

GSA Spring 2024

Executive Council of the GSA Meeting

20 February, 2024

I. Attendance

- A. In attendance: Akash Vartak, Aminah Amjad, Atharva Puranik, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel, Nirandi Jayasinghe

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. GSA & Student Affairs Update (Grace):

1. Had a preliminary meeting to begin moving GSA & Jennifer Artis's position to student Affairs(move will be official starting 1 July 2024)

B. Sanctions Update (Jennifer)

1. GSA has to complete 2 mandatory trainings for transparency and accountability.
 - a) The due dates will be in March and Summer 2024.
 - b) The training has to be completed by all Cabinet and ECouncil members and all Senators.
2. The GSA's updated ByLaws and Policy and Procedures document has to be reviewed.

C. Graduate Student Needs Library (Jennifer)

1. A question was raised in a recent leadership meeting - what are the grad student needs in the library.
 - a) A study space has been in need by the grad population.
 - b) Requisite technology in these study spaces - white board WITH markers, working power outlets, decent ventilation, and maybe monitors that students can connect their own laptops to.



- c) Reference Librarians/ formatting/citations services,
 - d) A dedicated grad student space, maybe available till late hours.
 - e) Reservable spaces for more than a few hours (maybe over a few days or a semester).
 - f) Purchasing textbooks when not available.
- D. Dr. Rowena Winkler, the new Assistant Director for Graduate Student Career Development at the Career Center

IV. Updates

A. GAAC

1. GA Hiring Transparency [Report](#) [In progress]
 - a) Please go through this draft of GA Hiring transparency survey. We'd like to get E-council feedback on the report before finalizing it.
2. Meet and Confer Meetings
 - a) Scheduled for this semester and This year, we have implemented a new strategy by organizing separate Meet and Confer (M&C) meetings for each college at UMBC, involving department heads in the process, alongside graduate school administration and VP of Student Affairs. This approach will enable us to address specific graduate assistant (GA) issues within each college and department more comprehensively.
 - b) To facilitate productive discussions during the M&C meetings, GAAC has created an online survey to gather GA-related issues from our GA community. Additionally, GAAC has reached out/will reach out to Graduate Student Organizations (GSOs) in all departments to seek assistance in gathering valuable inputs from all GA in each department to shape the agendas for upcoming M&C
 - (1) CNMS M&C March 11th 1-2:30 pm
 - (2) CAHSS M&C April 15th 1-2 pm
 - (3) COEIT M&C April 24th 3-4:30 pm
3. On-going Surveys
 - a) [M&C Survey Spring-2024](#).
 - b) [CBB Survey \(w LC\)](#) to determine the UMBC GA stance on the upcoming CBB.
4. Upcoming Events



- a) [Insurance Webinar w RIH](#) February 27th Tuesday from 10-11 am (virtual event)
- 5. Send your Questions about UMBC GA insurance policy [here](#).
- 6. Senate Town Halls
 - a) Please feel free to reach out to GAAC if any college TH would like to have GAAC to be present or if you wish to submit any GA concerns as a collective in preparation for M&C or to give a summary of M&C outcomes after M&C meetings.
- B. GAAC
- C. GSSC
- D. GEARS
- E. Legislative Concerns
- F. GRP
- G. Equity of Funds:
- H. Strategic Planning

V. Important Dates

- A. Money Smart Week April 8- 12

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

