

GSA Fall 2022

Executive Council Meeting Agenda

October, the 17th, 2022, 10:00 am

This Meeting Will Be Recorded

I. Check-In & Attendance:

- Kara Seidel
- Emily Shrope
- Jeffrey Halverson
- Emily Faber
- Ethan Post
- Dawn Galindo
- Geeta Shanbhag
- Amy Cruz
- Aminah Amjad
- Anoosha Fayyaz
- Anuja Yawar
- Jennifer Artis
- Michele Berry
- Zane Poffenberger

II. Reports

- **Treasurer (Anuja Yawar) + Assistant Treasurer (Amy Cruz)**
 - Request to increase the budget for GRP/member stipend (current - \$500/member * 4) - Amy will be discussing this with
 - [GRP information](#)
 - Amy: made a form; building a GRP
 - Many students interested in joining the GRP
 - Adjustment to the budget (will loop back on this)
 - Ethan: bring this up during the emergency meeting?
 - Increase the budget + increase it for more members
 -
 - Creating a feedback form for applicants (Anuja)
 - Forwarding to all the students who've submitted their grant applications to narrow down/clarify exactly what are the points of confusion during the application process
 - Send also in the approval/denial emails
 - Waiting for Ethan et al.'s approval of it

- **Historian (Geeta Shanbhag)**
 - Updated Steering Committees on the website
 - Continuing the website updates
 - a) Jameer will give me a flowchart for the GSO and will continue working on this
 - b) ShRemily just started recording the meeting → Geeta will remember to remind ShRemily/Ethan in the future!
- **GAAC (Anoosha Fayyaz & Sahara Ali)**
 - Sent out a transit survey summary to Student affairs and Transit office but none of them acknowledged or replied to the email.
 - a) :(
 - b) They're not sure what to do about that
 - Planning Meet and Confer town hall for the coming week on Friday the 21st
 - a) Bring questions; Deans will be present too
 - b) Anoosha → does Dr. H or Jennifer want to introduce the town hall?
 - (1) Both him and Dr. R will be there → Anoosha will work to get slides about "meet and confer"
 - (2) Dr H and Dr. R will be willing to take on-the-spot questions during the town hall
 - (3) Dr. H → is this only face/face; Anoosha-- there will be Webex link present as well to make it a hybrid format
 - (4) Zane → are there meeting minutes kept of meet & confer town hall? Didn't seem there were any in the Drive
 - (a) Dr. H → there was no formal "meet and confer" town hall so there was no record of it
 - (b) Periodic meetings to address specific issues were held in the past
 - (c) The nature of the meetings has evolved in the past
 - Deans of the grad school will be there
 - All GAs are welcome to attend and bring up their concerns

- Formal Meet and Confer meeting with the Dean will be held on Nov 2, 2022
 - At the same time, we are preparing for the collective bargaining town hall to be held in november
 - a) Planning a town hall on collective bargaining→ details are still being made up
- **GSSC (Kara Seidel and Emily Faber)**
 - GS Fest report
 - a) Kara shout-outs ECouncil
 - b) 358 scans (ish) +/- folks
 - c) President was impressed with the event
 - d) Debrief about the event
 - (1) Stealing Tshirts :(
 - (2) How to navigate food/give-aways
 - e) Planned for 200 but many more showed up
 - f) Lots of questions re: how to get involved in GSA
 - (1) Social media takeover issue but was resolved after some time
 - Transit success :)
 - a) FEmily did much work on this
 - b) They figured out how to 5 buses and relieved crowding on the most popular bus routes
 - c) Janet R. GSSC, GAAC worked together with other stakeholders to make this happen- YAY
- **GEARS (Aminah Amjad)**
 - Website has been updated, new committee and new itinerary.
 - Updated members and the remaining details are re: the room updates will be sent out/circulated
 - Flier for Trivia Night is ready → room confirmation will let this start to be circulated
 - Trivia night (7th Nov 4:30-7pm or 7:30pm) In person (Room details still on hold)
 - Trivia night forms being sent out as soon as room is confirmed (team registrations)
 - Scott Morgan's information session: hybrid planned, process of booking room and registering for in person→ will be started as soon as details are ironed out

