

GSA Summer 2021 Executive Council Meeting

July 19, 2021

I. Check-In & Attendance

A. In attendance: Masud Ahmed, Shahin Hossain, Sai Sri Ram KT, Joel Tyson, Amy Cruz, Akash Vartak, Ethan Post, Britany Evans, Ruchita Reddy.

II. Reports

A. E-Council Members:

1. President -

- a) A student wants to start a new GSO related to Climate action (with something related to Sunrise Movement). The voting for the same will be in the first senate meeting.
- b) President of Iranian GSO inquired about temp housing for new international grad students.
- c) Achala's position on the finance committee is open and anyone can volunteer for the position.

2. Vice-president -

- a) Joel and Shahin along with Dawn were to make selections for Writing advisor and Community Liaison - **Update:** the selections are done and accepted.

3. Treasurer -

- a) First round of grant applications - 4 applications have been received and Amy needs about 4 people per college for the grant review committee.

4. Historian -

- a) Akash has updated the website for Executive Council and Co Chairs of GEARS and chair of GAAC.
- b) Akash needs GSSC and LCC to provide content for their menu pages - about, chairs page and what they do.
- c) Talk to Amy about updating the Grants menu in the GSA website.

B. Committee Chair:

1. LCC -

- a) Brittany will get in touch with Ethan about creating flyers.

2. GEARS -

- a) First program is going to be Introduction to GEARS designed especially for the new incoming students to make them aware about GEARS.
- b) Few possible events through the semester/year: 3-minute thesis, ideathon (business related idea presentation)

competition). Maybe collaborate with PROMISE and host a session or a webinar.

- c) The GEARS co-chairs met and are actively looking for engaged committee members and a program host.
- d) Chairs will get in touch with Akash after they have identified areas of the GEARS website to update.

III. Business

A. Senator Applications and Interviews-

- 1. We have 3 new senator applications but have not got interview invitations.
- 2. Interview calls will be scheduled and are open to all E-Council members to join.
- 3. Accept every senate application on their merit with the addition of interviews which will be conducted by Shahin and Joel and motion was seconded and passed with full majority.

B. Setting up "BELONGING" as the GSA 2021-2022 theme to promote the idea that all students at UMBC belong to the UMBC Family and nobody would feel excluded (In response to three Nigerian students' feelings excluded at their Departments) -

- 1. Every student should feel welcome and included.
- 2. Maybe have a discussion to conduct a few events that will enable students to interact with the different cultures around UMBC.
- 3. We can use our social media presence to spread "BELONGING" and make UMBC students feel welcomed.
- 4. Motion to create BELONGING as the GSA theme for 2021-2022 was seconded and passed unanimously. BELONGING is now officially our theme.

C. Discuss temporary housing for new graduate students -

- 1. Sai Sri KT also brought up the point similar to the Iranian GSO of possibly getting some funding assistance for a temporary housing solution for the new incoming international students.
- 2. Joel is looking into other sources of funding or help for this. Joel will talk to OCSS too.

IV. Open Discussion

A. In person retreat at Pennsylvania (funded by Vairt) -

- 1. Akash will send an email reminding the E-council members to complete the poll for the dates for the retreat and will subsequently share the poll results.