

GSA Senate Meeting

November 7th, 2022

12 pm- 2 pm, in person SOND 113

[Meeting will be recorded]

[Meeting link](#)

1. Attendance and Role Call: [5 mins]

- Emily Shrope
- Aminah Amjad
- Amy Cruz
- Anurag Varshney
- Catherine Yang
- Ethan Post
- Grace de Oro
- Harshil Prajapati
- Hemanth Gopal
- Jameer Robinson
- Jeffrey Halverson
- Jessica Burstrem
- Joel Tyson
- Lydia Sannella
- Mehrshad Fahim Devin
- Nancy Parlette
- Omkar Kulkarni (alternate for Lydia Stamato)
- Ryan Lafferty
- Shridinath
- Taylor West
- Charlie Waters
- Emily Faber (serving as Max A's alternate)
- Max Aifer
- Jennifer Artis
- Kara Seidel
- Janerra Allen
- Akash Vartak
- Vineela Matta
- Nancy Parlette
- Jeffrey Reginald

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]

We have quorum

- [Senate Speaker Position](#)
 - Mehrshad Fahim Devin presenting
 - Lack of support for ECouncil especially at VP level
 - Internal vs external focus
 - Expanded constituency
 - GSA Senate is not self governed
 - Lack of professional growth opportunities for Senators
 - Close the gap between Senators and ECouncil members
 - Compensation inequity
 - Speaker Senate
 - Procure agendas and invite guests
 - Attend university steering committees meetings
 - Organization of town halls
 - Communicate w/ and assign senators to shared governance committees
 - Provide support to EC in an ex-officio capacity to close this gap
 - Undertake all duties as senator
 - Many of the faculty, staff Senates etc have this position
 - An election would take place and serve for the entirety of the year
 - Q+ A
 - Jessica- tracking hours spent on GSA (useful information for all people to track hours during GSA) → what folks do in each job
 - Strictly tracking Senators hours separately and as GAAC separately
 - 3 1/3 hours this week
 - Compensation for
 - Discussion of stipend: 3k, 4k, or max 5k stipend?
 - How much time are folks actually spending on these roles?
 - Governing Senate responsibility is taken away from ECouncil
 - Process for reviewing the performance reviews
 - For Senators, ECouncil, etc.
 - What compensation is regard to positions – it seems arbitrary and random
 - Zane: there should be a full review of how much people are being paid
 - Workload as an issue this year
 - auditing : historical forms according to Joel in terms of hours/salaries for ECouncil and Senator positions are justified based on expected hours → this doesn't always get done officially

- How and why we compensate people → Mehrshad
- Do we need a longer meeting time for senate meetings?
- Equity of Funds Committee
 - Needs to re-emerge from the grave
 - Needs to be done for future years → people have committed at this pay
 - [Previous EoF Meeting minutes](#)
- Jessica has a motion
 - For the speaker of the Senate (4500\$) as the pay for the entire year
 - Emily F seconded
 - Yay - Charlie, Taylor, Jessica, Lydia Sannella, Emily Faber, Max, Mehrshad, Shridinath, Grace, Hemanth, Anurag V, Janerra, Omkar, Lydia (13/14 count)
 - Nay
 - Abstain
- Jessica nominates Grace de Oro along with FEmily and Charlie W.
 - She's running unopposed to this
 - What the exact pay should be is still up for discussion
 - Negotiate some of the responsibilities if need be
- Mehrshad motioned to vote on Grace de Oro as Speaker of the Senate
 - Yay - FEmily, Taylor, Jessica, Lydia, Max, Charlie, Amy, Janerra, Shridnidath, Hemanth, and Mehrshad
 - Nay-
 - Abstain - Grace, Lydia Stamato, and Omkar
 - Will Grace conduct or facilitate the whole meeting?
- Mehrshad-- can Grace be the tie-breaking vote; abstaining until that point?

4. New Business [30 mins]

- Vote to add i3b Advisory Board to shared governance committees
- Vote to remove Library Renovation Committee from shared governance committees
- [Nominations](#) [If Speaker position is passed]
- [New GSOs](#)
 - GAPM
 - Anurag V. is presenting on Product Managing -- GAPM (Graduate Association for Product Management) --Deevyesh and Aaditya co-leading this
 - Transform existing products and create better interdisciplinary leaders
 - Mission: foster future product leaders→ Ideathon, prothon, Seminars, interactive sessions with the product leaders from the industry, P2P learning, hands-on experience in order to prepare them for PM roles
 - 25K + jobs → no body to fill these roles
 - Slides regarding the gap needing to be filled on the technical aspects of PM

