

GSA Fall 2022

Executive Council Meeting Agenda

November, the 14th, 2022, 10:00 am

This Meeting Will Be Recorded

I. Check-In & Attendance:

- Ethan Post
- Dawn Galindo
- Emily Shrope
- Anoosha Fayyaz
- Jeffrey Halverson
- Grace de Oro
- Zane Poffenberger
- Michele Berry
- Anuja Yawar
- Jameer Robinson
- Aminah Amjad
- Geeta Shanbhag

II. Open Discussion

- Discuss EKTA Diwali Event: The GSO would like to increase the number of people, which would significantly increase costs. Matt is going to get the estimated cost by Monday's [today] meeting.
 - GSO
 - Essentially: they would like to open to non-UMBC members
 - About 700 more people which would space them out of the UC Ballroom space they currently hold the event in
 - "We're going to need a bigger boat" for this event
 - Something that needs to be resolved and figured out with the help of EKTA folks
 - Jameer & GRP People? → Ethan P. brought up as the person in the loop
 - Dawn: should go to the Senate
 - ShRemily -- is a bigger GSO
 - Grace: how much are they currently approved for + how much is the increase they are asking for

- Thousands of dollars extra -- increase in food, etc + the space outside of UMBC
 - Community partner to be able to find the money for donating for the event
- Awards Gala: We need to pick a date for this event so that we can put in the reservation for the Ballroom.
 - The second week of December? -- E.P
 - End of April/beginning of May-- Dawn corrected
 - Will adjudicate this in the time to come
 - May 4th as a possible date (unless it runs into the Senate meeting)
 - FEmily-- the issue of the academic year for SP2023
 - Beginning of May is likely the week before finals according to ShRemily
 - Maybe the week of the 11th → to not interfere with final projects, etc.
 - Last day of class is 5/16; study day is 5/17; exams are 5/18-5/24 -- Dawn G
 - Finalized the third Wednesday or Thursday
 - Evening event
- Student Affairs position
 - Figuring out exactly what this position will look like + pay (in terms of ECouncil & Senate working together)
 - Start a committee to look at what this position would look like
 - Ethan P will head + GSSC will support this
 - Nancy Y is retiring/stepping down → new look to Student Affairs next semester and what this position will look like given the new makeup of the office
- Blurb for syllabi--so can be approved at next GDP meeting
 - To help put the word out about GSA in their syllabi
 - Orientation + syllabi
 - We need to provide the content for this though
 - ShRemily -- what needs to be highlighted?
 - 3 sentences and a couple of bullet points
 - Writing advisor will be highlighted
 - Along with GEARS, grants program, GSSC
 - Clarifying that we are an advocacy organization/mechanism for grad students, not a club per se - FEmily
 - “Welcome to the GSA” -- E.P and Family

- Shremily will come up with draft language and bring back to the table
 - Create your own organization and building your own sense of community through GSOs → E.P
 - Trying to make this put in motion for the Spring
 - Grants during the summer- are they allowed, are they included in the 2 per year rule?
 - GRP: didn't clarify if this is summer-inclusive or not
 - Third one for the summer specifically - FEmily
 - ShRemily → summer seems like its own block of time
 - Conferences, internships, presentations → FEmily
 - Funding tends to run out during this gap year
 - Is ambiguous and messy for this time
 - Amy wanted ECouncil's opinion on this matter
 - Most people in meeting tended to agree with this matter
 - Dawn will pass back information to Amy
 - Student Fee Advisory Committee
 - ShRemily -- points from Amy's email
 - No increase in fees seems to come up for grad student pop.
 - But there will be a process re: explanation of current fees and surveys to students about their
 - Fee forum + survey are separate -- conversation with ShRemily, FEmily, and Anuja
 - Suggestions for all the fees and such are due by Spring
 - [Slides from presentation](#)
 - Should we send a survey to grad students?
 - Should the committee hold a fee forum?
 - Fee holders → meeting will be soon; but Amy wanted to see whether folks have an idea about how they feel about mandatory fees
 - GAAC- this comes up there too with the fees
 - Family-- GSA could do our own survey
 - Do we have the power to do a fee forum?
 - GSSC Meet and Confer → this came up with Dr. R; in terms of reconsidering the format of the mandatory fees
 - The point of the survey -- ShRemily

