

-GSA Fall 2022

Executive Council Meeting Agenda

Monday the 12th, September 2022, 10:00 am

This Meeting Will Be Recorded

I. Check-In & Attendance:

- Ethan Post
- Emily Shrope
- Jameer Robinson
- Emily Faber
- Jennifer Artis
- Kara Seidel
- Michele Berry
- Zane Poffenberger
- Anuja Yawa
- Dawn Galindo
- Anoosha Fayyaz
- Geeta Shanbhag

Business -

1. Review GSA Website [Grants Review Page](#)
 - a. Complaints about clarity re: updates to the pages and they're not easily identifiable; updates occur yearly (Geeta has updated the 2 grants per year per student to be reflected on the website)
 - b. Michelle, Jameer and Dawn will be going over the website and they'll be giving feedback on the website
 - c. Dawn will have questions forwarded to her
 - d. Time given to review the grants page? → september update was the most recent change
 - e. People should use the website as their one-stop shop for the most recent information re: grants information
2. Bylaws Meeting. Collaborate with Nancy Young and the rest of Student Affairs on finding legal assistance in writing proficient and airtight bylaws.
 - a. Scheduling another by-laws meeting: she offered to find legal assistance in crafting airtight bylaws. Not a skillset of our current members→ we need to have a clear

understanding of what our bylaws look like going forward (and Student Affairs wants to be more involved in aspects of GSA)--> background of legally binding bylaws with no loopholes

- b. Encouraging sign of how Student Affairs will be increasingly involved in GSA matters→ direct involvement in issues
 - c. Kara: concerns re: Student Affairs and the neutrality aspect w/ experience in the past in how supported GSA feels (excuses re: legality aspects).
 - i. Ethan: is this an “olive branch” being extended?
 - ii. Kara: can there be a third party involved in this meeting-- Jennifer A. wants to be involved in the meeting
 - iii. We need to have a clear understanding of what we’d like to change in the meeting (we don’t want to be “told” what we need to do)--> ask for guidance and not for them to create the bylaws for us; Kara doesn’t want us to be told what can be done/can’t be done
 - iv. Jennifer: be clear about what items are on the agenda
 - v. Include changes to the bylaws from last semester; what’s been tabled; and changes proposed by Kara & Zane with what meetings did occur pre-August
 - vi. We should share the original document with original commentary-- so folks can follow the intention of comments on the original document
 - vii. Kara: we’re coming to the table as mutual parties
 - viii. Ethan emailed admin. Leadership and student affairs in re: to involvement; is waiting to hear back→ further discussion about who/what legal representation/presence will look like
3. Ethan: the creation of another co-VP position && delegation of roles for Senators. We need to define this into the bylaws and what this role(s) will actually look like
- Kara
 - 1. Option 1: internal and external VP roles (meaning one that works with senators specifically and another working with external responsibilities such as meetings, etc.)
 - 2. Option 2: Senators will become more involved in steering committees
 - 3. Option 3: Delegation & Co-VPs (as brought up by Emily F)

- a. Best option as per Ethan P.
4. Senators want to be able to help out but how that looks like in terms of volunteers actually stepping up is always vague
5. Dawn: are enough people attending committee meetings?
 - a. Steering committees? → what specifically is benign referred to
 - b. Where is the list regarding all the committees? It may or may not be on the GSA Drive or on the website
 - c. when /where is this committee delegation supposed to happen?
6. Meetings that we have to keep track of re: Senator meetings and the town halls that they become involved in (stipends are dependent on this)
7. Meeting between Ethan, Dawn, and Geeta → will be ironed out there
8. Ad hoc; university committee; etc. → as per bylaws, Dawn mentioned to Kara that it “doesn’t count”
9. Kara disagreed with how much Senators were getting involved in actuality → do the Senators actually understand the bylaws?
10. It may take a retreat of some sort → to Ethan P it became clear that Senators understanding bylaws would take the whole meeting
11. Jennifer: it’s better to set expectations re: what Senators need to be doing in terms of the bylaws
 - a. Ethan: a short meeting to go over bylaws and such with Senators → Ethan will reach out to iron these details out
12. Review BGSO’s Academic Leadership (to be brought up to Senate)
 - a. **BGSO's Academic and Leadership Excellence Scholarship** [Link here](#) (first scholarship)
 - b. Review the link posted above
 - c. Dawn: BGSO goes above and beyond what is expected of them as an entity
 - d. Ethan: this is a way that we can support equity on campus

