



◆ **GSA Meeting Minutes**
Date: April 1st, 2020

1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:03

Sarah Tanveer	Talia Guardia	Kelly Rock	Gillian Mbambo
Amanda Labuza	Ashley Marquardt	Chintal Shah	Sydney Ashton
Emily Smith	Nick Montes	Eposi Elonge	Raziyeh Baghi
Lauren McCarthy	Sol Baik	McKayla Mickle	Ioana Ghita
Alyssa Grogan	Elizabeth Robinson	Hadley Bryant	

2. Review minutes of previous meeting -

- a. Motioned to approve:

3. Reports

- a. President

i. Announcements

1. Reps for next year- Students who are primary reps who are graduating, we encourage you to reach out to students in your program to find new program reps. We will send template email out with meeting minutes (see attached).
2. Taking nominations for the new executive board! We will be voting during the May meeting **via web based survey**. If you are interested in a position, email us! We can tell you more about it, what each position involves, etc. Nominations will be taken through the month of April.
3. Bake Your Thesis- **April 16th CANCELLED**
 - a. Keep in mind for next year
4. Plant Swap Social - **Thursday, May 21st? POSTPONED**
 - a. Hope that we can reschedule as a fall event

- ii. Meet & Confer Committee- GSA members meet with Grad School Admin staff to talk about student needs and issues

1. Next Meeting in April (?)

- a. Have not scheduled a meeting. Potential virtual meeting.

2. Agenda items for next meeting?:
 - a. Student Stipend: Stipends are set by each Program. Some programs are considering increasing the GA stipend. Exec is sending a draft of our stance to the Graduate School for consideration. Not sure how telework is impacting this.
 - i. Last minute additions can be emailed to me umb.gsa.president@gmail.com
 - ii. Gathering information on other university's stipends, and comparing the cost of living in one city to another city.
 - iii. May all get the same size increase, but would not have equal stipends
 - b. Campus Smoking Policy - No new information on this since last meeting.
 - c. Pratt Street Garage- Pratt Street Garage - has a lot of blind turns, cars speed down ramps and there is no way to tell if there's a car coming. Can we get mirrors installed so that you can see if anyone is coming?
 - i. Chief Cary- phone call Friday (4/3). This can be solved via this meeting, so may be removed from Meet and Confer agenda.
 - d. Concerns about paying for parking during closures:
 - i. Contacts: Student Accounting, Bursar: Nixon, Jordan <jnixon@umaryland.edu>
 - ii. Director of parking and transportation: Milner, Robert <rmilner@umaryland.edu>
 - e. Summer and non-semester parking options

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee:

- a. Spring social @ Pickles: Postponed
 - i. New date TBD but Pickles is on board to reschedule with us!
 - ii. Earliest will be August or the fall
- b. Plant Swap Social with PDAC - **POSTPONED**
 - i. Keep an ear out for a new date (early fall event?)

2. USGA Announcements:

- a. Next meeting is next Wednesday - if you have specific questions, please contact VP and she will bring them to USGA!
- b. Any questions or concerns about COVID-19 and UMB? Check out UMB's coronavirus [website](#)
- c. Specific parking garage closures start on March 25th at UMB. Check out this [site](#) for more information.
- d. UMB Safe Ride is suspended starting Friday, March 27th until further notice
 - i. UMB Safe Walk is still available 24/7 within the UMB campus by calling 410-706-6882
- e. Shuttle updates:
 - i. The routes are suspended starting on March 26th until further notice.
 - ii. Be sure to share any and all concerns on the UMB shuttle page using this [online form](#)
- f. Keep an eye out for UMB virtual events in The Elm or Campus Life Weekly
 - i. All campus events will likely not take place until late summer or the fall semester

c. Treasurer

- 1. Current Balance: \$13,248.28
 - a. Fall funds now available. Will not be able to get checks written

until telework ends

2. GRC checks
 - a. I've received your emails, I have the checks- I need more envelopes in order to mail them out to you. Please email umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com with the address you'd like me to use.
3. Student Group Funding: \$1,205.54
 - a. ISPE - I still owe you a check, please give me a name I can use for the reimbursement. Email treasurer about this issue!
4. Updating Travel Reimbursement - Putting to Vote
 - a. Increase maximum amount to \$500 - does not mean the full amount is guaranteed, but does increase the ceiling for awards
 - b. Include application before attending conferences:
 - i. "Tentative Award Upon Presentation of Receipts. The GSA is accepting travel applications prior to conference attendance on the basis of anticipated costs. The application and corresponding abstract will be judged and given a maximum award value, all travel receipts must be submitted in a single pdf document including conference registration and accepted abstract after the conference in order to receive the funding. Costs reimbursed will not exceed the awarded value."
 - c. New dates based on this format or keep the dates and specify what Quarter the travel would take place - dates can stay the same, but might be some adjustments. Will add line to application asking whether application is for future travel and ask to specify which quarter. Will give more thought to what this will look like to vote on at next meeting.
 - d. Motion to vote:

d. Secretary

- i. Announcements: Judge score forms from GRC will not be sent out until campus opens. If a member of your program has asked about judge score forms, ask them to contact me.

