

GSA Fall 2023

Executive Council of the GSA Meeting

21 September, 2023

I. Attendance

- A. In attendance: Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak, Aminah Amjad, Atharva Puranik, Ben Marino, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Dawn Galindo, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Jameer Robinson, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel,
- B. Meeting called to order at (President): 11:34AM

II. 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.

III. Business

A. GSA Committee Updates

- 1. GAAC
- 2. GSSC

- a) GS Fest Planning is chugging right along - we will need help night before/day of from as many hands as we can get
 - (1) Show off t-shirt design
 - (2) Show off sticker design
 - (3) Give ad to all members so that they can pass along to their groups
- b) WAGS (Writing Accountability Groups) - matches go out today!
 - (1) Over 50 people have signed up for WAGs this year.
- c) Bookstore swag and grad wellness survey next on agenda

3. GEARS

- a) All events for the year are being planned, dates and room booking details being worked with event plannings.
- b) Website being updated and poster for each event underway, waiting for date confirmation.



- c) Need a view about what would be the best way to do a poll for max participation from graduate students on events like Ideathon/PPR. Students wanted evening events because of classes last year.
 - (1) Discussion revolved around whether morning events would see larger attendance or late-afternoon/evening events.
- d) Need more information about how collaborations work with a GSO for hosting events.
 - (1) It was agreed that as long as committees follow university policy & have an agreement about whose funding gets used, then collaborations are welcome.
 - (2) Committees should have an agreement in writing like you would with co-authors on a paper.
- 4. Legislative Concerns
 - a) Ben has expressed interest in joining the committee.
- 5. GRP
 - a) Working with Charlie with the transition.
 - b) Achala and Charlie will work together to finalize this month's grants.
 - c) Need to get more members on board and train them
 - d) Right now the only member in GRP is Omkar.
 - e) GRP is looking for committee members:
 - (1) Need 2 students from CAHSS.
 - (2) Need 1 student from CNMS.
- 6. OGSL
 - a) As of now, only 18 GSOs have registered for this year.
 - (1) Big drop off since last year.
 - b) Advertise the writing advisor.
 - c) OSGL has hired an Accounting Associate, Andrea Lorick.
 - (1) She will begin working with the OSGL starting sometime in October.
- B. Pizza with the President
 - 1. Need help with pizza ordering.
- C. Points of Policy
 - 1. Need help updating for this year.
 - 2. Please [read/comment/suggest changes/additions within the next week](#)



3. Please use the suggestions mode and not the edit mode.
- D. USM [Religious Accommodations Policy](#)
1. Changes in the works.
 2. Need your comments before next USMSC meeting on 8 Oct
- E. UMBC's Strategic planning for the future.
1. UMBC's President is preparing the new UMBC Strategic planning document for the future of UMBC.
 2. The president wants feedback on:
 - a) How to engage the broadest range of student population that the GSA represents.
 - b) Who is at UMBC but not represented on the University Steering Committee.
 - (1) Examples: Shady Grove students, School of Social Work, unionized staff, non-degree-seeking students, students who aren't going to finish their degrees here, contracted employees.
 3. We have till the end of October to report back to the President.
- F. Graduate Student Week Planning / Ideas
1. Meet and Mingle with GSA representatives and Admin
 - a) Want Fireside as the first choice of venue. 2nd choice is the commons terrace and 3rd choice is Main street.
 - b) We can have a T-shirt giveaway.
 - c) Need to stamp hands to ensure only the GRAD students attend.
 2. Other possible ideas for GSW were also floated and are currently being discussed.
 - a) Writing workshop? Ben and Library
 - b) Move your body - yoga class?
 - c) Event off campus? Happy Hour? Trivia Night
 - d) Dawn will not be available that Monday
- G. Career Fair Updates:
1. Yesterday (20 September 2023) was the annual Fall Career Fair.
 2. Graduate students turned out in large numbers to look for internships as well as full-time jobs.
 3. However, very disappointing for international students since most companies either require citizenship for employment or are offering jobs that are not directly related to the field of study (looking for policemen, firefighters, teachers).



4. Any way we can lobby on the graduate student behalf to petition for more inclusive companies to attend the career fairs in the future - inclusive in terms of not only requiring citizenship?
5. Companies/Career center should make use of more tags for companies: entry-level, early-grads, freshman friendly, citizen required, internships, full-time jobs, etc.

IV. Announcements

A. Pizza with the President September 27th - Please RSVP



B. GSA Contacts:

1. **President:** Grace De Oro, (gsapresident@umbc.edu)
2. **Vice president:** Jessica Burstrem, (gsavicepresident@umbc.edu)
3. **Treasurer:** Charlie Waters, (gsatreasurer@umbc.edu)
4. **Secretary:** Akash Vartak, (gsasecretary@umbc.edu)

C. OGSL Contacts

1. **Community Liaison:** Jameer Robinson, (gsa@umbc.edu with "ATTN Community Liaison" as the subject)
2. **Communications Manager:** Nia Staples, (gsa@umbc.edu)
3. **Writing Advisor:** Ben Marino, (gsawa@umbc.edu)

V. Adjourn

