UMBC GSA Fall 2020

Executive Council Meeting

9 September 2020

I.   Check-In & Attendance

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

II.   Reports

a. President
   i.   Budget presentation needs to be ready for the first senate meeting. Alex and Avijoy will meet early next week to discuss the general budget outlines for reporting with the senate.
b. Vice President
c. Treasurer
d. Historian
e. GAAC
f. GEARS
g. Legislative Concerns
h. OGSL

III.   Business/Updates

a. Old Business
   i.   Senators & Senate Meeting
   ii.   Senate Meeting Agenda
   iii.   *A field guide to grad school* Reading Group (?)
        1.   Email Alex if you are interested in the book club and Dawn can buy a few copies.
b. **New Business**
   i.   **Constitution, Bylaws, Points of Policy**
        1.   Alex explained: changes cannot be made to the constitution or bylaws without a ¾ vote of senate. Flexibility lies in revisions of the Points of Policy each year. Alex and Deanna have revised the Points of Policy for this year.
        2.   Special Agenda Items: Discussion takes precedence over any other item in the meeting. EC will review and return feedback.
        3.   The Executive Council Elections section did not change.
        4.   GEARS committee renamed
        5.   Avijoy: Grant Review Panel (GRP) is listed as a special committee, and not a standing committee in the bylaws. This topic will be tabled for a few more weeks, to discuss in more detail.

6. Remove the requirement to submit a detailed report of activities for each standing committee two days prior to EC meeting. Chairs will provide reports in the reports section of meetings or by adding notes to the google doc folder.
7. Update special committee compensation from $100 to $200 per semester (GRP is only active special committee). GRP will be reviewed to determine if it should become a standing committee.
8. Remove outdated senator duties section:
   Pursuant to §4.2 of the Bylaws, a Senator must attend all Senate Meetings. If unable, the Senator must send the alternate Senator to serve in lieu of the primary Senator. A constituency that fails to represent itself at more than two Senate Meetings risks being rendered ineligible for GSA services or initiatives (e.g. GSO Funding and Grants Initiative). This may be appealed by the Senator, or a designee of the Graduate Program.
9. Discussion: How can senators be held accountable to attend senate meetings with a specific penalty?
   a. Samantha: idea that absences are excused if their substitute is present; include town hall attendance and committee participation in responsibilities
10. Changes to town hall structure discussion
    a. Avijoy: suggestion for having monthly town hall meetings
    b. Alex suggested having two joint-college town halls
    c. Akriti supported the idea of more regular town hall meetings in case students miss a meeting
    d. Original intentions of college-specific town halls are discussed and the relevance of this in virtual environments discussed
    e. Meghan suggested hosting workshop events where topics such as "How to apply for a grant" or "How to start a GSO" to create a two-way / interactive relationship
    f. The responsibilities of senators are agreed upon, but the exact structure to be discussed again next week
11. Who reviews the GSO guaranteed $250 funding? Last year transitioned from senate to GRP to EC. Avijoy expressed concerns of bias if GRP was in charge since the GRP will be small this year compared to previous years. Alex will leave the responsibility with the EC.
12. Grants section staying the same. Avijoy will review for any needed changes.
13. Awards name plate on showcase plaque will be removed.

ii. USM Student Council Rep
   1. Alex is looking for a USM student representative to attend monthly meetings. Alex will discuss this with Meghan.
iii. Budget
iv. Strategic Plan

IV.   Open Discussion

     a. Next week's EC meeting will be short to review points of policy before the first senate meeting.