

E-Council meeting 3
25 Sep 2024
Agenda
(Cameras On)

In attendance:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve: [E-Council Meeting Minutes #1 8/28/2024](#) Approved! 12:39 PM

Approve: [E-Council Minutes Meeting 2 11 Sep 2024](#) Approved! 12:39 PM

- 1) Lokesh: GS Fest Update: Wed 16 Oct, 4-6 PM, UC Ballroom
 - What's done
 - a) On September 27th, Lokesh will meet with UMBC event services to confirm the event and book the room reservation. He has sent a confirmation email to active GSOs and a Google Form to RSVP. He requested that all GSOs respond to the form by October 1, 2024.
 - b) He also sent a confirmation email, inviting representatives from the UMBC leadership. Those who received the email include the President Ashby, the Vice Presidents (including VP of Student Affairs), the Provosts, and the Deans of CHASS, CNMS, COEIT, and VP of Student Affairs. Lokesh received confirmation from Dean Halverson. He has prepared flyers for GS Fest and shared them via email with the Communications Manager, Michael Barardi. This will be posted to the GSA website, and through emails. He has also sent the Senate Volunteer Signup Form. He has requested that Senators are available from 3:00 - 7:00 PM, to assist with set up & take-down. The event itself runs from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The Speaker will soon request senators to attend if they have not already signed up to volunteer. The Writing Advisor and OGSL staff are also requested to RSVP so they can have their own. Committee Chairs will also be asked to table.
 - c) GSSC is negotiating to lower the price of t-shirts. An inquiry was made if there are spare bags for GSA, which can be used for GS Fest. GSSC is still waiting for an update on the inventory.
 - What's needed of everyone
 - What is the deadline for the Senators to RSVP to volunteer for GS Fest?
 - Since GS Fest is two weeks away, supply orders should be made so that supplies can be ordered in time.
 - It needs confirmation, but OGSL and the Writing Advisor will likely have separate tables.
- 2) Debrief events since the last meeting (UNFINISHED BUSINESS)
 - Pack the RAC- Jessica and others were there

- Gathering on the Green
- GSA Retreat

PRIORITY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

3) Monthly reports from GAAC, GSSC, E of Funds, LC

- GAAC: The GAAC Town Hall has been set for late October. GAAC is facing some difficulty learning what the problems that Graduate Assistants face. With only one month of the Fall semester, many GAs aren't aware of or have reported existing problems that they face. The GAAC Chair has sent emails to members of the administration, to schedule a time to meet. There are some timing conflicts between administrators, Jennifer, and members of UMBC leadership. There has been difficulty to meeting committee, there is some miscommunication between members of GAAC, and some members do not use email so Naghmeh at times needs to send texts. She sent an email to Dan's email. Needs to have the website updated. Information about
 - Jennifer will provide the information for student assessments, to better understand the concerns and get tools to understand what GAs may face.
- GSSC: The email address still says "co-chair", so this needs to be updated to reflect that there is only one GSSC Chair. If changed, however, the data could be lost. An alternative needs to be found. The email address on the website is correct.
- Equity of Funds: T first meeting of EoFC will be tomorrow, September 26, 2024. They will be discussing budgeting, identifying challenges and impacts, and identifying challenges and solutions.
 - The current EoFC Chair met with the FY 2024 EoFC Chair, to discuss the difference in the funding level, comparing EoFC to the other Committees. This will be discussed during the October Senate meeting. There were some budgetary discrepancies, about Chair stipends.
 - For FY2023 and FY2024, the EoFC received the same chair stipend as the other Committee chairs. The allocated value of their budget remained different.
 - While the decision was made to budget and the funding, it was never discussed by the FY 2024 Senate, why the stipends were different. At the September Senate Meeting Part 2 (Friday, September 27, 2024, starting at 8:00 AM EDT), the senators will vote on an appropriate stipend level.
 - The EoFC will propose raising the stipend to similar levels as the GSSC and GAAC Chair. Stipends range from between about \$4000 - \$7000.
- LC: LC has held its first committee meeting. There are three members in total. They are working with the Center for Democracy and Civic Life, to improve UMBC voter registration for the 2024 Presidential Election.