- e. Kara: BGSO's commitment; doesn't fall to marginalized folks to make things happen → Ethan: needs to become a collaborative effort
- f. The Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO) at UMBC is proud to announce its first annual scholarship! This scholarship, sponsored by the Graduate Student Association (GSA), will support two graduate students within the BGSO in the amount of \$250 each who have demonstrated academic and leadership excellence both on and off campus.
- g. Emily S: Do we need to approve this above link? (logistics of it)
 - i. Dawn: they're looking to receive a consistent amount of funding for this scholarship (dedicated funds vs. going through GRP)
 - ii. This will go through to Senate if it's approved
- h. Emily: could it be a yearly approval?
- i. Dawn: it can be build into our budget and Senate will go ahead and approve it every year
- j. Emily S.: can be offered to BGSO as something that occurs every year
- ii. Qualifications re: how can other GSOs besides BGSO get this kind of funding?
- iii. Kara: bring this up to the Senate to iron out details

Reports

- **President [Ethan Post]**
 - Retriever Essentials Needs Support
 - Influx of grad students has put stress on the food pantry; lack of resources and awareness within the grad student population
 - Jennifer, Kara, etc.--> had a meeting with R.E.
 - They ran out of food; most of the folks going to the pantry have been international grad students

- GSA can assist/support to grocery stores in the area and providing transportation
- Different departments could provide stipend to R.E. to assist R.E.
- Committee meeting with GSSC this afternoon
- Kara: Lydia S. needs help with volunteers this week/in September
 - Emily F. and Kara: regular time commitment to be able to meet grad students and assess needs
- 67% of people using Retriever Essentials were grad students
 - Is this a stipend issue? How can we provide consistent support
 - Are stores willing to donate “unattractive” produce
- Ethan: food/clothing drive?
 - Workshops by GSSC→ demand may increase after grad student fest
 - Jennifer A and Ethan will be attending GSSC meeting on this issue
- Dawn: what is IES doing about this? → is Catonsville/Arbutus Business/Commerce and other local grocery stores for grad students to receive assistance → Transportation and IES is looped on this (Jennifer)
- Zane: international students-> housing and jobs → understanding renting in the USA and visas that only allow students to work on-campus while being on student visas
 - Understanding: growth within the Grad School; but the infrastructure isn’t set up for international grad students once they arrive on-campus
 - Jennifer A: COVID19 restrictions prevented students coming from international countries; deferments on top of enrollment/applications that created an unanticipated influx of students
- Other departments are starting to understand how many international students are here on campus; university as a whole needs to be open to international grad students which will be a whole process (J. Artis) → a problem across USM schools

- Anuja: agrees with Jennifer that international grad students concur in lack of support from the university at large and is a big point of concern
 - Ethan: USM student leaders meeting→ how to best support international students; he'll reach out to the USM student regent
- Ethan reaching out to USM Student Regent and UMBC undergraduate student Farah Helal in regards to how we can better support international students on campus, especially with the increase in international students on campus
 - We already have a Library Advisor for Graduate Students; can we have one specifically for international student assistance? Grant Clifton is the ELI Writing Advisor. Can we offer our own support, similar to grants? Perhaps, hire International Students with strong writing and communication skills to assist other students struggling with English in essays, notes, and tests?
 - Ethan: Discuss with Janet Rutledge regarding this
- Forming Special Committee for Diversity Initiative Video
 - Ethan: would anyone in ECouncil want to take the lead on the creation of this
 - Reached out to Senators interested→ Ethan would join in on the meeting spearheaded by Emily S.
- Oct 6 Walkout/rally/media drive for bodily autonomy and abortion rights
 - Something that GSA + Senators at large would like to help out in
 - This is a cross-university effort around the country
 - The organizing group (Day of Student Action for Bodily Autonomy) has worked with multiple different campuses to have these drives at universities
- Discussion from USMC supporting voting during elections.
 - How to support students to get the time/access to be able to vote and get their voice heard
 - What role can GSAs, etc. can have
 - Day offs/excused absences to have students engage in civic activities
- Transportation to student polling locations? Excused absence from classes/work?
 - There has been pushback amongst Prohosts- There are so many alternatives to voting that a day off just to vote would not be entirely necessary. But we are also encouraging

students to become civically engaged in election-type activities. The push now is for “excused absences”

- NAACP Rep. Dorian Rogers, MD. spoke on how significant it was to promote engagement in our election and to try to “support our democracy, no matter how vulnerable it is”. Getting people to the polls is essential. What are we doing to assist students in transportation in voting sites
 - Do as much as possible to promote civic engagement and assist with transportation
- Much of the movements in our nation occurred at universities and we can do that. We can use policy to promote equity on our campus, which means voting rights. → call back to history of civic engagement at colleges
- We use words like diversity and inclusion, but we also need to back that up with a policy that promotes it.
- Promote specified assistance in international students that need assistance with language and writing in English, plus interpreting English that typically comes from “white, middle-class males” in academia.

