

## **GSA Senate Meeting**

**September 8th, 2022**

**12 pm- 2 pm**

**[Meeting will be recorded]**

[Meeting Link](#)

### **1. Attendance and check-in: [5 mins]**

- Ethan Post
- Emily Faber
- Charles Waters
- Grace De Oro
- Janerra Allen
- Jeffrey Halverson
- Jessica Burstrem
- Kara Seidel
- Lydia Sannella
- Max Aifer
- Mershad Fahim Devin
- Michele Berry
- Omkar Kulkarni
- Taylor West
- Alex Nguyen
- Dishant Fapot
- Harshil Prajapati
- Hemanth Gopal
- Jennifer Artis
- Lydia Stamato
- Shiridinath Konduru
- Tahereh Hematian Pour Fard
- Amy Cruz
- Musa Kallon
- Taylor West
- Jameer Robinson
- Zane Poffenberger
- Anoosha Fayyaz
- Aminah Amjad
- Alexi
- Anurag Varshney
- Emily Shrope

### **2. Ice Breaker [20 mins]**

- **Introductions**
  - a. Charades: Act out (or draw using excalidraw) What program are you in, and what topic are you studying? [20 mins]-- popcornning this around and ended up doing breakout rooms
  - b. Introductions of the E-Council and Committees on the E-Council-- popcornned around and discussed involvement with GSA, etc.
    - i. Introductions of Jeff Halverson, Assoc. Dean in the Grad School
    - ii. Jennifer Artis, Assistant Dean of Administration
    - iii. Serve as the bridge between administrative entities and graduate students

## 2. Group Norms

- [Code of Conduct Review](#) → just briefly touched upon by Ethan
  - See: Article V. Proscribed Conduct: Section B: 2, 7-16, 18, 19. Section C: 1-4. (relevant sections to graduate students)
  - For Processes and Outcomes of Violation of Proscribed Conduct: Article: VI (consequences should norms be violated, etc. and other routes that are available for student support if they feel like CoC is violated)
  - These are expectations that are more relevant to graduate students
- Group Norms- Led by Kara Seidel and Emily Faber (Family) as the GSSC Co-Chairs to have communal feel and grow relationships with all stakeholders involved
  - No harassment, sexual harassment, and respect differing opinions within a group of participants
  - Establish of pronoun sharing in the beginning of spaces
  - Emily Faber: will co-facilitate the formulation of Group Norms (not interrupting each other, etc.-- for the wellbeing of community building within our group) -- this is occurring on a separate Google Document
    - Invited all folks to be able to speak
    - Important points of discussion- safe spaces vs. brave space (expectation of growth and learning rather than “being safe from criticism of your own world view”)
    - Trust, support, emphasis on multiculturalism/diversity and understanding that values differ depending on where a person’s story is coming from
    - Recognizing that we can make more of a difference with GSA Senators and E-Council working together to accomplish goals to further support the graduate student population
    - Tahereh Hematian Pour Fard (VP in the past, currently Pres of the Iranian Graduate Student Organization): spoke re: a space reservation that didn’t go through with the Event Center (an event for New Year that was happening). Events Center gave that specific space (even though GSA stepped

in and tried to adjudicate the situation) to a different department. This occurred despite the fact that Tahereh and her GSO representing Iranian graduate students reserved that space in the Event Center 2 months in advance.

- Wants clarification re: specific rules of GSA funding and would like it to happen on a specific scheduled timeline as opposed to what she perceives as it being random.
- Kara and Ethan: expressed sympathy and emphasized that events planning process and funding system has had changes occur
  - COVID19 changed the way in which both systems function→ and the switch back-to-campus made it difficult/a hassle to schedule events
  - Emphasize that things would be much more transparent on GSA's end
- Tahereh: didn't receive a followup on a specific email-- Ethan and Dawn will have Tahereh email this email thread to them to be able to help in whatever way GSA can.
- Avoiding personal attacks, responsiveness and transparency, mutual support, space/time mindfulness, understand how "devils advocate process works"; respectful of a variety of different perspectives that people bring to the table; take lessons and not go-well; respect peoples time; communicate when you need support
- \*\*mental, physical, and academic health as paramount for all members\*\*
- FEmily will go ahead and distill the essence of the comments made in the document and will share it with the entire group
- Jennifer A. and Jeff H. signed off on the document→ and posted somewhere in Google Docs, etc. where it is accessible (last part of agenda?) to help folks see it constantly when we're at these meetings
  - This is a group effort in terms of putting this document together and this will continue to be work-shopped together

### **3. Old Business: [20 mins] -- touched upon at around 1 PM**

- a. Vote on bylaw amendments discussed in the March meeting. [10 min]
  - i. About half of the proposed amendments were voted and passed last semester
  - ii. Please take some time to review these bylaws -- we can decide whether the unpassed amendments will be voted on in this graduate
  - iii. Grace: brought up the fact that sections of the GoogleDoc document were deleted; Ethan and Grace will work to restore some of the deleted sections using the previous versions section of GoogleDoc
  - iv. Mehrshad: can we table this to the next meeting; motion seconded by Emily Faber

1. Restored version will be sent out to the entire group of folks
2. Vote to table this: Mershad moved to table (Emily F brought it to vote)
  - a. Votes: yay, nay, abstain for Grad Senators (need a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to pass)
  - b. Yay: Jessica B, Emily Faber, Emily Shrope, Amy Cruz, Grace de Oro, Charlie Waters, Lydia Sannella, Lydia Stamato, Janerra A, Max Aifer, Omkar K., Taylor West, Hemanth G., and Dishant Fapot (14 senators voted) → we have quorum based on the count
  - c. Passed with a vote of 11/14 present senators (79/80% vote of “yay”)
- b. Create a GSA video featuring our diverse graduate student body. [10 min]
  - i. Ethan is happy to help post/promote the diversity of the GSA student body and that the diversity of the grad student population is represented in the GSA body as a whole
  - ii. Is anyone interested in working on this?
    1. Please shoot Ethan an email if you’re interested in pursuing this opportunity-- it’s time to work on this ASAP
    2. Emily S: Jameer as the Community Liaison to be able to work on?
    3. Zane: is it part of the job description? → Senators or committee members would be more able to work on it as a part of the Senator section of their jobs
    4. Kara: volunteers would be in the video; something that’s done in the October (will check notes on the prior iteration of this video discussion)
    5. Motion: bring it to the ECouncil to figure out logistics and then bring back to the Senate body as a whole
    6. Emily F: who was the person who was in charge of directing the video after this was motioned/pass (?) last time
    7. Emily F: motioned to bring Senators to vote re: whether they’d like to do this or push it to ECouncil to figure out logistics first
      - a. Omkar, Emily S. will help too
      - b. Grace: motions to table this meeting to next meeting (putting together a special committee specifically for project completion w/ Senators and ECouncil members)
      - c. Second this motion: Charlie and Omkar seconded (motion passed); Emily F and Mehrshad (yay’d)
      - d. Grace: can be discussed on Discord (<https://discord.gg/v2xgV8se>), email, etc.
    8. Vote on tabling this discussion
      - a. Yay, nay, abstain
      - b. Yay: Emily F, Mehrshad, Lydia, Amy, Charlie, Grace, Max, Harshil, Hemanth, Lydia S., Shridinath (11)
      - c. Nay: Jessica B. (1)

- d. 11/14 Senators voted and quorum (11/16 senators are present to vote) was achieved; vote passed

#### 4. New Business: [<60 mins]

- a. Motion: Approve the re-establishment of the Co-Vice Presidency position in order to balance the workload of the President and Vice President [<30 mins]
  - i. Workload is too much to be able to manage
  - ii. Resignation of Elle K. (the resignation was sent to specifically ECouncil) as Co-President
    - 1. Wouldn't be able to commit to the workload given her other commitments
  - iii. Emily F: Co-Presidency needs to be created in the by-laws to be able to be passed and actually put into effect
    - 1. Joel as the example to be able to have Ethan bring into meetings/delegating from Pres to Co-VPs as needed
    - 2. Co-presidency was allowed: Jessica B→ instead of adding another president, it would be co-VP
    - 3. Kara: VP and Pres do a similar type of work; Ethan brought up specific differences like stipends, etc.
    - 4. Jessica B-- should there be VPs for specific tasks/responsibilities? That way there's a specific transparency to what the position will be demanding
    - 5. Emily S: deciding things specifically that the Vice President's for specific regions will be working with→ would the Senators decide?
    - 6. Grace: brought up the question to clarify specifically what the motion is being brought up
    - 7. Delegation of ECouncil members to roles on steering committees, etc. -- brought up by Grace and Emily F (informally seconded this idea)
  - iv. Ethan: creation of another co-VP position && delegation of roles for Senators
  - v. 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)
  - vi. Jessica B-- moves to table further discussion to how to redefine VP roles and when the Senators will have information on
    - 1. yay/nay/abstain
    - 2. Yay- 13 (Omkar, Charlie, Hemanth, Jessica, Mehrshad, Max, Amye, Emily F, grace, Harshil, Shirdinath, Dishant, Lydia Stamato)
    - 3. No nays-- quorum is achieved and it passed

## 5. Reports and Open Discussion

### Open Discussion

- In-person Senate Meeting this semester? (with food)!! Which month?
  - Omkar: thought that all meetings were in-person?
  - Jessica: November or October would be best
  - Is there interest in doing an in-person section with a hybrid capability?
    - Yes and there will be food!
  
- Touching points that Ethan P will go over

### President:

- Oct 6 [Day of Student Action for Bodily Autonomy](#)
  - Currently, the Graduate Student Action Network is organizing a Day of Student Action on Oct 6, where students will leave their classrooms/labs and gather on campus in solidarity to 1) demand federal protection of fundamental rights to abortion and gender-affirming care; 2) get educated on how to access abortion; 3) sign a petition demanding specific (legal) support from the University; 4) and get registered to vote. You can learn more about the Day of Action [here](#), see FAQ [here](#), and [sign up to get involved here](#). -- Ethan has been attending meetings (can't attend every meeting but wants to loop all Senators in)
  - Standing up for all person's rights, including abortion, and gender-affirming care (participating in a walkout on Oct 6th)
    - Walkout, rally, resource fair, etc. (part of the GSA fest)
  - Emily S. : walk-out is something that she would want to be a part of: advertising, etc. needs to start now-- would be happy to make a poster, etc. or somehow be a part of making it possible to make this happen
  - Do we want to move the meeting? → are we going to carry over this "walkout" to the GSA roles?
  - Zane: there's a training in person where people can watch a video and be trained to start registering folks to vote
  - Grace: do university employees face repercussions for participating?
    - Jeff H.- GA/TAs are not USM employees so there may or may not be repercussions
    - Walking out on duty for GA/TA that prohibits working; needs to be worked out with a supervisor (Jennifer A. brought up

that the supervisor convo needs to come first before understanding how we can help folks in that department)

