

GSA Fall 2021 Senate Meeting

08 September, 2021 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Check-In & Attendance [5 mins]

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Joel Tyson, Shahin Hossain, Aishwarya Kale, Alyssa Schick, Amy Cruz, Chetan Desai, Cristina Gomez, Dawn Galindo, Elle Kreiner, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Gracie Chaney, Hrishu, Ivan Perez, Jeffery Halverson, Kara Seidel, Masud Ahmed, Nicole Telfer, Nishan Laata, Ruchita Gudipati, Shara Ali, Sai Sri Ram, Sandesh Ennakonda, Scott Hirabayashi, Zachary Smith, Zane Poffenberger, Maurice Roots, Grant Wunderlin, Ryan Kmetz, Chiquita Jackson
- B. CAHSS
- C. CNMS
- D. COEIT
- E. NA

II. Introduction [20 mins]

- A. Senators
- B. OGSL
- C. GAAC
- D. GEARS
- E. GSSC
- F. LCC
- G. Other Participants - Jeff Halverson, Zachary Smith, Grant Wunderlin
- H. E-Council Officers

III. Opening Statement

- A. The opening statement was delivered by Jeff Halverson who welcomed all the attendees and shared with us the importance of shared governance and passion for working in the GSA. He state a few key points:
 - 1. There is a lot of enthusiasm and energy and a lot of students are back on campus. It finally feels like a community again. And how can GSA and the Senate leverage this spirit and energy is a challenge and task to accomplish.
 - 2. The Grad school administration is here to work with the grad students and the GSA and grad community is not very well known and this is another GSA challenge. GSA has to further the cause of all grad students in an undergrad centric university environment.
 - 3. GSA has always enjoyed a lot of autonomy over their budget and work and schedule and functioning and he wants it to stay that way. Grad administrators have always mostly been handsoff and again he hopes it will remain that way.

IV. Guest Speaker: Sustainability [10 mins]

- A. Speaker: Ryan Kmetz
- B. He met with the E-Council reps earlier this year to trying to identify areas to work together towards sustainable development.
- C. Wants to enlighten grad students on United Nations Sustainable Development (UNSD) goals of sustainability.
- D. Encouraged all students to take the sustainability quiz.
- E. Will not be able to fund sustainability research but can help prepare for a grant in that area.

V. Overview [20 mins]

- A. The GSA Constitution
 - 1. Shahin began a discussion about the GSA Constitution and the Mission statement.
- B. The GSA Bylaws
 - 1. Shahin began a discussion about a senator's duties, the Bylaws and gave a generic outline of these Bylaws of the GSA.
- C. UMBC Points of Policy
 - 1. Sahin gave an overview about the eligibility to be a senator and an E-Council member, as stated in the Points or Policy document. Shahin also gave a gist about all GSA's position's compensations.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order
- E. Senate Responsibilities, Duties
 - 1. Decision Making
 - 2. Town Halls
 - 3. University/GSA Committee Representation
- F. Graduate Student Organizations
 - 1. Rule for Funding
 - 2. Any grad student can propose a creation of GSO, but for a GSO to be recognized as an official GSO and to receive GSA funding, a certain set of rules must be followed.

VI. E-Council Reports [15 mins]

- A. President
 - 1. Requested all senators to send in pictures for the gsa senator website.
- B. Vice President
 - 1. Gave a brief explanation of the activities of the Office of the President and Vice President.
 - 2. Shahin explained the outreach collaborations conducted to speak with and talk to other universities' GSAs.
 - 3. We are also strategizing on how to reach out to students, alumni and guests to improve the graduate student experience and the GSA as a whole.
- C. Treasurer

1. Amy is the chair of the grant review panel. She explained about the grants that grad students can apply for and provided a few details about the grants.

D. Historian

1. Updated the GSa website to include the new E-Council, Senators and OGSL staff and the writing advisor. The grants page has been updated for everyone to view and further updates to the various committee's pages will follow.
2. Akash is here to take down meeting minutes, and update the GSA website and work with the E-Council and Senate and the OGSL to maintain the history and record of the GSA.
3. Although Akash is not a part of any specific committee, he is always on hand to hear concerns and suggestions and other updates.

E. GAAC

F. GEARS

1. The gears committee is formed and responsibilities have been divided.
2. The forthcoming events are being planned and regular meetings have been scheduled to begin work.

G. LCC

H. GSSC

1. Kara gave an overview of the GSSC and explained what the committee does already and plans to do.

I. OGSL

VII. **Special Agenda Items [10 mins]**

A. The Annual Budget

1. Amy explained the budget in brief and it was highlighted that senator compensation is disbursed only after all senator duties have been discharged.

VIII. **Old Business [None]**

IX. **New Business**

A. Preparing for your first Town Hall [10 mins]

1. Shahin gave a brief overview about what townalls are.
2. Senators need to first highlight what kind of town hall needs to be organised. The reach out to grad students for town hall's attendance and participation has to be consistent and regular.

B. Motion to establish the Climate Action GSO [5 mins]

1. Gracie Chaney was given the floor to explain their GSO
2. She explained that the GSO is centered around climate activism and that the climate crisis needs to be addressed.

3. She gave an overview about the various campaigns that the GSO is already undertaking and the future campaigns that they want to undertake.
 4. The GSO works with the Maryland and federal governments and political offices to spread awareness about climate change and to set and work towards goals for the same.
 5. The motion to create the GSO 'Climate Change GSO' was set, seconded and passed with more than a 2/3rd majority.
- C. Motion to establish the Biology Outreach Project GSO [5 mins]
1. Zachary and Grant proposed the Biology Outreach Project GSO.
 2. The Project's positions and a formal committee are in place.
 3. In the past 6 months the Project has organized and participated in various events and fairs.
 4. A proposed budget is also at hand for the GSO.
 5. The proposed GSO already has an active departmental participation and student participation.
 6. Motion to create the GSO 'Biology Outreach Project GSO' was set but did not pass and the GSO was not created.
- D. Motion to move the following two items to the next meeting was set and passed. These items will be discussed in the next Senate meeting.
1. Motion to establish a special committee on Graduate Student Housing [5 mins]
 2. Motion to require workshops on inclusion for GSOs [5 mins]

X. **Adjourn**