

## GSA Fall 2022

### Executive Council Meeting (our first one!)

22 July 2022, 11 am (Meeting time for Fall 2022 may change)

**This Meeting Will Be Recorded**

#### I. Check-In & Attendance:

- Elle Kreiner
- Ethan Post
- Anoocha Fayyaz
- Zane Poffenberger
- Jill Barr
- Adam Julian
- Anuja Yawar
- Geeta Shanbhag
- Jeff Halverson
- Kara Seidel
- Emily Shrope
- Aminah Amjad

#### II. Business -- started at 11:05AM while waiting for folks

- A. Jill Barr (Assoc. Vice Provost, Ass't Dean Grad School. Graduate School.) and Adam Julian (international student and scholar services) will attend the meeting to discuss the influx of international students and the need for more housing.
- a. a big issue that needs handling due to lack of availability of enough for many of the incoming students
  - b. HOUSING Background: March/April: application numbers were higher and on the increase and admitting new students esp. in COEIT more than previous years
    - i. Planning to open more sections for course registration: e.g. can you get the classes you need as grad students once admitted?--> requires more teachers in order to accommodate increased enrollment
    - ii. June 1st- more info re: how many students would be accepted and accept offer to matriculate
      1. OCSS, Career Services, Transit office, etc. → incoming students increase (200-500 student increase)--> what will that look like?
    - iii. Adam Julian's office-- visa approval increases for int. students (300-400 approx.)
    - iv. Housing + transport was a big issue-- immediate vicinity was mostly booked up

- v. UMB-- agreement to help with overflow with students (Fayette Square apartment complex (50-100 beds) for grad students specifically)
  1. Pricing and living in Baltimore as potential barriers for incoming students; close to UMBC transit stop
  2. Very recent development-- two apartment complex (furnished, 24 hr security, near UMBC transit line); temporary residence possibility at BWI hotel area
  3. Trying to secure additional locations -- increase of bus sizes and more stops to/from these locations; can't afford specifically more bus lines
- vi. A. Julian-- outreach, webinar events to start early for looking for housing; stressing planning for housing and transit in order to have a place to stay once they arrive in the Baltimore metro area; education re: housing practices in USA (deposits, first/last month rent, etc.)
- c. Campus Jobs: Chartwells, etc.--> help think about increasing on-campus job opportunities for int. Students; use Career Services website to post on-campus job offerings instead of relying on WOM
- d. "Host families" idea- Do we have a Graduate Student Housing Board? It may have been established last year
  - i. Buddy to help find housing; or having someone stay at "host students" housing for a couple of days while getting their feet wet when first arriving in the country
    1. Elle + Ethan met with Nancy Y. about this -- is this a liability issue for the grad student/UMBC as an entity?
    2. A. Julian + KJ Barr-- it doesn't seem to be issue when individual graduate students or GSA is doing it in its own capacity (making sure people use due diligence in terms of students needing housing needing help for housing)-- just to buy some time while they're looking for housing
    3. [https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?e= test email &u=f18b6221e040d27d80cd67af8&id=a1bb8c2ea8](https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email_&u=f18b6221e040d27d80cd67af8&id=a1bb8c2ea8) — link from A. Julian
  - ii. Having office hours? -- incoming graduate students connecting to grad. students who are already here -- K. Seidel would come to office hours when it wasn't officially office hours; mostly in order to find jobs on campus → do people know where the GSA office is in the Commons in order to get access to resources?
    1. Online office hours & buddy system when coming to a new country is quite daunting
    2. Scheduling some of these office hours (afternoons are better) in August?
    3. Potentially holding meetings at Starbucks, etc. for people to get help through GSA → getting to everyone through WOM instead of being in specific circles of international students and people with friends in GSA specifically and exclusively