- Collective Bargaining Bill will still be discussed.
- Any other legislation? He has to go through that.

4) Aminah: Commitment/Time Issues

- No Committee Chairs have contacted James with future event dates, room booking, or even SWAG orders. Many students, organizations, and leaders want to know what the GSA is doing. Chairs need to host events, and no GSA events have been held so far. The other ones are coming from the Office of Student Life. Please provide James with multiple dates for future events. Also to allocate funds and book rooms, James needs information from Chairs.
- If Chairs require assistance in planning events, please ask for assistance. Plan events that are relevant to their committees.
 - Suggestions
 - Consider which organizations your committees partner with. Also, discuss with GSOs on what events interest graduate students.
 - An email from James will be coming out soon with more information.
 - Members of the E-Council were encouraged to keep constant communication between members, to hold each other accountable, and to ask for assistance. Mid-semester evaluations will begin soon, and those who have low-performance scores may have a stipend cut. The Associate Dean, Jennifer Artis, is offering time to meet with Chairs to learn more about what needs to happen. Aminah also sits in the OSL Office weekly and is a resource.
 - Things on the website need to be updated. Please ask the Secretary to take down inappropriate items on the website.
 - For things, we are delegating for things to do.
- The transportation meeting was never planned. The meeting date was supposed to be planned by the Committees.
- There were major difficulties in scheduling meetings between the Cabinet, E-Council, and Senate. If they are not able to find the time, members should reconsider their time commitment.
- All E-Council members and senators need to attend GSFest on October 16th. This is a great opportunity to meet with UMBC leadership and other organizations, network, and pool resources, and even collaborate and propose events.
- There is an important, upcoming meeting with the president Shears Ashby, inviting members of the GSA to meet with her. (Critical!)
- The selected date to meet with President Shears Ashby has been set to November 18. If not in November, then it will be set for December 18, 2024.
- There are upcoming peer performance evaluations. Evaluations will be made between Cabinet members, E-Council Members, and Senators, for their respective groups.

- GAAC and the Senators need to send invitations to attend their town hall meetings. Calendar invitations must be sent out, so schedules can be made in advance.
 - Meetings with Transit and Retriever Integrated Health were never followed up on
 - The GSA event calendar is empty apart from GEARS Meetings and GSFest.
- 5) Neha: Discuss whether the GRP Chair can submit a request for a grant/funding
- As GRP Chair, Neha as GS cannot apply for grants to fund research or other opportunities. The rule exists, as GRP members would have unfair advantages, since they know the grant requirements.
 - If a vote
 - Neha, James, and Jennifer cant vote. They are not allowed to apply for the funding, but it would have to be changed by Jennifer to so that they could get funding. But this Must go to Senate for Approval.GRP should not be getting funding either, as they know what is needed. This is on the . There will probably be an external committee to review, created by administrators only.
- 6) Jennifer: Evaluations will be done on each person (whether E council or Cabinet)
- Even committee members
 - Details will be communicated
- 7) James: Event Planning
- a) For those who want events, please send them all at one time. For room booking, Have some times and dates, and potentially several room options.
 - b) Please fill out then ← get this from an email from James

Please use the GSA Request form long in advance. Dont use it the day before because Jessica owes. James will be sending out an email with all the information.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:59 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

GEARS Board Game Palooza. 3rd October, UC310 5 pm to 8 pm. Register here:

<https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/gearsqsa/posts/144180>

Executive Council Group Norms

- Communicate GSA precedent and decisions AND consider whether change is warranted
- Protect Senate's autonomy AND consider what obligations we can safely externalize (as long as our approval/voice/views are still involved & it's for the betterment of the graduate students)
- Delegate appropriately
- Consider who requires inclusion in your decisions and communications and when
- Commit to managing your own hours
- Respect other people's time AND your own
- Assume good intentions AND acknowledge impacts
- Take judicious risks AND take responsibility for negative consequences
- Active and respectful listening
- Take time to pause and breathe before you react or communicate
- Turn on your camera, and be active in the meeting (share your thoughts & availability or lack thereof in chat, etc.)
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