

GSA Spring 2024

March Senate Meeting

13 March, 2024 | 12:30pm - 2:30pm

I. Attendance

[~10 minutes]

- A. In attendance: Michelle Moyer, Janerra Allen, Achala Denagamage, Akash Vartak, Alexi Scheiber, Aminah Amjad, Arya Honraopatil, Atharva Puranik, Charles Waters, Daniel Douglas, Deevyesh Deepak Upadhyaya, Emily Faber, Grace De Oro, Gurpreet Kaur Saluja, Hannah Seppala, Harshal Chauhan, Jackson Tucker, Jennifer Artis, Jessica Burstrem, Kara Seidel, Nirandi Jayasinghe, Ridwan Islam Sifat, Sayali Satish Dhavale, Sreevikas Edukulla, Zach Nichols
- B. Meeting called to order by Senate Speaker (Atharva): 12:36 pm
- C. Approval of [February Senate Meeting Minutes](#):
 - 1. Atharva motioned to approve.
 - a) Deevyesh seconded the motion.
 - b) Motion passed unanimously
 - c) Minutes have been approved.
- D. Meeting agenda approval
 - 1. Atharva motioned to approve.
 - a) Sayali seconded the motion.
 - b) Motion passed unanimously
 - c) Agenda has been approved.

II. Land Acknowledgement:

[~5 minutes]

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. The University System Of Maryland Student Council Resolution:
“Resolution for Divesting from and Commitment to Not Investing in Arms-Producing Companies” (Jessica) [~20 minutes]
 - 1. [proposed resolution](#)
 - 2. [PPT](#)



3. Discussion revolved around a few factors important to grad students - It should not bar students, the school or any person in UBMC from the following:
 - a) Collaborating on research or projects, etc.
 - b) Getting grants and funding from these companies
 - c) Bringing these companies in for career fairs and recruitment
 4. Major concerns were also raised about what exactly the resolution is calling for (what precise steps) and who is introducing/backing this resolution.
 5. Hannah motioned to vote on this resolution today. Voting shall be done by the Senate only.
 - a) Alexi seconded.
 - b) Motion passed with No=2, Yes = 13.
 - c) Motion has been approved. The complete GSA will vote for a symbolic GSA vote.
 6. Motioned to get a GSA wide symbolic vote for or against this resolution. The vote for this motion will be done by the Senate AND ECouncil. The outcome of the vote will be symbolic and not binding.
 - a) Motion did not pass with Abstain = 10, No = 9, Yes = 6.
 - b) Motion has been denied and the GSA's symbolic vote DOES NOT support the resolution.
- B. Library Policy Committee (Gurpreet) [~10 minutes]
1. Grad students have been facing issues with the library website.
 2. Journals behind paywalls are not accessible through the UMBC library's access.
- C. Grad Student Week [~15 minutes]
1. Grad student week is April 1-5.
- D. Faculty Senate meeting report (Jessica) [~15 minutes]
1. Next steps on seeking changes to the academic calendar.
 2. GSA recommends that grad students get involved in this discussion and make their voice and opinions known because changes to the academic calendar will affect faculty and staff, but ALSO grad students.
- E. Policy on students working with faculty members outside of academic setting (Kara) [~10 minutes]
1. From Research Council



IV. Announcements

- A. Mandatory Training March 14th 10am Online - You should have gotten a calendar invite from Grace
- B. System-wide shared governance student survey rec'd this morning due 27 Mar → Cabinet meeting on 26 Mar changing to E-council
- C. If you want to call an undecided state Senator who is on the Finance committee to discuss your perspective on the collective bargaining bill (SB823), especially if you have any affiliation with Anne Arundel County constituents, please call Sen. Dawn Gile at 410-841-3568 this week. If it doesn't make it out of committee this week, it's not going to happen this year – and then likely not next year either.
- D. Senate Elections:
 - 1. Nominations Open: March 4th, 8 am
 - 2. Nominations Close: March 25th, 8 pm
 - 3. Voting Opens: April 5th, 8 am
 - 4. Voting Closes: April 20th, 8 pm
- E. E-Council Elections:
 - 1. Nominations Open: March 15th, 8 am
 - 2. Nominations Close: March 30th, 8 pm
 - 3. Voting: April 11th, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

V. Important Dates

- A. Grad Student Week - April 1 to April 5, 2024

VI. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Motion passed unanimously
 - 2. Meeting was adjourned

