

GSA Fall 2023

September Senate Meeting

11 September, 2023 | 11:00am - 1:00pm

I. Attendance [~10 minutes]

A. In attendance: Joel Tyson, Atharva (joined as alternate for Ravi), Sayali (alternate for Arya), Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak, Alexi Scheiber, Atharva Puranik, Ben Marino, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Dawn Galindo, Deevyesh Deepak Upadhyaya, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Gurpreet Kaur Saluja, Hannah Seppala, Harshal Chauhan, Jackson Tucker, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel, Nia Staples, Nirandi Jayasinghe, Ravi Sharma, Ridwan Islam Sifat, Sayali Satish Dhavale, Sreevikas Edukulla, Zach Nichols, Jeffery Halverson, Charlie Waters, Aminah Amjad.

B. Roll call and Quorum, as of starting the meeting (Secretary) - Quorum requirement 66%. Quorum present = 16/16

C. Meeting called to order at (President):

D. Approval of [August Senate Meeting Minutes](#):

1. Zach Nichols motioned to approve.
 - a) Jackson Tucker seconded the motion.
 - b) Motion passed with Yes = 16, No = 0

2. Minutes have been approved.

E. Meeting agenda approved with Yes =

1. Jackson Tucker motioned to approve.
 - a) Sayali seconded the motion.
 - b) Motion passed with Yes = 16, No = 0

2. Agenda have been approved.

II. Land Acknowledgement: [~5 minutes]

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.

III. Moment of Silence for those who lost their lives today.



IV. New Business

[~60 minutes]

A. OGSL Staff introductions

1. New People:
 - a) Communications Manager: Nia Staples
(1) Preferred email: gsa@umbc.edu
 - b) Writing Advisor: Ben Marino
(1) Preferred email: gsawa@umbc.edu
 - c) Community Liaison: Jameer Robinson
(1) Preferred email: gsa@umbc.edu
2. All new hires introduced themselves and their positions and their preferred means of contact.
3. They have been added to the GSA website:
<https://gsa.umbc.edu/staff/>
4. If sending emails please use email subject as:
 - a) For Nia: "ATTN Comms Manager."
 - b) For Jameer: "ATTN Community Liaison"

B. Senate Speaker Election (Grace)

[20 minutes]

1. Candidates:
 - a) Gurpreet Kaur Saluja
 - b) Atharva Puranik
 - c) Deevyeshdeepak Upadhyaya
 - d) Arya Honraopatil (not present in the meeting)
2. The floor was opened for questions. Candidates responded in the order stated above.
 - a) JT asked: Why is the idea of efficiency important for the GSA Senate?
 - b) Daniel asked: How could you in the speaker roles raise the efficiency of the GSA?
3. Daniel motioned to move to voting.
 - a) Hannah seconded.
 - b) Motion passed with Yes = 16, No = 0
4. We now moved to voting.
5. Voting will be done via closed ballot via a Google form.
6. Vote results:
 - a) For Gurpreet: 2
 - b) For Atharva: 7
 - c) For Deevyeshdeepak: 3
 - d) For Arya: 4



7. Congratulations Atharva! Atharva has been appointed as the Senate Speaker.


C. Limited availability for additional seats at GSA/SGA leadership lunch with new VP SA Renique Kersh & Interim Provost David Dauwalder. (Jessica)

1. This is a lunch organized for student group leaderships to be introduced to the new VP SA and Interim Provost.
2. The Cabinet and the Speaker have been invited. Other than these, there are 4 spots for GSA reps to attend.
3. People expressed interest to attend the lunch, in this order:
 - a) Daniel, Sayali, Ravi, Deevyesh, Hannah, Emily Faber, Gurpreet, Zach, Harshal.

D. Legislative Concerns Committee Chair Election (Jessica)

1. See position description at bottom of page [here](#)
2. Candidates:
 - a) Daniel Douglas (presented himself as a candidate during the meeting)
3. Hannah asked “Has this been advertised to non senators? I think we should open the nomination and wait until next month for voting so non senators get a chance to nominate themselves”
4. Jessica noted that it had been advertised and there have been multiple attempts to fill this position.
5. Jackson motioned to vote for Daniel Douglas for the LCC Chair.
 - a) Zach seconded the motion
 - b) Motion passed with Yes = 16, No = 0
6. Congratulations Daniel! Daniel Douglas has been appointed as the LCC Chair.

E. Retriever Essentials FUND (Grace/ Charlie)

1.  **Budget FY 2024.xlsx**
2. “The wishlist would include menstrual pads, soaps, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, laundry detergent, toilet paper, etc. [Here](#) is the wishlist!”
3. Jackson raised a very important point: Has someone in the university, done the necessary research as to why graduate students are not able to afford the basic ‘essentials’ that REF supports and aims to provide funds for?
4. The discussion that followed
5. Jackson motion to approve a \$1000 per month support package from GSA to the REF
 - a) Gurpreet seconded.



- b) Motion passed with Yes = 16, No = 0.
- 6. GSA will continue to get goods worth \$1000 as GSA's contribution to the Retriever Essentials Fund.

V. Announcements [~30 minutes]

- A. Town Hall planning
 - 1. Example of CAHSS Town Hall:
 - a) [CAHSS Town Hall Spring 2022](#)
 - b) [CAHSS Town Hall Fall 2021](#)
 - 2. Senator groups need to organize 3 town halls in one academic year, with 1 town hall per semester.
 - 3. Senator groups need to provide the date for the first town hall by September 30th.
 - 4. Senators also need to notify the ECouncil about the approximate timeline for the second and third town halls.
 - 5. Grace will send out an email/informational document to the senators about details and requirements for the town halls.
- B. Grad Student Fest (Emily & Kara)
 - 1. Kara and Emily introduced the GS Fest to the Senate.
 - 2. It will be held later this year and they requested the event as an all-hands-on-deck event. They requested all GSA members to come out and help.
 - 3. Training sessions are going to be organized since this year the event is expected to be larger than ever before.
- C. Retriever Integrated Health Advisory Committee (RIHAC)
 - 1. RIHAC acts as a student voice to the staff of Retriever Integrated Health (RIH). RIHAC is an advisory board of students who function as liaisons between UMBC students and RIH staff to help improve health and mental health at UMBC and provide students with the best experience possible at the counseling and health services provided by RIH. Aside from their advisory duties, RIHAC members help the offices communicate with students and get involved in some outreach events and programming efforts sponsored by the offices. RIHAC meets once a month during the academic year.
- D. CARE group (Jennifer)
- E. The Cabinet hasn't completed the Points of Policy update yet this year because we want to include the new Senate Speaker in those discussions.
- F. Important Dates:



1. Mandatory Retreat
 - a) Sep 14, 2023, 9:30 AM - 3 PM, at the University Center 312.
2. GS Fest is scheduled for Oct 11, 2023, 3-5 PM
3. Grad Student Week, April 1-5, 2024

VI. Adjourn

- A. Deevyesh motioned to adjourn
 1. Seconded by Hannah
- B. Meeting was adjourned, without any opposition.