- Retriever Essentials facing challenges- Jeffrey Halverson
  - Stress and pressure for food pantry re: food insecurity for students
  - Specifically an issue for international graduate students
  - Meeting w/ stakeholders to try to ease some pressure off the food pantry → other food outlets and resources that can be utilized; gap period of payment for GAs
  - Communicate the intent of having Retriever Essentials + make it easier to get students to places off-campus such as grocery stores and other food pantries in the community
    - Should EKTA become involved and educate folks on how to get students to know where food outlets are located
  - Lydia is looking for help through Sept for volunteering
  - Dining Advisory Committee (9/29) and 10/24 at 4 PM. 12/2 at 1 PM
  - IT Steering Committee Friday (9/16) 11am-12pm Contact: Samantha Drummond
  - Classroom Committee (9/28) 12-2PM (10/25) 1-2pm; (11/30) 2-3PM Contact: Samantha Drummond
- [Student Caregiver Survey to be sent 9/9](#) (doesn't work)--> student caregiver survey sent out by a grad student researching the topic
- Transportation News from Joe Regier- New Electric Proterra Busses secured. This will support 400 new riders. Advancement of more electric busses on campus and becoming gas free. One is en route today for test runs. I will be going to the Transportation Office today to learn more.(will be helpful because housing and transportation for large influx of grad students at UMBC)
- Meeting to review grants page next Tues.--> grants page will be updated and will be transparent with grad student population re: what changes are being made
- [Gathering on the Green: A Community Building Cookout.](#) September 10, 4-7 p.m. Green space at the corner of Linden Ave. and Shelbourne Rd.
  - GSA Booth. [Volunteers are needed](#) for the table set up at 3 PM. If you can volunteer with other roles, please do. Would love to have everyone in attendance.
  - Free food, music, games, children's activities, cornhole tournament, and more.

Review Governing Documents Game

([https://quizizz.com/admin/quiz/6310f14e0ba071001da0f5a1?source=quiz\\_share](https://quizizz.com/admin/quiz/6310f14e0ba071001da0f5a1?source=quiz_share))-- Kahoot Game that we ran out of time to conduct  
\*please take a look at the agenda all!\* → email thread may come momentarily for Senators to loop

Emily F: motion to adjourn

Grace, Omkar, Taylor and Mehrshad seconded; none opposed (meeting ended at 2:06 PM)

**Vice President:**

- Joined Climate Action Steering Committee of the USC
  - [“The Climate Action Steering Committee](#), CASC, is the university body charged with UMBC’s response to climate change. The CASC is currently comprised of the following workgroups: Academics & Engagement, Energy, Landscape Stewardship, Resilience, Transportation, and Waste”
  - Working groups that any student can join:
    - *Academics, Engagement, and Outreach*
    - *Climate Resilience*
    - *Energy*
    - *Transportation*
    - *Waste*
    - *Landscape Stewardship Committee (Affiliated with CASC)*

**Treasurer:**

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**OGSL:**

- **Writing Advisor:**
- **Community Liaison:**
- **Communications Manager:**

**Gears:**

- [Registration form](#)

**GAAC:**

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**GSSC:**



- WAG Kickoff Event Update
- Grad Student Fest Oct 12th from 3-7 PM Update
- UMBC transit impacts
- Safe walk program? (Idea from Jessica Burstrem )

**LC:**

- **Co-hosting the Candidates in our Backyard forum with SGA, Center for Democracy and Civic Life, and other community leaders**
- **Working with Center for Democracy and Civic Life to determine way to engage graduate students**
- **Starting to plan for the legislative session, what bills/policies graduate students want to support/testify for**

**Equity of Funds Committee:**

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**Steering Committees:**

**Representation in Fall Meetings for these committees is needed. Please, sign below if you are interested and able.**

- [Dining Advisory Committee](#), (9/29) and 10/24 at 4pm. 12/2 at 1pm.
- IT Steering Committee Friday (9/16) 11am-12pm.
- Classroom Committee (9/28) 12pm-2pm. (10/25) 1pm-2pm. (11/30) 2pm-3pm) Contact: Samantha Drummond.

**GSOs:**

- Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO)
- Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA)
- Graduate Women in Physics (GWIP)
- Indian Student Association (EKTA)
- Iranian Graduate Student Association (IGSA)
- LGBTQ+/Allied Stem
- Meyerhoff GRadaute Stududent Association (MGSA)
- Geography & Environmental Systems

**Graduate Program GSOs**

**6. Adjourn**

