, Dawn, Aniket will schedule an additional GEARS meeting next week
- g. Legislative Concerns
- i. Planning for the election extravaganza is continuing. Meghan is brainstorming ideas of the graduate perspective for civic engagement and election in general
 - ii. Starting to think about outreach beyond public policy
 - iii. If anyone knows people interested in elections, civic engagement, etc. let Meghan know
 - iv. Alex and Meghan are working together on STEMulate the Vot - science questions to send to local representatives
- h. OGSL
- i. Dawn
 1. No office updates
 2. Dawn asked Meghan if there could be an election social event. She has no specific ideas of how it would look or work, but there has been interest in an event.
 3. Meghan informed us that a few canva flyer updates have been posted this morning on general information such as how to register to vote.
 - ii. Ethan

1. Ethan has been looking into new templates for GSA newsletters and has been working on Canva to design materials for sharing.
- iii. Maria
 1. The writing advisor position has been busy, even before classes officially started. She is learning how to generate reports for appointments.

III. Business/Updates

- a. Old Business
 - i. New Senators; need two more CNMS members
 1. New senators have been selected based on last year's senators voting. Two new CNMS senators will be selected by the executive council, first come first serve.
 2. Dawn and Alex will work to send out emails to GRPs in Math/Stats, Chemistry and Biology looking for senators
 - ii. Slack Channel
 1. Alex will start slack and send out link soon for EC GSA
 - iii. Formalizing Senate Election Process
 1. One of the first lines of business for the senate meeting will be creating a formal senator election process moving forward (virtual or in person)
 - iv. GSOs
- b. New Business
 - i. Getting Committees Set Up
 - ii. Senate Meeting Times
 1. The first senate meeting will hopefully take place next week. One time slot works for everyone (Thurs 10-11am) however we are looking for a time slot of at least 90 minutes. Additional solutions proposed: start early, end late, open forum to non-senate members at the end of the meeting.
 2. Tentative time: 10am (to meet quorum) to 11:30am
 - iii. Senate Meeting Agenda
 1. Senate meetings will be similar to EC meetings, but flipped so that Old/New business goes first and committee updates follow.
 2. Much of the first meeting will be discussing the roles and responsibilities of the senate. We will likely review the budget again (no need to approve).
 3. COVID 19 updates and OGSL introductions
 4. All senators must join a university/GSA committee
 - iv. Senate Meeting Policies, Changes
 1. Alex will begin drafting senate meeting agenda and EC can review to add comments
 - v. USM Student Council Representative

IV. Open Discussion

- a. Avijoy asked if fees will change, and how this is discussed. Alex stated that there is a series of three meetings in the spring with proposed fee changes, opinions will be taken and a vote will take place.