

GSA Spring 2024

Executive Council of the GSA Meeting

01 February, 2024

I. Attendance

- A. In attendance: Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak, Aminah Amjad, Atharva Puranik, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Grace De Oro, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel, Sayali Satish Dhavale
- B. Meeting called to order at (President):

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. New Business

- A. Office of President Update
 - 1. SPRING 2024 Timeline
 - a) February
 - (1) Election Advertising - Comms myUMBC, online info sessions (Strategic Planning Committee)
 - (2) First Senate Meeting (Week Of Feb 12th)
 - (3) GSA FAMILY Dinner Reserve WED 2/28
 - (4) 2/12 - Fee Meeting/ Presentation (Charlie)
 - (a) A fee grad student fee increase is going to be proposed, the amount of increment has not been decided yet.
 - b) March
 - (1) E-council and GSOs - the budget conversation of a module
 - (a) GSO - Income 1,000 -> What other income do they expect to have/ or have
 - (b) Wish list



- (2) Senate meeting - Preliminary Budgets, share to committees budgets need to be shared by Friday 1st week of April
- (3) Nominations for Senate March 4-25, 2024 by 8 pm and submit photo & bio that will be shared with the student body (200 words or less)
- (4) Nominations for e-Council same expectations

c) April

- (1) [☰ Graduate Student Week](#) (Draft)
 - (a) Voting for Senators starts – April 1-15 2024
- (2) Meet Candidates event during Grad Student Week
- (3) Second Senate meeting for council election
- (4) Senate - Approve new senators & Budget Approval
- (5) Elections
 - (a) [☰ Elections to-do list](#) (This is an old to-do this)
 - (b) [☰ Election Procedure 2022](#)
 - (c) [📄 GSA Election Guide.docx](#) (old doc for reference)

d) May

- (1) GSA Gala

B. Office of Vice President Update

- 1. Collaborating with SGA
- 2. Meeting with prior GSA leaders (from 2019 & earlier) to better understand why we've been doing things as we have
- 3. Attending more closely to legislative affairs as the session begins
- 4. Recruiting GSA leadership candidates for next year

IV. Updates

- A. GAAC
- B. GAAC
- C. GSSC
- D. GEARS
- E. Legislative Concerns
 - 1. Members will be supporting the Center for Democracy and Civic Life (CDCL) Political Engagement Group to support student registration, concentrating on increasing graduate student registration for MD Primary and General Election



- a) Mail-in Ballot Drop-box will be coming to UMBC, in Commons
2. The 2024 [Collective Bargaining Bill](#) has been released. The University System of Maryland Coalition will be holding a rally before the State of the State Address at the Maryland State House, to meet all legislators. Carpooling is being organized.
3. A member of the LC has stated they would be very interested in acting as a labor union representative for UMBC, likely for a Graduate Labor Union.
4. Musa Jafri, SGA President, has approached the LC and the wider UMBC government affairs (including CDCL and OGRCA- Office of Government Relations and Community Affairs) to introduce a SNAP Bill & seeks our support.
5. Dean Rutledge informed that there is a bill introduced to change requirements for receiving the Pell Grant and one other. This change would seemingly restrict the number of recipients and prevent more affluent students from receiving it. More information is required.
6. OGRCA has informed us there will be a major political debate coming to UMBC, and in April and May it will likely be state legislators running for the open Congressional senate seat. Current Senator Ben Cardin will not be seeking re-election after this term. Other delegates and local officials will likely be invited to participate in the debate. OGRCA and wider UMBC working to engage with and manage the future debate. Possibility it may not happen, and News outlets just buy out the Chesapeake Bay Insurance Area (the Arena)
7. Brought on several graduate student volunteers to assist the LC committee.
8. OGRCA has plans to take UMBC students to State House in April -May. However, the team of [Delegate Edelson](#) encourages UMBC to come during March when it'll be easier to "see the action". LC will be working to invite many grad students when the time comes.

F. GRP

G. Equity of Funds:

H. Strategic Planning

V. Important Dates

A. Senate Meeting Feb 14th



VI. General Information

A. 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)

B. 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)

VII. Adjourn

