

GSA Fall 2022

Executive Council Meeting Agenda

December, the 5th, 2022, 10:00 am

This Meeting Will NOT Be Recorded

I. Check-In & Attendance:

- Aminah Amjad
- Emily Shrope
- Anoosha Fayyaz
- Jennifer Artis
- Michele Berry
- Emily Faber
- Zane Poffenberger
- Amy Cruz
- Dawn Galindo
- Geeta Shanbhag
- Grace De Oro
- Kara Seidel

II. Open Discussion - started at 10:06 AM

- Senate meeting on Thursday went well -- thanks for Grace's help in facilitating this
- The Latinx and Hispanic Graduate Student Association (LHGSA) email
 - Should GSOs have their own email?
 - Shremily -- there was an email chain from last week: Latinx and Hispanic Graduate Student Association
 - They were potentially forming a GSO (did this actually occur?)
 - How to proceed from this- GSOs have a personal email but not a group, UMBC email
 - Ethan: it makes sense to have GSO-specific email accounts
 - FEmily-- had to forward emails without formulating an official UMBC email account
 - GSOs apparently have figured out how to have their own email accounts?
 - ShRemily -- are we trying to get them UMBC-specific emails?

- We as GSA don't respond to non-UMBC emails
 - Implement for Spring or next academic year?
 - Logistics for this are a lot to figure out
 - Are we authorized to create UMBC accounts → Ethan P suggests starting this process in the Spring
 - Granting one specific person email account access
 - ShRemily-- we as a leadership team have access
 - Dawn suggests access being across-leadership
- Student Affairs Position
 - What support do we need?
 - [Description of Similar Position](#): existed in the past at GSA; would potentially be recreating this and provides a good starting point
 - Next week: preview for what Student Affairs position and what we would want in terms of making a list, in order to have a clear requirement list for how this will facilitate GSA related work
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- GSO Vote Approval (Grace)
 - International Student Connect - Vote is 7 yay 6 nay
 - Graduate Christian Fellowship - Vote is 7 yay 6 nay
 - Email these two organizations re: the fact that International Student Connect and the Graduate Christian Fellowship didn't formulate as GSOs b/c of the 2/3 majority (which didn't pass)-- Geeta and Grace will co-sign this as a part of the bylaws and clarify to those who asked
 - ShRemily-- what they didn't do right? → need to increase transparency in how decisions are made re: formulation of GSOs
 - Need transparency re: how these decisions are made
 - assent/dissent summary potentially to clarify exactly why the decision was arrived at in that way?
 - Catherine sent an email to Nay-voting Senators re: their decisions
 - The organization itself reached out for information -- Grace mentioned that many Senators were trying to figure out how to fit in religious organizations
 - Confusion re: the Inner Varsity Group (don't want funding per se but really wanting the label of being a GSO)

- Zane: some of them don't want money (in SGA) → a recognized student organization can use the UMBC branding, 25Live for space reservation
 - Rules, regulations, clear expectations → Zane himself had some confusion re: why certain folks were denied (wasn't a standardized understanding)
 - How to make sure there's no overlap in mission of the two GSOs → they could work together in order to reach their similar missions
 - GSA Tabling at Winter Wonderland (Grace)
 - Response rec'd from Morgan → diversity of student governance on campus as an important tool to highlight
 - Kara mentioned helping with tabling (4:30-5:30 in Feb 10th on Friday)
 - Grace: do people like this idea?/are still interested?
 - No power for specific tables but there is a rain/snow date for the following week
 - Ethan can be there and print out the brochures/materials to hand out
 - Ask GSOs to help out in this too (Grace)
 - Anuja/Amy can talk about grants
 - Consensus: it's a great idea to register GSA → Grace will serve as the contact person
 - Senator vacancy position with a December graduation → Grace: views this as a breach of contract since you sign up for a full term
 - What are the precedent for graduating Senators
 - This has happened not mid-semester: Dawn mentioned that each senator gets each semester stipend (as long as the student is in good academic standing & the GPD is okay with it, it goes through)
 - This needs to be resolved by the first Senate meeting in February -- needs to get done prior to break

- Meet in person or online: Tuesdays/Fridays would be the best dates to meet incoming prospective Senator
 - Jennifer/Dr. H + ECouncil would be involved
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III. Reports