- CV session/cover letters → information session about interviews; but reach-out needs to happen to the Career Center
 - Will loop back to GSA about this!
- **OGSL**
 - Writing Advisor (Michelle): no updates
 - Community Liaison (Jameer): no updates
 - Communications Manager (Ethan): I will be sending out Town Hall posts this week.
 - a) Potential second CAHSS town hall?
- **LC (Zane Poffenberger)**
 - Working with the Center for Democracy and Civic Life to collaborate on events
 - a) Election Night Extravaganza → simplified but Zane will send out volunteer info (food, games, election night results return)
 - b) Kara-- when Megan did this; is it advertised to graduate students specifically (grad student centric aspect?)
 - (1) How to attract more grad students? → main point is to bring people across campus together
 - (2) Grad student specific type reward-- Ethan(?)
 - (3) Election Night Happy Hour (?) - Kara
 - (a) FEmily and Kara → could be a gateway to get to know grad students who normally don't come to GSA events
 - (4) Homecoming → if it usually has an undergrad-centric event; then it's hard to attract grad students (Ethan)
 - (a) workshop - specific for grad students?
 - Met with UMD students about collective bargaining bill collaboration
 - a) Zane met with them this past Monday (the 10th) and got information about their strategy
 - b) Any questions about this can be forwarded?
 - (1) Will be able to put information into GSA Drive + forward to folks as desired
 - c) GSA vote last year → should there be a re-vote on this in terms of supporting the initiative?

- Holding joint townhall with GAAC around collective bargaining and possibly other bills
 - a) Anoosha-- after the town hall-- see about doing a survey to see whether folks are in-favor or not?
 - b) Zane: can resend the same survey about whether folks support the bill
 - (1) Anoosha- what's the voting about?
 - (2) Zane-- got alot of feedback last year re: the support of grad students; wants to make sure that has the support
 - (3) Zane + Anoosha- agreed that maybe it would be better to have the vote/survey sent out after the fact
 - (4) Kara- have a committee representative at the town hall
- Send out survey regarding other legislative interests
 - a) Other bills that may be of interest in terms of whether folks would want to testify, etc.
 - b) Will keep ECouncil updated
- **President (Ethan Post)**
 - Emergency Senate Meeting this Wednesday 12-1.
 - Only agenda item will be to discuss Old Business and vote on Amy's and possibly other's positions being added. Any open discussion items will be saved for the end, if time permits.
 - co-VPs; any open business
 - Creating Agenda Today- Amy and Anuja- please work on specifics of Assistant Treasurer (pay, reason for that pay, what specific roles, time commitment etc...enough to please the Senate)
 - Co-Vice Presidency-
 - Nomination and election process
 - Kara- can someone be more than one alternates? Grace de Oro can't be everyone's alternate in CAHSS (Ethan agreed and this shouldn't be)
 - Structure of the Senate meetings→ if other people depend on the Senate (quorum, time)--> no business can be

done if the Senate gets held up (Amy as a CAHSS senator is abstaining from voting)

- Ethan: having a second meeting?
 - ShRemily → were Senators surveyed about what they wanted in the extra meeting?
 - ShRemily → linked to responses ([Responses from Emergency Senate meeting form](#))
 - 64% of folks wanted a longer meeting
 - Mehrshad's suggestion as the Speaker/asst' Speaker for the Senate (talk about this in the emergency Senate meeting)
 - Ethan: vote in adding new positions and another discussion point for the Senate speaker positions → creating the structure is tough
 - But having a clear idea is important in terms of understanding how we need to proceed about getting structure → main purpose is to handle co-Treasurer
 - Important: co-VPs; and Speaker/Asst' Speaker positions
 - ShRemily → concurred with the statement
 - Amy + Anuja → send out the details ASAP (at least by Tuesday) ; for the Senators to come ready with the questions
 - ShRemily + Ethan → can help with wordings
 - Anuja + Amy (A squared) → will have this by Tuesday
 - Ethan and ShRemily will see about the Co-VP stuff; Mehrshad can be reached out to see about the Speaker/Asst' Speaker

- FEmily→ we may not meet quorum (Kara seconded)
 - Taylor and Jessica seemed to have the only Senators with alternate
 - ShRemily- Not sure why Grace mentioned re: the conflict; Kara- Grace felt like she was the only member holding down the CAHSS vote (Ethan concurred that she shouldn't have to do that)
 - The times were chosen based on responses given the majority can make it
 - As long as there is an alternate, that is fine (it is Senator's responsibility to find their alternative)
- Latinx students held social, discussed interest in forming a GSO. Thanks Yara!
 - Ethan and Kara were at the event listening → having representation on campus + and being an underrepresented minority/developing a sense of community
 - Forming a GSO→ was an idea that got some momentum
 - Kara: the burden was on them to navigate grad school/to make the change
 - Not just the GSO; housing issues; how to navigate with advisors
 - Was concerning to hear that these conversations are not just happening here in ECouncil but als in general population
 - Dr. H-- what else was said/what else did you both hear? (besides housing)
 - Community and the "burden" → navigating everything alone (no support from the Grad School)