- GSO across disciplines to foster collaboration → but no place for technical minds to collaborate
 - Helping students learn PM skills and getting into the groove of the professional aspects
- Aminah → how can this GSO help facilitate the work that is already being done by GEARS?
 - Shows GEARS the sketch of planned events in terms of GEARS accommodating these plans
- Ethan → the overlap seems to be strong
 - AAditya → list of events planning to do in terms of interactive activities related to product management
 - Real life experience
- FEmily → because GEARS is doing it; doesn't mean that there can't be overlap
- Janerra: will the GSO budget be amended to account for growing GSOs and needs? → budget growing
- Jessica: we need to remove (7.1.2) from the bylaws
- FEmily: GSOs don't elect senator directly - vote for college representatives to answer Jessica Burstrem's question regarding clarification on how GSO voting works
- Motion to vote for the GSO vote
 - Seconded
 - Yay - FEmily, Jessica, Lydia, Taylor, Mehrshad, Amy, Grace, Shridinath, Janeera, Hemanth, Max (from FEmily's alternate vote)
 - Nay
 - Abstain - Omkar and Lydia Stamato
- Graduate Christian Fellowship - GSO formulation
 - Nancy leading this discussion along with Catherine Yang
 - Catherine Yang and Ryan Lafferty (VP)
 - Representing Graduate Christian Fellowship
 - Increasing amounts of pressure on people who participate in the university
 - Mission: help graduate students and professionals to be successful with their careers and encourage spiritual growth with belief in Christ
 - Taylor: when will you be meeting? → on Thursdays
 - FEmily: how would your org be inclusive of grad students on campus from various places?
 - Ryan: open to any one who has a interest in learning more about Christ/Gospel/an inquiring mind; prefers officers be of a Christian faith
 - Jessica B: what is the specific criteria for allowing GSO formulation?
 - No rules/regulations governing this

- Current list of GSO's → record doesn't appear to have religious organizations
 - Lydia Sannella- is GSA funding allowed to go to GSO with religious requirements for leadership position
 - FEmily → funding of religious events with GSA money?
- Further discussion on tensions between religiously affiliated clubs and questions from Senators regarding the background of the funding
- Jessica B → alarmed about the lack of criteria for GSO funding or for clubs to be under GSA banner specifically
- Group is not to proselytize
- Merhshad → precedent based on being Christian-officers (brought up the concept of having a GSO having white only office)
- Amy: grad students specifically is the sole guideline for GSO → will coordinate with Dawn to get clarity on this
- ShRemily → set of beliefs that hold an organization together
- Omkar → EKTA holding Diwali as a GSO for Indian-origin folks– people of all backgrounds were invited to celebrate
- Jessica: minoritizing identities versus not
- Longer discussion: criteria pushback with Zane (GSO's need to submit bylaws, etc.)
 - Identity → how does this differ from undergrad groups
 - Inclusive regardless of leadership
- Grace → GSA has not approved religious-affiliated organizations due to this reason of the back-and-forth; and specific religious trauma
- Charlie motions to vote
 - Jessica B seconded
 - Yay- Taylor, Mehrshad (2)
 - Nay- FEmily, Hemanth, Shridinath, Omkar, Charlie, Grace de Oro, Amy Cruz (7)
 - Abstain- Max, Jessica, Lydia Stamato (3)
 - Vote didn't pass
- Kara: misalignment of ideology and experience
 - GSOs can come back and work with GSA in order to get approval
- International Students Connect Club
 - Club grew out of an undergraduate community and had more of a graduate presence
 - Activities presented on what they've been doing
 - A Bible Study aspect in this club too as a part of the club in the Center for Wellbeing

- Outdoor activities such as hiking
- And indoor meetings will happen every month
- Mission statement: spiritual connection
- Kara Seidel - how is this inclusive?
- Same questions presented last semester → why is Christianity not in the name

5. Open Discussion [40 mins]

- Review of the [bylaws](#)
- [Roberts Rules](#)
- Review of [the Budget](#)
 - President/Co-President budget given that a co-president resigned
 - **Due to Amy and Anuja's absences, please review the budget and student fee information, and contact them with any questions or comments. They will send out an email to all senators.**
 - [Budget from the Grad School](#)
 - [Student Fee Information](#)
 - The Graduate Student fee has remained the same at \$17 for the past few years. Due to an increase in q, the Grad school recommends that we do not change it. Amy will meet with the Student Fee ADvisory Committee, please contact her with questions or suggestions for fee changes or uses.
- Performance Reviews

6. Reports [20 mins]

- GSSC
- GAAC
- GEARS
- Legislative Concerns
- Treasurer
 - 12 PD grants and 1 Research Grants approved for a total of \$10,214 (\$2,036 under budget for this period).
- Historian
 - Town hall information updated on website
- OGSL
- President
 - **How to fund GSO events that provide for undergrads and grads?**
- Vice President
 - Please add [notes from Shared Governance Committees](#) in this spreadsheet, under the notes column
 - Possibility to create position within Student Affairs that is directly gear towards grad students

7. Adjourn