

GSA Spring 2024

Executive Council of the GSA Meeting

06 February, 2024

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, Sayali Satish Dhavale

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. Outside of UMBC Guests at Senate Meetings

1. GSA meetings are public within the boundaries of UMBC and private outside of the university.
2. Jessica motioned to make sure that only the invited people on the agenda can speak/present their business during the meeting.
 - a) This exists inherently without being explicit because the agenda is decided and approved beforehand and is time sensitive.
3. Jessica motioned that GSO speeches/presentations have to be made either by graduate student reps of the GSO or by the sitting GSO executing board.
 - a) Akash seconded the motion.
 - b) This discussion has been tabled for now.

B. Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) will be hosting our Off-Campus Housing & Resource Fair on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the University Center 301.

1. This event will be hosted during our Commuter Week, to provide our commuter students with connection to off-campus apartment complexes, community resources, and on-campus resources.



2. There will be a trivia table and raffles & giveaways happening at the event.
 3. This has been added to the senate meeting's agenda for discussion.
- C. Graduate student Fee Increase:
1. Slide update deadline: Thursday, 8 February EOD
- D. Election Process Updates and General notes
1. Akash and Atharva have finalized an election process which they want to run by ECouncil to get their feedback.

IV. Updates

- A. GAAC
- B. GAAC
- C. GSSC
- D. GEARS
- E. Legislative Concerns
 1. Tomorrow LC Committee representatives to the USM Academic Labor (Collective Bargaining Bill) Coalition will be going to the Rally in Annapolis
 2. Scheduling meetings for LC Committee members to meeting with Office of Gov't Relations and Community Affairs (OGRCA)
 3. Three LC members potentially going to Community Relations Meeting for Oca Mocha
 4. Members supporting Center for Democracy and Civic Life (CDCL) to increase graduate student voting percentages
 5. Gathering information about SNAP Expansion Bill and Pell Grant Reduction Bill
- F. GRP
- G. Equity of Funds:
- H. Strategic Planning
 1. Met and discussed the Election process.
 - a) ECouncil elections are currently slated to be held during the April Senate meeting.
 - b) Senate elections will be held in the first half of April.
 - c) Details of the election process, and related emails, to be posted soon for the general graduate student population.
 2. GSA Governing Document updates



- a) Document updates do not need a formal Senate vote, but Akash wants to present a summarized version of the changes just so that everyone is aware of the changes.
- b) Tentatively scheduled to be present either before or during the April senate meeting.
- c) Alternative proposal is that Akash and Atharva can work with the new in-coming Secretary to work on the document updates. This can be a part of knowing the position as well as making the next ECouncil aware of the changes.

V. Important Dates

- A. Senate Meeting Feb 14th
- B. Black Excellence Conference - 10 February

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

