

# GSA Fall 2023

## Executive Council of the GSA Meeting

25 October, 2023

### I. Attendance

- A. In attendance: Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak, Aminah Amjad, Atharva Puranik, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel, Nirandi Jayasinghe
- B. Meeting called to order at (Vice-President): 12.03PM
- C. Charlie moves to approve the agenda
  - 1. Emily seconded the motion.
  - 2. Agenda was approved.

### 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. Updates

- A. GAAC:
  - 1. October town hall with GAs and graduate school Deans was great.
  - 2. Please find the questions we collected, answered/unanswered [here](#).
- B. GSSC:
- C. GEARS:
- D. Legislative Concerns
- E. GRP:
  - 1. Grant cycle 5 applications are in the process of being scored by committee members
  - 2. Working with Charlie, Jennifer and Andrea to review the entire GRP process. We are working on making the application process easier for students and reviewing process more efficient from the GRP end.
    - a) PD application - reviewed



- b) New and quicker timeline for the GRP process - suggested
- c) How to make communication more efficient? - Still discussing

- F. Equity of Funds
- G. OGSL

#### IV. Old Business

##### A. Student Regent Selection Committee

1. GSA members were asked if anyone was interested in serving on UMBC's Student Regent Nominee Selection Committee. Grace has been asked to identify up to two graduate students to serve on the Committee. Students familiar with the University System of Maryland's issues and governance would be especially helpful.
2. The Committee will screen and interview UMBC applicants and recommend a nominee to President Sheares Ashby. The interviews and nominee selection will take place between November 8 - 17.

##### B. Graduate Council Meeting Thursday, November 2, 2-4 PM

1. Grace wanted to follow-up and make sure that Aminah is available to attend in place of the GSA president and vice-president.
2. Aminah is the primary and Kara is her back up.

#### V. New Business

##### A. Graduate Student Strategic Planning Engagement survey results (Jessica)

##### B. Propose Non-Academic Senator Name Change ( Grace)

1. Grace would like to propose changing the name of the "NA Senators" to "Senators at Large". Grace thinks that the NA name is confusing. They represent all students.
2. The E-Council unanimously agreed that a name change is warranted for better representing the NA senators and what they do for the general graduate student population.

##### C. Workgroup on Policies and Procedures

1. Below is the language sent to Grace from Dr.Kersh, The Vice President of Student Affairs. Grace is recommending Nia and Jameer for this Working Group on behalf of the GSA since they work closely with the first set of policies involved. Thoughts?
2. Grace is working on pulling together a Workgroup on Policies and Procedures and would like to include a representative from SGA and GSA as well as SEB on this group. I'd like to try and get a first



meeting scheduled for next week with additional meetings to follow. The purpose of this group is to review current policies and procedures and make recommendations and changes based on current needs, mitigation of risk and equity. The members of this group may change as the policy reviews change. The first set of policies for review will include our campus posting policies, policies for room reservations and freedom of speech. Ebony is going to be assisting Grace with getting this meeting scheduled and Grace is writing with a request for you to identify a designee from SGA and GSA that might be appropriate to serve on this group. Grace appreciates your help and will appreciate the student perspective as part of this process. Let Grace know if you have any questions.

## VI. Announcements

- A. For those who are interested, Grace will be attending
  - 1. Accessibility & Disability Services invites you as a member of campus leadership to join Facilities Management and members of campus leadership for the upcoming Campus Accessibility Presentation and Discussion on Monday October 30th at noon in ILSB 101 for updates, elevator progress and ideas for future campus accessibility projects.
  - 2. <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/accessibility/events/117679>
- B. Next Senate Meeting is Nov 13th.

## VII. General Information

- A. GSA Contacts:
  - 1. **President:** Grace De Oro, ([gsapresident@umbc.edu](mailto:gsapresident@umbc.edu))
  - 2. **Vice president:** Jessica Burstrem, ([gsavicepresident@umbc.edu](mailto:gsavicepresident@umbc.edu))
  - 3. **Treasurer:** Charlie Waters, ([gsatreasurer@umbc.edu](mailto:gsatreasurer@umbc.edu))
  - 4. **Secretary:** Akash Vartak, ([gsasecretary@umbc.edu](mailto:gsasecretary@umbc.edu))
- B. OGSL Contacts
  - 1. **Community Liaison:** Jameer Robinson, ([gsa@umbc.edu](mailto:gsa@umbc.edu) with "ATTN Community Liaison" as the subject)
  - 2. **Communications Manager:** Nia Staples, ([gsa@umbc.edu](mailto:gsa@umbc.edu))
  - 3. **Writing Advisor:** Ben Marino, ([gsawa@umbc.edu](mailto:gsawa@umbc.edu))

## VIII. Adjourn