- Students seem to not understand why the fees are what they are
- The survey is to get a pulse on what the students feel about these fees
- Which services they don't use versus use; how affordable these fees are for them; do they know how their fees are generally used in this time (Anoosha)
- Anuja-- the presentation gives some idea re: the increased transparency of the mandatory fees
 - The survey is to get more student feedback
- FEmily → we as GSA are trying to get an understanding of how grad students feel about the fees
 - ShRemily -- tabling this discussion until Amy is back and can clarify some of the points highlighted in her email
- [Follow - up email to GSOs from November Senate Meeting](#)
 - Jameer and Grace will be working on following up with 3 GSOs who were at the Senate Meeting
 - Asked if Ecouncil would take a peek at this and provide any feedback if there is any
 - Group Norms as a Google form-- Grace will send a welcome email & form; read and agree to Group Norms for folks attending and presenting (make sure they're on the calendar invite)
 - Re: accountability of all parties to these group norms
 - Meeting is not started until this step is completed or they will be asked to leave
 - LINK: to group norms <https://forms.gle/Et7ZEvjaxdUbpK3HA>
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 - Senate Speaker Position added to the bylaws?
 - Currently it is not there; bylaws need to be reworked in general (Grace)
 - New position that needs to be added; Senate needs to vote to all these roles/responsibilities highlighted by Mehrshad; the pay structure organization

- ShRemily -- should we wait until we understand what this position will shake out to be and incorporate the dynamism into the bylaws
 - Grace-- can be amended but there needs to be a level of accountability
 - The pay processing has already been started as a process - Dawn
 - Performance reviews as a method of accountability -- ShRemily
 - Needs to be inscribed though in the bylaws
 - Family -- streamlining this process to make it a well oiled machine before amending bylaws
 - Anoosha → it is a long process to amend the bylaws so we should create specific language intra-GSA; we need to go in with specific amendments (E.P.)
 - How does the pay structure work for the GSA Senate Speaker work when it's introduced in the middle of the semester
 - Prorated pay → Dawn
 - Grace -- has been tracking her hours b/w her Senator position and her Speaker position
 - Equity of Funds committee is coming back -- everyone should be tracking hours (Dawn)
 - The Senate needs to stop being the stop-gap; Grace de Oro
 - The bylaws themselves are not updated
 - Problem in and of itself
 - Have things to get done; we cant keep "babying" them in that way
 - The Senators keep complaining → performance review as a mechanism for accountability
 - The Senators need to do their responsibilities
 - FEmily -- is the Senate trying to come to consensus before voting?
 - Timeliness is not something that works with this method

- Voting is as mechanism for making your opinion known
- Anoosha -- the Senate as a bottleneck; to prevent this there should be a time limit + clarifying questions only b/c they should be looking at the agenda beforehand
 - Structure within processes to elicit engagement with Senators
 - Bylaws-- Senators split up; from each college for the fall and spring semester
 - Going through the bylaws systemically
 - That way things could be passed when the amendments come up
 - Makes bylaws an integral part of Senator duties
 - Legislative Concerns chair-- leading bylaws committee (Zane can chair/co-chair)
 - Now into spring; can be implemented for the following group of folks involved
 - Zane: take the lead in introducing this for the Senators in the Senators meeting next time to have the first round

III. Reports

- **Treasurer [Anuja Yawar]**
- **Historian [Geeta Shanbhag]**
 - Website updates
 - GAAC, Senate meeting minutes and ECouncil Meeting Minutes

