

# Graduate Student Association Emergency Senate Meeting

October 19th, 2022

12 pm- 1 pm

**[Meeting will be recorded]**

[Meeting Link](#)

## 1. Attendance and Role Call: [5 mins]

- Aminah Amjad
- Amy Cruz
- Anuja Yawar
- Dawn Galindo
- Emily Shrope
- Charlie Waters
- Ethan Post
- Emily Faber
- Grace De Oro
- Hashil Prajapati
- Hemanth Gopal
- Kara Seidel
- Janerra Allen
- Joel Tyson
- Jeffrey Halverson
- Jennifer Artis
- Lydia Sannella
- Lydia Stamato
- Max Aifer
- Mehrshad Fahim Devin
- Omkar Kulkarni
- Shridinath Konduru

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

UMBC was established upon the land of the Piscataway and Susquehannock peoples. Over time, citizens of many more Indigenous nations have come to reside in this region. We humbly offer our respect to all past, present, and future Indigenous people connected to this place.

## 3. Old Business: [30+ mins] -- 13/16 senators present (we have quorum of 11/16!)

- a. Assistant Treasurer
  - i. [Assistant Treasurer - Roles and Responsibilities](#)
  - ii. Main purpose of this emergency meeting is to vote on this

- iii. Anuja's presentation → "Leaders are Humans, Too" (linked here:
  - 1. Goes over the details of the Assistant Treasurer position and the need for this position
  - 2. Goes into detail regarding the maths re: the new position and old positions and the associated workload increase
  - 3. Led to an unhealthy balance between work associated with GSA and Anuja's school-related responsibilities
  - 4. Amy has been helping Anuja for the past month of so and has significantly helped her stress levels lowered due to Amy's work on the matter
    - a. Improvement of the GRP and are now able to tackle feedback and lead to improvements on the whole for all Treasurer duties
  - 5. Amy →
    - a. Created a budget last year based on rollover, estimates, etc.
    - b. Amy + Dawn were able to see the numbers and we do have a surplus and a rollover
    - c. Exact pay -- \$7,000 expected pay (1K less than Anuja)
    - d. Coordinating people, answering emails → was a fulltime job last year
    - e. Omkar: in the last year when Amy did this job-- how much were you working prior? (not on an normal 9/5 schedule but still put in about 40 hours in a week)
    - f. Ethan made the point re: fast food employment and the amount paid
    - g. Dawn: new travel system has generated so much more work with grants that its no surprise that there is a need for another position here
  - 6. Are these permanent positions? -- asked by Jessica
    - a. Senate acts a ratification mechanism for now; doesn't mean that it cant be changed in the future
    - b. Grace: was there ever a discussion about the timeline for which the Assistant Treasurer was created?
      - i. There will be a heavy load on Amy as the Assistant Treasurer → maybe as Co-Treasurer roles instead of "Assistant Treasurer"?
      - ii. Anuja: the travel system that is UMBC policy but it requires additional help to deal with this
      - iii. Disapproval is falling on GSA rather than the UMBC policy → Anuja was very frustrated by the way in which the training fell out/and is feeling pressured in the position
        - 1. Amy has the experience and switching the positions may set a precedent in the way that people perceive the Treasurer role

2. Workload will be attempted to be split amongst Amy and Anuja
3. Janerra→ how does this affect GSO's moving forward?
  - a. As someone that's learning the financial process as a whole → how does this get remedied moving forward?
4. Certain processes were not efficient prior and GSOs weren't looped in → how can this help GSOs moving forward
5. Anuja-- Amy will be taking care of applications of GSOs to make sure to be addressed in a timely manner
6. Amy-- will be in contact with Janerra re: GSO info
7. Mehrshad: why is this only not a trial position instead of a permanent one? (Interim)
  - a. Can some of this be automated through help with the IT help?
  - b. Anuja- would welcome any suggestions re: technology?
  - c. Ethan: this can easily be removed next year
  - d. Alternative solutions to this-- have they been explored?
    - i. Ethan- doesn't think this has been explored
    - ii. Amy-- would welcome any suggestions about how to make this easier
    - iii. Anuja-- utilizing her academic skills to be able to update applications/streamline it-- however, email threads are difficult to synthesize through this
  - e. Lydia Stamato→ maybe the summer GA position and the travel coordinator could help?
  - f. Anuja-- has to get information re: the whole travel system situation before Anuja et al. can get support
  - g. Dawn: Travel Coordinator wouldn't affect the pre-approval for travel system → this process cannot be streamlined → the emails back and forth (38 pages of emails for one pre-approval)

- h. That itself needs another person for this Treasurer position
- i. SHRemily- Vote to make it a permanent thing; even this new process is adding more than one student can actually deal with
- j. Not equitable right now in the workload
- 8. Grace - did GSA/ECouncil go to admin to let them know about the burdens of the approval process? → was this solved internally?
  - a. Simplifying the process
- 9. Kara
  - a. Lets vote for the year for Amy as Interim Assistant Treasurer positions

iv.

**Motion to vote on the Assistant Treasurer position and budget allocation towards the said position (quorum of 11/16 kept with 15ish Senators with alternates)**

- Motion to vote: Grace motioned for Amy Cruz ; Charlie seconded
- Vote for Amy Cruz to be the assistant treasurer (vote initiated at 12:46)
  - Yay (14)-- Mehrshad, Omkar, Charlie, Emily F, Lydia Stamato, Taylor West (Kara voted for her as alternate ), Max, Janerra, Hemath, Harshil, Lydia Sannella, Shridinath, Grace de oro (and served as Jessica's alternate);
  - Nay - zero
  - Abstain (1)- amy
- b. Co-Vice Presidency
  - i. [Co-Vice President Roles and Responsibilities](#)

**Motion to vote on the Co-Vice Presidency position, election process and allocation of budget towards the said position**

- c. Senate Speaker and Assistant Speaker
  - i. [Role Description](#)
  - ii. Election Process-
    - A. Senate can nominate themselves or a fellow senator, and an election is held.
  - iii. [Pay estimation included in presentation](#)

**Motion to vote on the Senate Speaker position, election process, and allocation of budget towards the said position**

**5. Open Discussion [<20 mins] -- moved here with 10 minutes to spare**

- The Student Regent Nominee Selection Committee is looking for one or two graduate students (some knowledge of the University of Maryland issues and governance would be great) to sit on the committee
  - Who should be the student nominee from this school-- further competition continues until one person is chosen
  - The interviews and nomination selection will happen between Nov 14-21 (graduate student representation is needed) → time commitment is for this semester mostly during that one week
    - Students going for the selection committee versus actually running for student representative
    - Nominee is escalated up from this committee → Dr Ashby forwards this for the “further competition” and then one student is serving in the position for 2 years
  - Interviews for nominations to be the student regent → if you’d like to sit on the committee, reach out to SHRemily
- In-person space: Sherman 150; details will be sent out to have pizza and an in-person Senate meeting with a virtual option to be able to incorporate more folks
- Charlie W will email his question
- The Speaker for Senate will be the next point of order as per ShRemily’s suggestion that it will be more important to have that as opposed to Co-VP slots
- Welcome packet as the next spot of improvement/point of order
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## **6. Adjourn @ 12:59 PM**

-- Grace motioned to adjourn, Omkar and Charlie seconded this motion