

UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

30 September 2020

I. Attendance

Alex, Samantha, Avijoy, Kylie, Akriti, Aniket, Dawn, Maria and Ethan were present. Meghan was unable to attend, but emailed updates.

II. Reports

a. President

- i. SGA is considering legislation which makes student screen/audio sharing not mandatory.
- ii. EC members expressed they have not felt pressure to share video from professors. Akriti expressed she liked platforms which gave the option to blur or change backgrounds.
- iii. Three CNMS students have expressed interest in filling the two open senator positions. Alex will check the GSA email to see if there are any updates from them regarding their applications.

b. Vice President

- i. Samantha presented a GSA introduction presentation to international students.
- ii. FOLIO
 1. Website is not reporting heavy use, however the graduate student part of the website is frequently used and seems to be helpful to students.
 2. FOLIO is now looking for student feedback from a wider range of experiences (i.e. I have used the website, but did I not work on the planning committee). Email Samantha if interested in participating.
 3. FOLIO will be sending emails to faculty members asking how they think improvements can be made for students.

c. Treasurer

- i. Three applications have been received for this grant review period. (2 research, 1 PD).

d. Historian

- i. Seven of 14 senators have sent program names/pronouns/photos for the website. Kylie will update the website with these seven bios and reach out again to senators who have not responded yet.

- ii. Kylie will set up a “Contact your senator” page on the GSA website with surveys which will automatically forward responses to senator emails (free alternative) before the next senate meeting.
- e. GAAC
- i. Akriti spoke to GAs about joining the GAAC committee. She received interest from senator Shahin and offered a position to him. She has also heard from two computer science students and will select one more member to join.
 - ii. For the fall semester GAAC will consist of three committee members (Akriti and 2 additional members). If needed, in the spring semester an additional member will be added.
 - iii. Akriti will reach out to Sahara Ali (E-Council GAAC candidate) regarding interest in joining GAAC.
- f. GEARS
- i. Two GEARS members have been finalized to date. More interested senators will be contacted this week.
 - ii. Aniket attended a meeting with PROMISE last week regarding hosting a joint symposium at the end of November (17 or 18) with the topic *how to get the most out of a virtual conference*
 - 1. This symposium could have a dual purpose: how to attend and make the most of your experience; creative ideas for people planning virtual workshops
 - 2. A panel of people who have attended virtual conferences would be helpful for insight at this event
 - iii. Aniket has been discussing a collaboration with the career center to host a workshop on advising students how to apply for on campus jobs. Date TBD.
 - iv. Alex proposed hosting the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) in January (regional competition is in February), which will require a big push for registration and planning now.
- g. Legislative Concerns (Meghan’s Email Updates)
- i. We are 33 days away from the election!! (internal screaming)
 - ii. Be sure to keep talking to friends, colleagues, professors, people on the streets about [registering to vote and checking their registration status.](#)
 - iii. Thank you to all who have participated in the Election Extravaganza series so far! We are having great turnout and conversations!
 - iv. The next event will be a watch party/chat on Discord for next week’s [VP debate.](#)

- v. I have started planning a meet & greet with the legislators who represent UMBC for after the election. Stay tuned for more info and if you have any thoughts or concerns, I'm all ears!
- vi. Huge thanks to Dawn and Ethan for sending out emails and coordinating social media posts! The real MVPs!
- vii. Alex and I have been working with Science Debate (sending science-related questions to candidates running for office in MD). The campaigns will be getting the Qs this week, so we'll keep you posted on those results.
- viii. Finally, SGA reached out to Alex and me to ask if GSA would be willing to sign on to a Community Wide Day of Civic Service (Election Day) to get UMBC community members voting. I'm strongly in favor because it reaffirms the importance of voter turnout. Let me know if we're ok with this and if GSA needs to formally do anything. It will be sent to the Senates this Friday.
- h. OGSL
 - i. Maria is receiving positive feedback. The position has been very busy, averaging 150 emails/day.
 - ii. Ethan encourages EC members to send any resources/pages to forward to students to be included in the newsletter

III. Business/Updates

- a. Old Business - none to discuss
- b. New Business
 - i. Jessica Soto Perez
 - 1. Janet reached out to GSA so that unused foundation money could be given to the awardee of the Jessica Soto Perez award, or added to the GSA emergency fund account.
 - 2. Avijoy suggested adding the money to award funding, other EC members did not have strong opinions.
 - 3. This topic will be discussed at the next senate meeting.
 - ii. Election Night Extravaganza Sponsorship Donation
 - 1. Center for civic engagement proposed GSA to co-sponsor the election extravaganza to support \$20 election boxes. Alex proposed donating \$200.
 - 2. This topic will be discussed at the next senate meeting.
 - iii. Issues with first year students/possible survey?

IV. Open Discussion

a. Senate meeting next thursday