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- **GAAC [Anoosha Fayyaz & Sahara Ali]**
 - Dr. R -- COIET and Biochem department in terms of getting payments later
 - GAs in Res Life also got delayed in paychecks -- $\frac{3}{4}$ pay periods without getting funds
 - a) Some people didn't know the proper process in initiating speaking up about the lack of pay/delay in the Res Life office
 - b) Eligible for in-state tuition for GA-ships and then pushed back on student when they leave GA-ship and get billed late
 - (1) When should the department reflect on whether someone is a GA in terms of billing students properly?
 - (2) Asking for suggestions about what is good timing to see if students are GAs in order to generate appropriate billing?
 - (a) ShRemily-- not clear on what the question is
 - (3) Some depts decide earlier who is GA-ing, and depending on timeline, this may not be reflected in the students billing -- Anoosha
 - (a) Family-- deadline needs to be put in place for depts to decide
 - (b) Anoosha - archaism in the way that the bills are generated for GAs
- **GSSC (Kara Seidel and Emily Faber)**
 - OHP monthly meeting
 - a) Pre-emptive health measures for grad students -- Alex
 - b) Community Conversations -- adviser relationships, chronic illness in grad school; measures of grad students (student survey) in terms of mental/physical health
 - c) Re-upping the COVID19 era survey on grad student health; maybe doing this yearly to get an appropriate measure

(1) How many hours do grad students work? →
understanding workload balance ration
(ShRemily)

- **GEARS (Aminah Amjad)**
 - Trivia details all completed
 - No confirmation from Career Center as of yet
 - a) No registrations can be done until they respond; the Friday event may need to be canceled/postponed
 - b) Ethan Post -- will get Aminah's reminder email to re-advertise GEARS events
- **OGSL**
 - Writing Advisor
 - a) Nothing to report
 - Community Liaison
 - a) Make updates; will work with Grace
 - Communications Manager
 - a) Nothing to report
- **LC [Zane Poffenberger]**
 - Election Night event
 - a) Lots of undergrads at the event; some grad students at the event too
 - Survey: collective bargaining town hall
 - a) Jameer will help get a small classroom for this
 - b) Will coordinate with Anoosha about a survey to help get the pulse on GAs and their feelings on the matter
- **President [Ethan Post]**
 - Set Up Senate Stipend Review Meeting
 - Set up amongst ECouncil meeting
 - If they have fulfilled their roles/assignments -- ECouncil, shoot Ethan an email to get involved with this
 - Historian/VP/Treasurer and Senate Speaker
 - Will meet and decide with a yay/nay
 - Ethan P. can also be involved if necessary
 - Shremily will send an email to coordinate this
 - [Fee Owner Pre-Meeting Today 2-3](#)
 - If you're interested in attending → we need ECouncil representation

- Note From Pres Sheares Ashby Assistant Candace- When we present problems to her, come to her with options for solutions
 - Work on coming up with options re: this
 - Nancy Young, will be leaving the role on June 30, 2023, after more than 35 years of service to our UMBC community.
- **Vice President [Emily Shrope]**
 - No takers (yet) for Equity of Funds Committee
 - Sending out another email from ShRemily to Senators to see/gauge interest
 - Need to emphasize that Senators need to be involved
 - Introductory meeting this semester but it would officially get started next semester
 - Should we open it up to grad students generally?
 - FEmily -- be at this room at this time; introductory meeting at that time
 - ShRemily -- doesn't necessarily feel comfortable being the sole point person as the leader
 - Sending out an email to grad students -- through myUMBC we can try to reach them
 - Dawn: hold off until we have a chair for this committee → Amy was the only person who bit
 - Jessica and Omkar as the co-chairs that will be chosen
 - As an opportunity to get involved
 - Will send email about this week: ShRemily
- **Senate Speaker [Grace De Oro]**
 - New roles I have taken over
 - Townhall organization & Senator alternative (will check up on this)
 - Virtual Office Hours
 - <https://calendar.app.google/RQeMYYwDpU9Ek8xG6>
 - Emails and office hours that Grace is holding
- Grad Council Meeting
 - First Thursday of December from 2-4 PM
- Last GPD meeting: Dec 14th; 1:30-3:30 PM
 - Grace will be added to the GPD list -- only added to the listserv and not to the meeting link

IV. Adjourn -- > adjourned at 11:12 for meeting notes