e. Grad Council rep

i. Announcements:

1. Congratulations to our Research Award Winners! Thank you to the committee for scoring!
 - a. Dongyue Yu
2. Changing wording of Research Award to be able to split the money up among up to two applicants?
 - a. No budget is submitted, but there is an approval process for spending.
 - i. Add a budget to the application?
 - b. Will look into this
3. Outstanding Mentor Award Applications will hopefully be live tomorrow or Friday!. Although we will not be presenting the Award to them at the hooding ceremony we still want to keep the award in place. Applications due by 5pm on Friday, April 17th. Apply for your mentors and encourage others to apply! :)

ii. U of M grad council:

1. Grad council has worked with UMBC for students to decide to change the grading of their classes to pass/fail or withdraw from the class after grades are posted due to COVID-19 and switch to virtual classes. UMB has also created a policy similar to this.
2. Next meeting tomorrow - virtual

f. PR

i. Announcements:

1. Despite events being canceled and campus being closed due to COVID-19, there will still be a Grad Gazette posted for April and May. If anyone has anything they'd like to include, send them along!
- ii. Communications Committee
 1. For anyone who does not have much to do since they are off campus, any assistance or ideas for what to include in the Grad Gazette would be appreciated. For example: updates on COVID-19 in the US or the state of MD, activities that some people have done to stay occupied (Work or non-work related), ways we can still contribute to local businesses or non-profits (I.E BARCS), or ways to keep the general public informed (I.E "Skype a Scientist")
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
 1. BARCS have opened the opportunity for people to foster pets in their homes during the outbreak. This can be something worthwhile to avoid having cabin fever. More info will be in the Grad Gazette
 2. Skype a Scientist is a fun program where families or individuals can reach out to us as scientists and ask general questions in regards to COVID-19 or the person's field of study (Will have more info in the Grad Gazette)
 3. Groups like CHD have launched "Adopt a Grandparent" which will allow volunteers to do just that. This is to compensate for the loneliness the elderly will have during the time of the pandemic. This campaign may also be interest to some people (More info will be in the Grad Gazette).
 4. Also Meals on Wheels - again, more info in the Grad Gazette
 5. Elm has link to send pictures to thank hospital staff!
- g. Meyerhoff: No updates
- h. NOVA: No updates
4. Old Business:
 - a. Graduate Student Lounge Update
 - i. Administration is still moving to 1st floor Lexington by this April. We will not

move there because the new building will be completed within 1.5 years so it would be a waste of money

- b. Collective Bargaining Bill [HB 214/ SB 658](#): Not officially declined yet, but still something to keep on our radar.

5. New Business:

- a. Outstanding rep nominations

- i. Hadley Bryan
- ii. Sydney Ashton
- iii. Sol Baik

- b. E-board nominations for next year! We will vote directly following the May meeting and an email with results will be sent out. People can self-nominate or nominate someone else. All nominees must accept the nomination (an email to umb.gsa.president.com will suffice). Nominations will be accepted up until the position is voted upon during the May meeting. Current nominations are listed below:

- i. President - Emily Smith (accepted)
- ii. Vice President - Lauren McCarthy (accepted)
- iii. Treasurer - email Heather if you are interested!
- iv. Secretary - Hadley Bryan (accept)
- v. Public Relations Officer - Sydney Ashton (accepted)
- vi. Grad Council Rep - Katie Gwilliam (accepted)

- c.

6. Upcoming Events:

- a. UMB Virtual Town Hall for Students - tomorrow, Thursday April 2nd 12:30PM
 - i. Link [here!](#)
- b. Taking ideas

7. Other Business/Announcements

- a. Erin Golambewski answered questions regarding COVID-19. Reviewed opt-in pass/fail policy. On course-by-course basis, but needs to be done with instructor and graduate program director. Sent by email and on graduate school COVID webpage. Financial strain

is being addressed - students can apply for emergency financial aid through the Foundation account. Will be sent out to students soon, and will be done on a month-to-month basis.

- b. All graduation deadlines remain the same. Working with individual students on changing committee members, defense dates, etc. Hope to have degrees certified on schedule (May 14) for those moving into new roles. If there is a student in your program who has a public defense date coming up, encourage you to support by joining virtual defenses.
- c. Any concerns regarding PIs encouraging students to continue to come into lab? Not in the past week - if this is an issue, let Erin know and she will work with the faculty.

Date of next meeting: Teleconference May 6th - be on the lookout for a Webex invite!

Motion to adjourn: