

GSA Spring 2022 Executive Council Meeting

10 March, 2022

I. Check-In & Attendance

A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Kara Seidel, Ethan Post, Amy Cruz, Zane Poffenberger, Dawn Galindo, Britany Evans.

II. Reports

A. E-Council Members

1. President -

a) The Senate voted to send testimony in favor of SB0118. That testimony was composed and delivered to state senators on the appropriations committee and as part of signing the Fearless Student Employees Petition

2. Vice President -

a) [Volunteers Needed for Meet and Greet](#) (4/4 12-2). This event connects the GSA and Senate to the UMBC community. If you are a senator or on e-council and do not have class or other responsibilities, we highly encourage your participation in this event. **Respond needed by 5/7**

(1) We need four volunteers for each station (one-hour shifts 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.):

- (a) T-Shirts
- (b) Pizza
- (c) Desserts
- (d) Drinks
- (e) Registration

(2) Do you need a volunteer at each space/door (GSA Office/Fireside Lounge/Skylight Room)?

b) [Awards Gala Attendance](#) (5/4), [3MT Attendance](#) (3/31), [Meet and Greet Attendance](#) (4).

(1) If you do not respond, the deadline will be unable to attend these events. (**Please complete all of these by Monday 5/7**)

c) When are PPR and ID? April 5th?

d) Writing Workshop Wednesday - April 6th 12-1

e) Community Mental Health Day - April 7th sponsored by the University Steering Committee

f) Grad Student Mania - April 8th RAC 2-5 pm

g) We need to know if the following events are occurring:

- (1) Alex Rittle Memorial Run -
- (2) Scavenger Hunt - April 5th

- (3) Ideathon/PowerPoint Roulette - GEARS (I have requested an update from Zane, but finding space is proving to be most difficult)
 - h) Could we possibly put up a Grad Student Week Flier between the Commons and BIO Building (apparently called "the Breezeway?" Contact Common vision?
 - 3. Treasurer -
 - a) Equity of Funds Committee Updates
 - 4. Historian -
 - a) Regular website updates.
 - b) Working on a new format for the Graduate Student of the Week page.
- B. GEARS -
- C. Legislative Concerns -
- D. OGSL -
- E. GAAC -
- F. GSSC -
 - 1. **WAGs:** We have the groups finalized with facilitators. Meetings will start this week.
 - a) 5-6 groups matched groups based on individual preferences.
 - 2. **GS Mania:** Planning is moving along. We need to discuss the flyer and suggestions (Added under Business)
 - 3. **Mental Health Day:** Steering committee is planning a few things for mental health day. GSSC has decided to hold a listening session for the graduate students, and they are on board. Need to finalize logistics for this.
 - 4. **Other things:** We sent a letter to RIH and SGA to improve communication between the student government and RIH and improve student involvement in planning. We are waiting for them to pull the group together for a meeting

III. Business

- A. Emailing Senators about their top three concerns (EoF Committee). **3/1-Update: Where are we with this?*
- B. Elections for next year will be held at noon on Apr 13, 2022 . **Updates**
- C. Sunrise Mvt. Stated they were voted upon to be a group within GSA.
 - 1. Zane had reached out to them for using UMBC's name if they are not a registered organization.
 - 2. July 9th, 2021, in an e-council meeting, this was brought up to be voted upon at the next Senate meeting. Can someone find those minutes for me? *T
 - 3. <https://sunrisemovementbaltimore.org/>
- D. Discuss GSMania flyer

IV. Open Discussion

- A. Each semester, Ukrainian Relief Drive in Commons and thoughts on future donation drives include a broader range of refugees from any ethnicity, nationality, or background.
1. This opens up a whole new area in which the GSA. Can the GSA host charity events? Can we provide a place in the Commons for charity groups to host a donation drive with us?
 2. Primary Concern of hosting a donation drive for multiple relief efforts at once: If we are promoting various causes for one event, it dilates the impact and effectiveness of any “donation drive” in multiple ways:
 - a) People, especially college students, only have so much to give at one time. Therefore, hosting an event with multiple charities will not lead to each charity getting the most out of the event. Instead, people will provide the same amount, dividing what they contributed amongst other charities.
 - b) It also dilutes the message. The main goal of a charity drive is to promote donations, yes, but it is also about raising awareness and promoting further involvement. Students facing information on multiple tragedies and disasters may be intimidated to participate.
 - c) Logistical issues
 - d) I am entirely aware of the ethnocentric biases in the U.S’s enthusiasm for supporting Ukraine. Moreover, as an Eastern European Jewish person whose ancestors fled Russian persecution not too far from Ukraine in the late 1800s and have friends who have dual Ukrainian-American citizenship, I am aware of my own emotional biases.
 - e) HOWEVER, We can use Western media’s sympathetic portrayal of the war in Ukraine as an OPPORTUNITY to encourage further donation events in the future. Therefore, I propose hosting a donation drive for a specific refugee or disaster aid cause once a semester.
 3. Working with two UMBC alumni, Alina Yasinova and her sister-in-law Natalea, who have been organizing and volunteering to ship supplies to Ukrainian refugees who are currently in dire need of our assistance. Possible Date: 3/18, 3/25
 4. If we can set up a table in the Commons with a poster with basic info and a QR code, Natalea will provide small Ukrainian flags and stickers to those who donate! She will also bring a cart for transporting the donations to her vehicle