- They didn't know what GSA was until the day before (Michele said that they also didn't know about GSA until they met Zane)
- Cross-disciplinary meeting of folks
- The way in which international students have been lumped together
 - Communication manager → we're not educated about what GSA is; but also that they're overloaded with Grad Student emails from the GSA
 - We're posting on Discord, myUMBC, and on Instagram
 - It's a problem from communication from UMBC to new students (ShRemily also noted that we're not looped in for new students)
- A central Google Calendar
- Grad School Orientation shifted during COVID19 → GSA seems to fall through the cracks (Dr. H + Ethan)
- One of the emails should specifically about GSA (link to group) → email campaign specifically to new grad students (Jennifer A)
 - List ways in which we're there to support you)
 - How to specifically get involved → then people will remember the emails received
- Welcome picnic period to COVID19 → Dawn Galindo (Kara seconded and elaborated)
- SHREmily and Aminah → reach students through GPDs
- Anuja-- increase social media presence
- Amy: mention GSA during classes or put information on syllabi; deliver information to departments
- FEmily + ShRemily → agreed about the grad student lounge space (Fireside Lounge-- non-reservable but we could have a sit-in/nap-in)

- Get an officer from GSA → to each and every one of the grad student orientations for the department
 - Jennifer- take an opportunity to bring it up to the President (GSSC will be meeting with her)
- [Research & Publication: COEIT & CNMS Faculty Panel](#)
- I will create a sheet to keep track of Townhalls.
- **Vice President (Emily Shrope)**
 - Ethan and I attended the University Steering Committee (USC) on Friday Oct 14.
 - We learned about the budget break down and cycle (Link presentation once Leslie Kruger sends it out) and where money is allocated
 - LINK:
 - Tuition for undergrad and grad are all put into one bucket, then dolled out from there. But fees from each only go to services which support those students (i.e. grad student fees go to support grad services)
 - We're not getting the proportion contributed to the university → is it being allocated to us in that proportion
 - *****Undergrad tuition revenue is down by about \$2 million this year while grad tuition revenue us up by a little more than \$3 million******
 - Is the money going right to undergrad support?
 - President Shears-Ashby will be joining the USC meetings in December, February and March(?)
 - Talk of creating a University Community Well-being Committee to look at promoting well-being holistically across campus
 - Ethan and I also attended R.E.A.C.H. committee meeting Oct 14 (Retriever Essentials)
 - There are three subcommittees (Nutrition, Event Planning, and Sustainability) if folks are interested in joining
 - They meet bi-monthly, every other Friday
 - Fill out this [interest form](#) if you are
 - Will be sending out email to senators who have not yet been matched with a committee so they can sign up (I believe only one—Max Aifer, and maybe Jessica

Burstrem), thus ensuring that each senator can fulfill their required duties

- Are we counting GSA committee's in the requirement for Senators? (and as regards [Jessica Burstrem](#))
 - GSA committees within our space→ can this count to towards the “committee” need to be filled
 - Dawn: part of the stipend for University Committee; and then if they're on the GSA subcommittee they can
- [Responses from Emergency Senate meeting form](#)
 - Also need reach out to senators individually to ask for alternates because many left that question blank
- Greening the GSA office supplies
 - Compostable stuff

III. Open Discussion: (please read in your own time)

- Transit purchased 5 new buses, which will be added to the Paradise and Courtney routes (not sure exactly when though)
- Would GSA like to be a co-sponsor for [this event](#) put on by the Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Student Council?
 - We reached out to BGSO to ask if they would also like to co-sponsor, and they are interested. They are meeting today to discuss their capacity to support
 - CWIT needs support to raise the remaining \$1,000 for speaker fees, catering, supplies, room booking, decor. Any contributions are appreciated
 - They would also like us to help advertise the event once they finalize the flyers and to help circulate the interest form, once it's ready
 - Dawn: where will the money be coming from?
 - It's not in our budget; if we're funding BGSO → Dawn + Ethan conversation about how we can specifically help if they're not already an GSO
- GRP Members and Budget Increase
 - Request to increase budget from \$4,000 per year to \$4,400
 - Reflects a 10% increase from \$250 to \$275

- \$275 per member, 8 members = \$2,200 per semester,
\$4,400 per year
- [GRP Information](#)
- Anuja: presentation for the Senators will be sent before hand as per Ethan's guidance; and that way they'll know what they're coming to→ explain and reiterate details

IV. Adjourn-- adjourned at 11:02 officially; note-taking concluded at 11:05

AM