

GSA Summer 2021 Executive Council Meeting

July 12, 2021

I. Check-In & Attendance

A. In attendance: Kara Seidel, Brittany Evans, Dawn Galindo, KT Sai Sri Ram, Ethan Post, Joel Tyson, Amy Cruz, Masud Ahmed, Shahin Hossain, Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak.

II. Reports

A. E-Council Members:

1. Joel and Shahin along with Dawn will make selections for Writing advisor and Community Liaison.
2. GSA has been contacted by the president of the Bangladeshi Student Association and informed that CSEE student Khodoker Hossain and alumni Dr. Md Qumrul Hasan had a car crash which has resulted in injury and death to members of their family.
 - a) Joel will meet with UMBC legal team (Isabel Garrido) to ask about the possibility of starting a GSA sponsored fund raiser and inquire about IES funding.
 - b) Masud noted that they will have medical bills totaling upwards of ten thousand dollars.
 - c) Joel and Shahin are in discussions with Jeff Halverson and others, on how to create a sustainable and fair emergency fund for graduate students.
 - d)
3. Amy reported 8 PD grants which were approved for the first period for a total of \$2,054.
4. Amy and Dawn will inquire about the graduate student fee for the upcoming year.
5. Akash will be updating the GSA website to create a new menu for the E-Council, similar to the Senate Menu.
 - a) Will update the bios of the 2021-2020 E-Council members.
 - b) Will add the minutes of all the meetings till date.

B. Committee Chair:

1. GEARS -
 - a) The GEARS co-chairs met and are actively looking for engaged committee members and a program host.
2. GSSC -
 - a) The GSSC met last week and discussed previous meetings with PROMISE and the counseling center and made summer plans to analyze PROMISE survey responses.

3. Brittany reports that she is learning a great deal from Megan on her role in Legislative Concerns.

III. Business

- A. Senate interview updates:
 1. Interviews will be scheduled by Shahin and Joel starting the week of July 19th
 2. The E-council can suggest good interview questions here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tIHbGCeZ9rCepssB8F8_rL8Jgx0PUx0x3qJYo_xJ2Uo/edit
 3. The applications are overwhelmingly from COEIT, Joel will recruit by asking other colleges GPDs and GPCs to nominate applicants.
- B. Plans to increase social media presence.
 1. The E-Council was asked to think about ways to increase social media presence and grad student participation in social media.
 2. Suggestions included selecting and featuring Grad Students of the Month in which they can take over social media, takeovers by members of the GSA, and offering free t-shirts and/or gift cards as incentives.
- C. Updating the GSA website -
 1. Akash proposed a change of menu for E-Council and member bios and the proposal was approved.

IV. Open Discussion

- A. In person retreat at Pennsylvania (funded by Vairt) -
 1. Shahin will be speaking to the Retreat funding team and introduce the team and Dawn will be the point of contact for all communications.
 2. Current and past year's E-Council and Senators would definitely be invited.
 3. Jeff Halverson will need to be brought into this discussion moving forward.
 4. Akash will create a poll for people's availability for the retreat for the e-council members - possible dates are towards the end of August and September.