Ethan reaching out to USM Student Regent and UMBC undergraduate student Farah Helal in regards to how we can better support international students on campus, especially with the increase in international students on campus

- We already have a Library Advisor for Graduate Students; can we have one specifically for international student assistance? Grant Clifton is the ELI Writing Advisor. Can we offer our own support, similar to grants? Perhaps, hire International Students with strong writing and communication skills to assist other students struggling with English in essays, notes, and tests?
 - cultural/colloquial language differences
 - Jennifer A: have a specific description of proposal/job description about what specifically GSA is looking for
 - Kara: why don't we have an international committee?
 - Ethan will set up a meeting with USM student regent Fara and loop in Emily F, Kara and Jennifer

- ECouncil can pipe in and make comments
- Dining Advisory Committee (9/29) and 10/24 a 4 PM. 12/2 at 1 Pm
- Classroom Committee (9/28) 12-2PM (10/25) 1-2pm; (11/30) 2-3PM Contact: Samantha Drummond
 - Above for Senators to become involved with
 - Lydia Stamato will likely join IT Steering Committee
- New electric busses may be a few years away, Joe Regier is just very excited. → will be at least 5-10 years away
 - Aminah: buses not having space, being consistently late w/o looping students in (can there be a notification for students)?
 - Schedule revision: more bus times and more consistency with updates
 - Ethan will reach out Joe in Transportation; Aminah: that way people can make adjustments to schedules as needed
- Retriever Integrated Health/Counseling Center Groups for Fall 2022

- **Vice President [Emily Shrope]**
 - Joined the search committee for the new VP position for OEI (office of equity and inclusion). First meeting will be tomorrow (9/13)
 - a) Is there anything that people on ECouncil want E.S. to voice?
 - b) Possibly have Discord be a place that E.S. will reach out to grad student population to get thoughts/feedback
 - (1) Kara: seconding reaching out to Senators and Discord
 - (2) Highlighting accessibility issues
- **Treasurer [Anuja Yawar]**
 - GRP members - committee is yet to be finalized - waiting for GRP members budget meeting with Dawn and Ethan which is to be held on September 12,2022 (today)
 - GRP members stipend - discussion with Dawn- decision is yet to be made.
 - To be discussed in the E-council meeting - late application-strict approval or denial? (We were thinking to accept application till 20th if the application is upto the mark) - known the opinion of other E-council members.

So far, I am forwarding the late application to the GRP to review. The GRP as a whole decides the status of late applications.

- Considering late applications depending on strength of applications (though Dawn mentioned that we can't approve late applications)
- 5 day grace period to complete applications-> after 20th GRP will not approve the application once that time period is up
- **Historian [Geeta Shanbhag]**
 - Updates to the website continuing
 - GAAC committee updates
 - Touch base w/ Ethan re: shared governance committees updates
 - Senate meeting minutes are cleaned up and will be uploaded to the website→ last years minutes will be archived
 - Any feedback on the website/meeting minutes, etc.--> email me!
- **GAAC [Anoosha Fayyaz & Sahara Ali]**
 - Conducted a session on how to find a GA position with PROMISE
 - Preparing for our next town hall on Collective Bargaining
 - Started biweekly meetings of GAAC
 - Open questions:
 - a) Has the new community liaison booked the rooms?
 - b) Budget.
 - c) **Zane: ECS must respond. Zabe will update the color notations**
- **GSSC (Kara Seidel and Emily Faber)**
 - GS fest updates - confirming attendees, will need senators to attend and help
 - Restorative and relationship building with the grad school
 - Collaboration with Office of Health Promotion meeting today at 11 am
 - Safe walk program - idea from Senator Jessica Burstrem
 - Email to senators about immediate help needed with Retriever Essentials
 - Emily - Transit issues and advocacy
- **GEARS**
 -

- **OGSL**
 -
- **LC [Zane Poffenberger]**
 - **Candidates in our Backyard event, September 29th**
 - **Weekly meetings with Center for Democracy and Civic Life**
 - **SAGE meeting tonight**

IV. Open Discussion

●