4. Is anyone from housing on the grad student-specific space through Facebook, etc. (higher use of FB in some int. countries)?-- also messages through LinkedIn about UMBC-centric questions
5. Use of social media platforms in order to get answers re: grad school/UMBC questions
6. National problem w/ housing prices and significantly affects int. Student-- especially Indian-origin students would only get housing help through EKTA and through Western Gardens (outside of that area the pricing on housing becomes much pricier)
7. OCSS-- transitioning times while increasing grad student enrollment is on the horizon-- student groups, OCSS, and downtown Baltimore options (flyers) need to work in-tandem to provide potential options for int. Students
  - a. e.g UMB-- had 30 people contact for leases; 8 officially signed leases (even though that's the traditional way of rec'ing apartment housing the States)
  - b. Pick one option when mid- August time comes for int. Students
8. Global connections ([globalstudent.umbc.edu/ask-a-student](http://globalstudent.umbc.edu/ask-a-student)) between incoming students internationally: connecting current students to incoming ones (ike Whatsapp) through a platform like Uni Buddy
9. Add housing information for UMB will be posted through OCSS for int. students who aren't affiliated with specific GSOs
  - a. Potentially an Excel spreadsheet with good options or not-so-good options to avoid
- e. Housing along Metro/Train Routes
  - i. Concern about train line: get to train to get to bus to get to campus-- it does increase the commute time significantly-- it becomes easier to direct commute through UMBC shuttle bus (potentially looking at Elkridge and Columbia as places for grad student housing)

## B. Upcoming Events Notice

- a. Graduate Student Welcome Event: 8-26-22 from 3-6PM (at least 500 RSVPs)
  - i. GSA will be doing an introduction and probably hosting a table;
    1. Looking for Volunteers.
      - a. Send out a google form of some sort-- getting Senators involved to see who would be available to volunteer.
      - b. GSO involvement as well
      - c. Recruitment from E-Council as well
  - ii. Sustainability opportunities for incoming students to be able to participate in-- important for grad student success/well-being
  - iii. Getting GSOs involved? -- but student groups for grad students are in the loop about this event

- b. Gathering on the Green: Community Welcome Day 9-10-22 from 4-7PM
  - i. Looking for Volunteers
  - ii. UMBC community surrounding Catonsville, Arbutus, Halethorpe
  - iii. Tentative-- but we've only been to one planning meeting-- more of a Save the Date and to keep on all folks' radar

### III. Reports

#### A. President [Elle Kreiner & Ethan Post]

- Mental Health Monday- post mental health resources on social media and there is already good content available and created that can be posted and disseminated
- Attended Meetings: Planning for future community events, assisting student research through our ability to disperse information (helping with specific student research that's ongoing), RIH/GSA conversation (sharing information between two organizations), met with Nancy Young, and Lisa Akchin (student housing issues on radar).
- Attended the first GRP Meeting for FY 22-23!
- Will be meeting to assist with the review of the Retriever Essentials Strategic Plan with Lydia Sannella (GSA Non-Academic Senator and RE Program Lead)
  - a) Trying to become more integrated with REI; assist grad students, specifically international students

#### B. Vice President [Emily Shrope] -

#### C. Treasurer [Anuja Yawar]

- GRP meeting (next one will be occurring imminently)
- Hopefully will have more folks participating in the process

#### D. Historian [Geeta Shanbhag]

- Updated the website to reflect the new E-Council as well as the new group of Senators for the upcoming term

#### E. GAAC [Anoosha Fayyaz]

- Nothing to add-- collaboration with PROMISE in terms of TA training sessions in August in tentative stages of planning)

#### F. GSSC

- Nothing to report

#### G. GEARS

- **Nothing to report**

#### **H. LC [Zane Poffenberger]**

- Been starting to: campus partners for hosting the gubernatorial debate; David Hoffman (Center for Democracy) for involvement with specific events (legislators who represent UMBC will be involved so they can listen to concerns from grad student population)

### **IV. Open Discussion**

- A. Trip to D.C.? z-- when is this trip happening? \*no tenta
  - a. New grad students trip to DC so as to welcome them to the area
  - b. Needs official buses/UMBC transit in order to protect individual liability for grad students
  - c. Formulating a committee for specifically planning this?
  - d. Maybe bring this up at next Senate meeting?
- B. Presidential Note: Anuja, Anoosha, Emily