- **Treasurer [Anuja Yawar] + Asst. Treasurer [Amy Cruz]**
 - Fee Holder's meeting today will be presenting an [overview of GSA](#), not proposing an increase.
 - In Person GRP meeting tomorrow to make sure people are on the same page about this
 - Jennifer A- can ECouncil take a look at the [travel grants document?](#)
 - Getting the website updated in re: to the approval process
- **Historian [Geeta Shanbhag]**
 - Nested in other items
- **GAAC [Anoosha Fayyaz & Sahara Ali]**
 - M&C meeting
 - a) Headed by Sahara: wrapped up issues that were brought up in previous meeting
 - b) There will be a final write-up that will be submitted to USM
- **GSSC [Kara Seidel and Emily Faber]**
 - WAGs update - Mini-Winter WAGs and in-person WAGging at OCA Mocha 12/11 and 12/18
 - a) Can we reserve the room at OCA mocha?
 - b) In order to maintain community and still keep writing
 - c) Leading a Winter WAG in January -- reach out to GSSC
- **GEARs [Aminah Amjad]**
 - Prep for Spring events → work with Ethan to send out information for 3MinutesTalks
 - Updating website to add events to them
 - Big step to be able to publicize events to increase attendance
- **OGSL**
 - **Comm. Manager- Ethan P.**
 - a) Updated Senate mailing list to be accurate
 - **Writing Advisor - Michele Berry**

- a) Nothing to report
 - **Comm. Liaison- Jameer**
 - a) Nothing to report
- **LC [Zane Poffenberger]**
 - Continuing work with CfD&CL → continue collaborations
 - Union meeting on Thursday representing UMBC → no exempt employees can join this
 - a) SGA and GSA folks were invited → how exactly the union meeting worked
 - b) Zane has notes on this: they discussed benefits and pay, etc. from USM
 - Pre-legislative session on the collective bargaining bill
 - a) How to be involved with testimony, become involved with the legislative session (College Advocacy Day)
 - b) Will work with GAAC to cross-advertise
- **Senate Speaker [Grace De Oro]**
 - Nothing to report
- **President [Ethan Post]**
 - Nothing to report
- **Vice President [Emily Shrope]**
 - Chairs and co-chairs, send me a list of your responsibilities
 - Shremily will compile them and send it out to Omkar and Jessica for EoF committee
 - Dawn: when would SHremily like this by?
 - By the beginning of the next semester? → not urgent but would like to be able to not have this fall through the cracks before/during break
 - [GSA for syllabi](#)
 - Next GPD meeting is on the 14th: one EC meeting before this
 - Wants to have this reviewed before next meeting → add comments/suggestions/etc to be finalized to be presented on the meeting on the 14th
 - That way it can be incorporated into SP2023 syllabi
 - Not on event requests- Grace would like to be looped into the GDP meetings (not only list servs)

- Make comments on it- or see how things are changing -- make sure you're doing these edits in "editing" mode on Google Docs

IV. Adjourn

- Keeping track of time worked in the Senate meeting - thanks Grace!
 - Just spending 5 minutes each beginning of the Senate meeting: for these group norms (Kara)
 - Bylaws: it keeps getting pushed
 - Straightened out ASAP -- so there are no points of confusion while having bylaws brought up in meetings
 - Grace: first Senate meeting in Spring should be longer than normal (3 hour meeting for the first one)
 - This should be at the top of our list (in terms of finishing unfinished business)
 - Intro to semester and get to the points needed to be gone over → will Thursdays will work for people?
 - There will be a three hour block that folks should schedule into their calendars
 - Dawn: everything would be sent to Senate prior to vote → sending it before break starts (Ethan)
 - 3 hour meetings-- will be brutal
 - Or have a separate meeting for just bylaws
 - Kara: a week or less notice isn't enough for the Senators (time-sensitive things)
 - GSOs: if a GSO is coming, then there can be half-hour meeting extension since that takes up time
 - Aminah: or 1.5 hour bimonthly meetings?
 - Grace: 2 voted on; and then the rest was tabled
 - Which means there was no follow-up
 - Abstaining and not making a specific decision
 - We need to hold people "hostage" to get things done in terms of getting stuff done
 - There has been a lot more friction with this iteration of the Senate

- Is holding their hands in NOT having a three hour meeting?
 - Month- week schedules like Kara mentioned: in order to prime the Senators for these discussions
 - half/half → some folks not doing the needed work, or going through and nitpicking specifically works/doesn't work
 - It would help to not get stuff tabled at the meeting
 - Open session for questions before the meeting: Shremily
 - Dawn: people have to look @ governing documents and website → getting paid money to do this
 - Michele: suggestions on how to do it 'better' instead of just criticizing
- Revisiting of Group Norms
 - And also request folks to read: website & bylaws
 - Meeting: power dynamic for solutions (collaborative) between ECouncil and Senate
 - Force this meeting → in terms of people who will show up
 - Make the planning of the meeting a collaborative process
 - Retreat (with food, etc.) to be able to have folks be accountable for training
 - Make them sign off on understanding, and reading
 - We need more mechanisms for accountability
 - This will be the mechanism for obligating them to become involved
 - Dawn and Jennifer: a requirement to have Senators acknowledge they have read & understood bylaws and websites-- have them affirm statements and also become reflective of their stipends

- They're getting paid quite a lot in order to be GSA representatives to their constituents in terms of the questions they've posited to us
- How to actually plan this retreat?
 - How should we approach this→ first is to find space
 - Grad school conference room can't operate as the venue
 - OCA Mocha Room as an option
 - Break as another option- but people may not be here
- Maybe not process stipends until the semester ends